

Newsletter

The Hamlets of Cooksburg, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow and Rensselaerville

Volume 17, Number 12

December 2006

Letter from Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg

Taxation Without Representation

We are fortunate to have a County Executive, Mike Breslin, who is highly motivated to reduce taxes. He has instituted a number of initiatives like shared municipal services to help in the tax reduction effort. We applaud his vision and creativity.

We live in a state with the highest tax rate in the country. County Executive Breslin put it in perspective when he said that the average town tax in New York State was 52% higher than the average town tax in the second-highest taxed state (which I believe is California). This is disgusting and must be corrected.

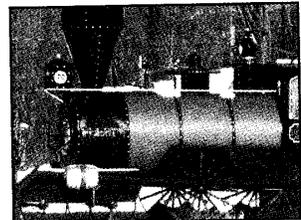
Albany County has recently had another unfunded federal government mandate imposed without our involvement, approval, or representation.

This recent unfunded mandate, or taxation without representation, would have each town in the county pay for updated electronic voting machines. As a result, supervisors of the towns of Albany County who have been communicating with each other about this abuse decided they would pay only one third of the \$1.9 million required by the mandate. Mike Breslin agreed that our proposal to only pay roughly \$620,000 was something he could live with -- the county would pay balance of \$1.2 million.

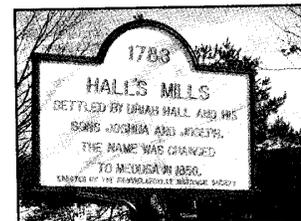
This unified effort by town supervisors has reduced our town's mandated cost from roughly \$60,000 to an estimated \$16,000. This cost may go even lower because the town supervisors of Colonie and Rensselaerville disagreed with the compromise believing strongly that the towns should pay none of this unfunded mandate.

This is an important victory for our town. It demonstrates what can be achieved by a united effort and gives taxpayers hope that this deplorable practice of taxation without representation can be

(continued on page 6)



Cooksburg



Medusa



Potter Hollow



Preston Hollow



Rensselaerville

THE RENSSELAERVILLE LIBRARY *Bookmark*

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
10 - noon, 4 - 9:00 pm

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
4 - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY
9 - 1:00 PM

*We are closed Sunday,
Monday and Holidays.*



MAIN STREET
518.797.3949

December is a busy month for special events at the Rensselaerville Library.

First, come and join us for our second Victorian Holiday Party on Sat., Dec. 2 from 5-8 p.m. See the library transformed, mingle with friends and neighbors and enjoy tasty goodies.

Fiber Artist Sharon Costello will hold a felt ornament workshop on Sat., Dec. 9, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the library. Due to the generosity of the Rensselaerville Historical Society, there will be no charge for this workshop. However, space is limited, so sign up today. This workshop is for people 12 years old and older.

The annual Rensselaerville library greenery sale and market is planned Sat., Dec. 16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Come early for the best selection. In addition to decorated wreaths and other greenery, we will have Christmas trees, poinsettias, baked goods, coffee and hot cocoa, and a local artisans market. If you are interested in volunteering or being a vendor, please contact Rebecca at the library.

First Friday Movies. Join us Fri., Dec. 1 for An Inconvenient Truth – a provocative documentary on Al Gore’s campaign to make the issue of global warming a recognized problem worldwide. An Inconvenient Truth is not a story of despair, but rather a rallying cry to protect the one Earth we all share. Rated PG, running time 96 minutes. On Fri., Jan 5, start your new year off trying to unravel The DaVinci Code – based on the best selling book by Dan Brown, a murder inside the Louvre and clues in DaVinci paintings lead symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) and cryptologist Sophie Neveu (Audrey Tautou) in their heart racing quest to solve a bizarre murder mystery that will take them from France to England and behind the veil of a mysterious ancient society, where they discover a secret protected since the time of Christ. All movies are at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 and \$1 for children under 10. PreSchool Storytime is every Thursday beginning around noon at Conkling Hall.

