

Yearly Update – January 2015
Caledonia Supervisor, Dan Pangrazio

Another year has passed by very quickly and we are now starting a new year. As I reflect back on our accomplishments this past year and start to focus on challenges and opportunities in the year ahead, I thought it was time for me to update everyone on what's transpired and give you a quick look for what is planned for 2015.

First, I wanted to remind you folks that we heat our Town Barn with used waste oil such as motor oil, which saves the taxpayers money. Currently we have a shortage of this oil and would appreciate whatever you have to help out our heating needs.

Our Highway Department had a very busy 2014. They started out the year with winter plowing duties, shop work and building repairs. When spring came around they were ready to start working on roads and ditches, but Mother Nature had different ideas. The May rain storm hit which resulted in flooding on McIntyre, Sandhill, McCorkindale, and Quarry Roads. Repairs to these roads were necessary before the crew could move on to some of their originally planned road work. However, Mother Nature was not finished! Another rain storm hit in July and undid everything previously repaired on those before mentioned roads. Needless to say, other planned projects were set back a bit because of all this rain. The good news is, we qualified for FEMA funding for the storm that hit us in May. That's good news for the Town. Not only will we have monies coming in but we will be able to mitigate future problems on these roads. In spite of some set backs from all the storms, the Highway crew accomplished quite a bit this past year. They completed work on numerous roads cutting shoulders, stone and oiling on Middle and River Roads, paved Daley Road, ground Feeley Road, re-topped McIntyre and DeNoon Roads with stone and oil in addition to adding shoulders. Potholes were patched on several roads and brush was cut back where it was getting overgrown. Time was spent on Maxwell Rd repairing, wedging, and replanting grass to sides of the road. Straightening road signs occurred throughout the Town, and as always, mowing the sides of the road is a continual job during the summer. The crew also worked with the Village DPW and Livingston County Highway Department to assist them in getting their projects completed. We are now ready for Old Man Winter with a full barn of salt. Lets hope he isn't as temperamental as Mother Nature was! The Board and I are very pleased with the accomplishments of our Highway Department.

The 2015 Budget was adopted at the November Town Board meeting which had a decrease in the rate per thousand by .30 for the General portion (Village & Town) and an increase of .068 per thousand on the tax rate (Town Outside). That .068 per thousand would equate to an increase of \$6.80 if your house was assessed for \$100,000. Our Town budget also was under the 1.56% property tax guidelines set by the State. The total Town levy was up by 1.3% . Our uncontrollable cost continues to give the Board and I many challenges from budget year to budget year. With double digit increases in many line items of the budget and no relief in sight for the foreseeable future, revenues are starting to dwindle down making it tough to stay within the property tax cap going forward. These challenges of uncontrollable costs continue to be a big impact on year to year budgeting. We will continue to manage these uncontrollable cost the best we can but it

will definitely be very challenging. We continue to have no Town-wide debt and we continue to pay as we go, which is something we are very proud of. Moving forward, we will maintain sound financial practices while providing high quality services to the Town residents. Our budget is responsible, practical and a budget that funds all existing services and Highway projects that residents expect from their Town government.

Accomplishments for 2014

We received our new 10 wheeler

Highway Barn repairs and painting complete

Town Hall basement wall repairs are complete

Looking Ahead for 2015

The Highway Crew will work on stone & oil and paving, wedging and brush clean up plans for 2015 season.

New 1 ton truck will be in sometime in February this truck will be replacing our 2005.

At the Town Hall we have to replace our furnace, and that project will start this spring.

The Board and I will continue to monitor our 2015 financial performance to meet our year end goals.

I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Best regards,