

Town of Victor Update – July 10, 2020

A message from Supervisor Jack Marren to our Victor community:

Our town and world has gone through numerous changes in the past several months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our emphasis continues to be on keeping our residents, employees, and businesses safe and healthy.

At the beginning of the outbreak we proactively looked at the financial impact of the business closures on the Town's sales tax revenue. The Town is very fortunate to have many businesses that generate this tax income, which helps to keep our property tax rates low to our businesses and residents. The effects of the pandemic business pauses and closures have been devastating on many levels, and our Economic Development Department has been working with all of our local businesses to help them through this crisis. The loss of sales tax income is estimated to be as high as 50%, or \$2.8 million on the Town's 2020 operating budget. Last April, the Victor Town Board made several staff and operational changes in order to implement cost-saving initiatives as a result of the projected loss in sales tax revenue.

- The Town Hall, Highway, Courts, and Parks Departments had staffing furloughs, layoffs, and/or decreases in staffing hours, resulting in a 28% reduction of personnel. Remaining personnel have taken on additional duties to compensate for these staff reductions, and some Town services have been discontinued.
- Due to the COVID-19 Executive Orders and required safety mandates, the Town Board suspended all recreation programming, including summer camps and concerts, and the Recreation facility at Lehigh Crossing will remain closed until further notice. This resulted in the lay-off of 122 full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff employees
- Reduction in 2020 budgeted projects and expenditures of over \$1.2 million.
- We will continue to monitor our finances and adjust as needed.
- Developing a 2021 budget with reduced sales tax revenues is underway.

New York State, although the hardest hit at the beginning stages of the pandemic, is now emerging from the initial attack of the virus, and businesses are reopening in accordance with Governor Cuomo's plan requirements. The Town of Victor is resuming operations as follows:

- Beginning on July 13, 2020, the Town Hall will be open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. We will close promptly at 4:00 PM each day in order to clean and disinfect the offices.
- The Town's Transfer Station and Highway Department have remained open, and will continue their normal operating hours.
- The Swap Shop will remain closed, and will not open in 2020.

- The Town Court is currently closed. They are available by phone and email from 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 PM on weekdays. Phone: 585-924-5775 and 585-924-5262 and email: court@victortowncourt.org. The Courtroom is expected to resume operations the first week in August.
- All Town of Victor parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, pump track, box rink, and trails are open.
- All park lodges and picnic shelters are open, and are available for rental by contacting the Town Clerk's Office at 585-742-5080 for reservations.

All visitors to all Town buildings will be required to wear a mask and will be subject to COVID-19 screenings.

*Please keep in mind that it is up to **ALL OF US** to control this virus – wear your mask in public, maintain social distancing of at least 6', wash your hands, and stay home if you are sick.*

As we approach the 2021 Town budget season, we do not expect the sales tax revenues to return to their pre-COVID-19 levels. We will continue to review Town expenditures to ensure that we are providing the needed services to our community at fiscally-responsible costs.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.