Have you received your new library card? The library is issuing all existing and new cardholders new library cards. These cards will have a special bar code that will enable card holders to access from any computer the Upper Hudson Library System catalog to request materials from other libraries, and have them sent to Rensselaerville, download free audio and ebooks, get full text articles from magazines and newspapers from around the country, and also access special homework help sites for all ages and grades. The library will have special tutorial

Town Clerk’s Office

Closings

The Rensselaerville Town Clerk’s office will be closed Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas, and Jan. 1 in observance of New Year’s. The office will close at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 8 for a town clerks’ meeting.

...Library

sessions to show you all of the wonderful features available to you with your new library card. The next library board of trustees meeting will be Mon., Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The board regularly meets the first Monday of every month.

Don’t forget the library will accept donations on the first Saturday of each month between 9-11 a.m. only. Donations of any size will not be accepted at any other time. If dates and times are not convenient, or if you have an unusually large donation, please contact the library to make arrangements. Please note, the library does not accept textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, condensed books or books in poor condition. Thank you for helping us build a better, and more organized library. The next donation day is Sat., Dec. 2. Library Staff: Rebecca Lubin, director; Barbara Bolster Barrett, associate librarian; Candy Wilson, clerk.

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Conkling Hall – What's On December

First Friday Movies: Friday, December 1, Rensselaerville Library presents "An Inconvenient Truth," at 7:30 p.m.

Village Voices Concert: Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m. Come here the beautiful music of our friends and neighbors—both serious and humorous. Always a delightful event.

Noteworthy Coffee House: Friday, December 16, 7:30 p.m. Featured guest is Charlie Orlando. Timeless Americana through the eyes of this well-traveled troubadour.

Senior luncheon: Wednesday, December 20. Holiday luncheon at noon. Bring cookies for a holiday cookie exchange. All seniors are

welcome. \$4, to defray the cost of food.

Pilates: Saturdays 9 - 10 am. Pilates mat class with sara nelson weiss. Strengthen your abdominals, gain long lean muscles and work with good alignment. Appropriate for all levels. Please call 239-6825 for more information and to confirm schedule.

Hilltown Market and Natural Food Co-op Open to Public

The Hilltown Market quietly opened its door for retail sales a month ago. Since then, the volunteer staff has been working hard to stock the store with the items that the membership and public have asked for.

Member owned and operated, and not conducted for profit, the much needed market is open to the public for grocery shopping and is a local resource for healthy foods at affordable prices.

Volunteering at the market has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbors, as well as be around some nutritious food selections!

As word spreads about

the market, people are finding that they can save lots of time and energy by shopping locally and keeping the cash in the community.

The market is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

It is located at 26 CR 353 (in the Rensselaerville Post Office building). Call 797-3144 or stop in for a visit and read the shelves!

Thanks to the community for its support.

The members of the Board of Directors are:

Cheryl Baitsholts; Gail Benedict; Rachel Ginther, Vice President; Gail Haines; Roy

Lamberton, Secretary; Guna Nielsen; Jeannette Rice, President; and Dianne Rizzo, Treasurer

Thanks for Halloween Event

I want to thank Paulette and Steve Ryder as well as Lisa Kelly for a wonderful experience for the children on Halloween.

Halloween is tough in a little town. It was great to see – Paulette had crafts for the children, games set up like pin the tail on the cat, with a cat drawn by Deanna Ryder, ghost bowling, candy, a haunted house, the broom game, pick up candy with a monster's hand and spin the pumpkin to collect candy.

The decorations were great and they even had Halloween music. Milk and cupcakes were served to all the hungry ghouls and goblins.

Thank you to all – it was a great community event.

—Respectfully, Joli Pizzigati

HEAP Offers Heating Help

HEAP is now available at Cornell Cooperative Extension CHOICES at Faith Plaza, Route 9W, Ravena. Please call 756-8650. The initiative is funded by Albany County Department of Social Services.

Fuel Assistance Outreach dates are scheduled at Rensselaerville Town Hall from 12:30-3:30 p.m. on November 2, January 4, March 1, and May 3.

Town Business Directory

The Town of Rensselaerville would like to update the Business and Services Directory. Please review the Directory on the Town Website and if your business is not listed and you would like it to be included, or if your business is listed and you would like to have it deleted at this time, please call Kathy Hallenbeck at the Town Hall at 239-4225 or Wayne Woodward at 797-3283.

