

Town of Gaines

Spring is here!!!

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From the Desk of the Supervisor.....

Spring Cleaning

Spring Cleaning has begun in the Town of Gaines! The old floodlight without a purpose was tossed saving the taxpayers \$360.00 a year. A new alarm system was installed and now the smoke alarms are hardwired directly to the Fire Department. Water and Code Enforcement Departments were authorized to purchase

new computers because the operating system we had was no longer updatable and a larger memory was needed to hold the current BAS system. I have continuously worked hard to follow through on the auditor recommendations, putting together a much needed Policy and Procedure



Manual to create guidelines for the Town's functions and Employee Handbook. We also have a contract for new signage by local resident, Bill Downey. The Board has also approved to allow me to participate in creating our town logo. I will present the designed logo for board approval.

Big SHOUT OUT to Ron Mannella and the Highway Guys

A BIG "**Shout Out**" to Ron Mannella, Highway Superintendent and the Highway Crew for all of their hard work and countless hours of dedication to keeping our roads plowed, salted and safe. The many calls in the middle of the night and on holidays brought our men to work. In our coldest winter in history our highway department never missed a beat.

Our Highway crew also hand shoveled out over 410 fire hydrants buried beneath the snow. As cold as it was and as bad as the weather was our Highway Superintendent and his men made sure if there was a fire we were able to access the hydrants.



Thank you to the Orleans County Highway department for providing assistance bringing their Rubber Tire excavator to help our men.

Protecting the Town of Gaines

A Letter from Attorney Dan Spitzer.....

"The Board is extremely pleased that the State Supreme Court has determined that the ZBA acted properly in determining that the wind turbine was placed in a location that unnecessarily presented a threat to public health and safety.

"Based on a review of the record, such as the testimony of a number of patrons of the farm, the detailed site plans submitted by the Watts, the information provided by state and local agencies including proper setbacks, the Court found the ZBA had not acted

'arbitrary and capricious' in establishing a 169.4 foot setback from public use areas.

"The Court confirmed that the areas used for the train ride, farm market, corn maze and U-Pick'em areas were properly designated as public use areas.

"The Town Board reaffirms its support for the town's agricultural community, noting that this was the only time in town history where the ZBA had been forced to take action to protect the public health and safety.

"The situation arose because the turbine was built on an illegally obtained building permit without proper review, and in violation of town laws and state setback guidelines. The ZBA, as directed by the Supreme Court, carefully reviewed the history of the turbine, evaluated submissions from the Watts, state agencies, and the public, and held an extended public input process (including a well-attended public hearing) before issuing its detailed findings.

"The ZBA's involvement



solely rose from the intersection of the turbine's location and the farm's public use areas. Towns are specifically granted the power to act on properties in Agricultural Districts where public safety is at issue, and, the ZBA limited itself to the minimum intrusion on farm practices to protect the public.

"The Town and the ZBA remains open to working with the Watts to resolve any outstanding issues in the best interests of the community.

Boundaries as a Board regarding Elected Officials

- . We cannot fire
- . We cannot discipline
- . We cannot cut pay or hours

We have been asked by many constituents about numerous deficiencies disclosed in recent audits performed for the town. We have taken appropriate steps to address them.

Some areas of concern were identified within the Town Clerk's Department outside of our direct control. The Town Clerk is independently elected and is responsible for her own department.

The issues of concern are as follows:

- Overstated Mileage Reimbursement
- Unauthorized pay increase
- Unauthorized cell phone allowance
- Unauthorized holiday payment to a deputy
- Using town laptop for personal us
- Record keeping deficiencies
- Not Providing Hunting/Fishing License
- Inappropriate discussions to the public regarding town business.

The Town Board takes the public trust seriously. Though limited in our authority over the other elected officials, we will continue to act to the fullest extent possible to rectify these deficiencies and keep our government honest.

Respectfully,
Gaines Town Board

Water Department News

We are proud to report that as of last quarter we were back to normal levels with a 7% loss. The board has approved Wendel Engineering to do a Inventory and Photographic History of Meter Pits. The Water Department is also working on online direct payments for Water Bills and forms to update water customer contact.

Fire and Water

Yes, Supervisor Culhane is working on a Fire and Water Contract and the board has granted her permission to contact the Village of Albion. She will work hard to continue the best service and the lowest price.

Contact info:
www.townofgaines.org
Town Hall
Water Department
Justice Court
14087 Ridge Road
585-589-4592
585-589-4525 fax
Highway Garage
2623 Oak Orchard Rd.
585-589-5833
585-589-9647 fax