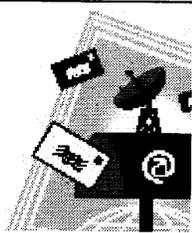
HCRC preparing for Christmas

The Hilltowns Community Resource Center is in the midst of coordinating its annual winter holiday program, which is designed to assist families struggling with economic hardships that leave limited resources for providing clothing and gifts for their children during the December holidays. Families are referred to HCRC for holiday assistance by schools, religious organizations, community groups and other service agencies.

The Christmas program is a cooperative effort of individuals, families, organizations and businesses interested in helping those in need. It's not too late to consider being a 2006 sponsor. Sponsors are given a list from a family stating their immediate needs and desires to use a guide when shopping. Cash donations for sponsorship are also welcomed. Family and sponsors names are kept confidential.

If you are interested in being a 2006 Christmas program sponsor please call HCRC at 797-5256.

Thank you in advance.



United States Postal Service
in the Town of Rensselaerville

Medusa Post Office
239-4826
Preston Hollow Post Office
239-6111
Rensselaerville Post Office
797-3231

New Extra Helpings Food Club

Extra Helpings is a program of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and is offered to the community through the Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC,) in Westerlo.

The program is open to all individuals regardless of age or income. Extra Helpings has changed the prices and menus being offered. Anyone is welcome to purchase any or all of the package options. The menu for each month's Extra Helpings' offerings will still be published one month in advance.

December's Extra Helpings regular menu, for \$20, includes a Bavarian Holiday Ham, one pound of chicken patties, one pound of lead ground beef, one poound of all-beef hot dogs, 20 ounces of peeled butternut squash, and one pound of fresh baby carrots.

Special #1, for \$16, five pounds of ball tip boneless sirloin beef roast.

Special #2, for \$16.75 is 6.5 pounds of boneless cooked turkey breast.

Special #3, for \$30, is the meat box, which includes 2 pounds of cranberry and apple-stuffed pork chops, three pounds of honey-mustard flavored chicken breasts, three pounds of ground beef patties, two pounds maple-flavored breakfast sausage links, three pounds of chicken patties.

Please note: Orders with payment are due at the HCRC office by December 3 for pickup on December 19. HCRC distributes Extra Helpings at the Rensselaerville firehouse from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and St. Bernadette's Church, Berne, from noon to 1 p.m., (please note the new time) and St. Lucy's Church, Altamont, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on delivery days.

The pickup site must be noted with each order. Anyone wishing more information regarding Extra Helpings, or other HCRC services, please call 797-5256. HCRC's mailing address is PO Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.

Junk Recyclers Listed in Rensselaerville

Junk vehicles, metal boats, farm equipment, scrap metal, etc., that is. Would you like this "junk" removed from your property? In Rensselaerville there are three junk vehicle recyclers for you to contact.

They are John Duncan in Medusa, 239-6291; Glenn Hallenbeck, Preston Hollow, 239-4028; and Robert Koenig, Rensselaerville, 797-3413. Each situation is different, but they will pay you for some vehicles and other vehicles may require you to pay a removal fee. Call any of the businesses listed for specific details.

This information is provided to you by Mark Overbaugh, zoning officer for the Town of Rensselaerville.

Need Information?

ElderSource Line at 465-1903 has information at Senior Services to help in a variety of ways. Call between 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Call for free assistance with housing options, insurance counseling, benefits and entitlements, community resources, adult day care and caregiver options. This program is funded by United Way of Northeastern New York and Senior Services of Albany Foundation.

Need a Lift?

Transportation is available to senior citizens from the Albany County Hilltowns for medical appointments. Handicapped accessible vehicles are available.

Make an appointment for Mondays or Thursdays between 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. by calling 434-4219 or 1-866-203-7357. The initiative is partially funded by the Albany County Department for the Aging, the New York State Office for the Aging, the City of Albany, United Way of NENY and Senior Services of Albany Foundation.

Christmas Party in R'ville Firehouse

The Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Battalion is sponsoring a Childrens' Christmas Holiday Party December 2 at the Rensselaerville Firehouse beginning at 3:30 p.m., with a visit from Santa at 5 p.m., and the Village Tree Lighting at 5:30 p.m.

Breakfasts in Medusa Planned

All you can eat breakfasts are planned from 7-11 a.m. at the Medusa Firehouse.

A free will offering will be accepted. Breakfasts are slated for Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17 and April 21.

Refuse/Recycling Hours

The Rensselaerville Refuse/Recycling Department Hours are Saturday and Wednesday from 7 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Please display your permit. If you do not have one, one can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.

Please cover your refuse, so that it is not left on someone else's property. No sheet rock or shingles will be accepted.

Senior Corner

Senior Citizens Club

Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Medusa Firehouse at noon. \$1 is collected.

All senior citizens are invited to join the club. Please bring a covered dish to share and/or dessert. Members need to bring their own plates and utensils. Coffee is provided.

Senior Van

Tuesday – Bryants Center, Greenville

Thursday – Cobleskill (WalMart)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Available for travel to doctor appointments

Call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 regarding scheduling and/or arranging for van pick up.

Hiawatha Grange Lunches

Lunches are served Monday through Friday at noon for \$3.75.

The Grange would appreciate one day advance notice.

Call Marie at 797-3652 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for information and reservations.

Christmas Events in Medusa

The Ninth Annual Medusa Community Tree Lighting will be on December 3 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Medusa Church, with the singing of Christmas carols, special readings, entertainment, and the lighting on the church lawn.

Refreshments will follow with goodies donated by attendees. Everyone is invited to attend, including those from surrounding communities.

Past years have seen some great entertainment, such as "The 12 Days of Medusa" by the after school club.

Any group, individual, scouts, seniors, 4H clubs etc. are invited to perform skits, sing or whatever. Please contact Bill Moore at 239-4843.

Holiday Sale at Medusa Church

The Medusa United Church of Christ will present its annual Holiday Rummage Sale on Dec. 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Church Hall will be filled with Christmas crafts, gifts, decorations, books, toys and more.

Lunch will be available with soup, sandwiches, salad and more. The church continues to receive many useful items to sell.

Village Voices Concert Dec. 10

Rensselaerville's Village Voices will present their 3rd Annual Christmas Concert Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m. at Conkling Hall, Methodist Hill Rd., Rensselaerville.

The program will include Samuel Scheidt's *Christmas Magnificat*, Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in G, K140, some smaller Christmas pieces, and conclude with last year's audience pleaser – a *Musicological Journey Through the 12 Days of Christmas*.

Town of Rensselaerville History Notes

From The Rensselaerville Press, April 19, 1873:

PACKING EGGS IN SALT

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker says:

I commenced packing eggs in July, continuing through August. I placed them in a box, small end down, on a two-inch layer of salt, not allowing one egg to touch another; then

another layer of salt not so deep; then on top of that more eggs, and so on alternately till the box was full, ending with salt two or three inches deep.

This box remained in my barn (frame) all through the severe weather until Christmas, when it was brought to the house and we commenced using. The eggs were as fresh, apparently, as if only laid a few days before.

True, there was but a small number – twelve dozen – perhaps not enough for a thorough test; I would add, some were impregnated, some not.

We do not use many eggs, and they lasted us some time, continuing perfectly fresh to the last.

RHDA Holiday Events Set

The Rensselaerville Historic District Association wants to remind all residents of the historic district to begin looking for their electric or battery powered candles that were distributed by the RHDA several years ago.

These candles, placed in the front windows of all homes, will add a festive glow to the village. Replacement candles or candles for newcomers will be available at no charge upon request to the RHDA.

Call Christopher Thorne at 765-9018 or email him at crthorne@hotmail.com or Dave Bryan at ddrb1253@aol.com or 797-3707. Pick up new lights at the Holiday Greenery sale at the library on Dec. 2.

The RHDA is also working on plans for a New Years Day Community Celebration in lieu of First Night. This Open House event will be at Conkling Hall from 1-4 p.m. in the afternoon on Jan. 1. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

In addition, RHDA has put together a committee to oversee the maintenance and landscaping of the pocket park opposite the end of Route 85.

Earlier this year, the deed for the park was transferred from the Huyck Preserve to RHDA.

In keeping with the theme of this year's annual meeting, RHDA continues to explore options available for the rehabilitation of the sidewalks along Main St.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the pocket park, the sidewalks or any other RHDA-related issue, please contact Thorne.

January Parlor Talk Slated

The January Parlor Talk sponsored by the Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society will be Sunday afternoon, January 21, at 2:30 p.m. at the Town Building on Barger Road. The topic is the history of barns.

Alternative energy is the February 18 Parlor Talk topic at the Rensselaerville Library; and March 18 topic is blacksmithing with Marty Milner. Everyone is invited and refreshments will be served. There is no charge.

...Supervisor's Letter

(continued from front page)

reduced and even eliminated.

We agree with Mike Breslin that a unified effort at the local and county level is a strong defense against unfunded government mandate abuse. Perhaps the result of our efforts in Albany County will set an example for others in our state.

If the county does what they have said, reduce their tax by 2%, we will have lower taxes in January.

We will have a more precise idea about this by the third week of December.

Meanwhile, we will continue to work together to fight increased costs and demand greater government efficiencies. As we prepare for next year I am optimistic about the future.

We in the town government wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a new year of good health and good luck.

Take-out Lasagna Dec. 14

Trinity Church's Take-out Lasagna Dinners are available Tuesday, December 14, 4-7 p.m. at the Rensselaerville Firehouse

Potter Hollow Schoolhouse Committee News

Yes, we have changed our name. The Bicentennial Celebration was a huge success thanks to all of you and your neighbors. We will now be concentrating our attentions to fund raising toward the restoration of the Potter Hollow One Room Schoolhouse and its function in and to the community afterwards.

We are seeking more members to join us in this historic endeavor, which will benefit all in the town of Rensselaerville and beyond, now and in the future. We also need more volunteers and new ideas to help with fund raisers. You do not need to be a resident of Potter Hollow.

Recently, there was a fund raising dinner at Conkling Hall to help raise \$5,000 to help the Greenville School District open a foundation account called the Greenville Educational Foundation, through the Community Foundation of the Capital Region.

This event was a total success. This account was the brainchild of Cheryl Dudley, the Greenville School District Superintendent. She conceived this idea partly because the Potter Hollow Schoolhouse Committee needed a tax free and not for profit account for its restoration and endowment donations and also to help fund various educational needs for the school district that are not covered under the school budget.

The Potter Hollow Schoolhouse will have its own sub account within the Greenville Educational Foundation. Any donations meant for the Potter Hollow Schoolhouse should be made out to the Greenville Educational Foundation and noted on checks that it is for the schoolhouse.

There will be other sub accounts as they are approved by the trustees, such as music, art and other underfunded educational areas. If you would be interested in being a trustee, there are four openings. Just submit a letter describing why you should or would like to be a trustee of the Greenville Educational Foundation to the Greenville Educational Foundation, c/o the Greenville Central School District, PO Box 129, Greenville, NY 12083.

Recently, I sent out an email to those on my address

list asking what is your vision for the Potter Hollow Schoolhouse. I have received some thoughtful answers. The concensus was that it be used for small community meetings, educational programs, seasonal childrens' and community educational functions and most of all to restore the school building so as to retain as much of its historic integrity as possible.

What is your vision for the Potter Hollow Schoolhouse? Send your responses to potterhollow@att.net. If you have any questions on any of the above, email me at that address or call me at 239-4748. If you would like to be added to my email address list, send me your request via email.

My sincere gratitude to you all,

— Sue Lynch
Chairperson of the Potter Hollow Schoolhouse Committee

Church Serivces About Town

- † Preston Hollow Baptist Church
Route 145, Preston Hollow 239-6544
Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.
- † Potter Hollow Union Church
Potter Hollow 734-5106
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & visitation 8:30 a.m.
- † Trinity Episcopal Church
Trinity Lane, Rensselaerville 797-5395
Holy Eucharist & Church School
Sunday 11 a.m.
- † United Church of Christ
Medusa 239-6119
Worship: Sunday 9:15 a.m.

November Town Board Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Rensselaerville on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. was convened by Supervisor Nickelsberg. Those present were Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg, Councilman Gary Chase, Councilwoman Myra Dorman, Councilman J. Robert Lansing, Councilwoman Sherri Pine, Attorney William F. Ryan Jr. and Superintendent G. Jon Chase.

Also present were 40 interested citizens.

Councilwoman Pine mentioned that she and Councilman Chase did not vote for the transfers. Pine would also like a clarification on the last motion that was made on the last page of the minutes. Was it a yes or no?

Attorney Ryan did not think there was a clear understanding of what the motion for Councilman Lansing was. You can make a motion again.

Councilman Chase made a motion not to lay any highway department workers off, whatsoever, as you allocated in this budget, seconded by Pine. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Supervisor Nickelsberg, NA; Councilman Chase, AYE; Councilwoman Dorman, NA; Councilman Lansing, NA; and Councilwoman Pine, AYE. Motion not carried.

Councilman Chase, Lansing – you are going against what you said in these minutes. In these minutes, you said you did not want to lay off a man, now you are saying you do. I'm talking about laying off employees, not rehiring a new employee. Lansing – I'm not laying anybody off. Councilman

Chase made the following motion – I do not want to lay off any employee. Lansing – I am not replacing. Dorman asked Councilman Chase to read it again.

Councilman Chase – I want to put a motion on the floor that we do not lay off any highway employees for the year 2007; seconded by Pine. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Nickelsberg, NA; Councilman Chase, AYE; Dorman, NA; Lansing, AYE; and Pine, AYE. Dorman and Nickelsberg – I don't see why we have to accept this – it is a moot point at this time. Pine – it was a discrepancy in the minutes; I wanted it cleared up.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to approve the minutes of Oct. 16, as amended, and the minutes of the special meeting Oct. 23, as written, seconded by Pine. Unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Dorman to make the following transfers, seconded by Lansing. A roll call vote was taken with the following results : Nickelsberg, AYE; Councilman Chase, NA; Dorman, AYE; Lansing, AYE; and Pine, NA.

The General Fund - \$57,632.25; highway fund - \$17,064.04; lighting district - \$460.64; sewer district - \$39.01; water district - \$186.86; Total Warrant: \$75,382.80. A motion was made by Dorman to pay all signed vouchers, seconded by Lansing. Unanimously passed.

Letters were received from Theron Raines, relative to Kenyon Rd. and the incomplete work done on the road; Vender family, Kelly Rd., relative concerning the maintenance on the road, they will soon be moving there. It will be discussed later in the meeting; Bill Dunne, relative to the deputy highway superintendent and civil service laws and why don't the rest of the employees come under this law; Dian Ryan, relative to the budget cut for the library; Michael Duffy, Albany Council Civil Service Dept., relative to the exam that the deputy highway must take. Letters are available at the town clerk's office to view in their entirety.

Nickelsberg reported that we worked on the budget the night before. A significant number of things are on the web – it is full of information that we never had before. On Nov. 16, the Land Use Committee will report exactly where, when and what we are going to be doing. Citizens should be at the meeting to find out where the committee is going and where the zoning and comprehensive plan is going. Anything you want to add to it – this is the time to do it.

Nickelsberg reported the financial report which included \$11,778/73, account 414; Agency & Trust, General Checking 404, \$190,922.83; General money market, \$57,610.27; Highway

Checking, \$40,571.12; highway money market, \$77,364.71; lighting account, \$4,029.79; sewer account, \$238,342.61; water district, \$33,258/76; CDH, \$71,512.06; CDH, \$35,756.03; CDH, \$103,437.84; CDG, \$151,598.51; CDG, \$151,730.84; CDG, \$346,843.54; Total - \$1,515,019.64.

Councilman Chase asked if the sewer amount was right. It is.

A motion was made by Dorman that we accept the Supervisor's report, seconded by Lansing. Unanimously passed.

Superintendent Chase reported that the highway department is waiting for Albany County's shoulder machine to get repaired and then the shoulders will be done on Niles Rd. We have been patching, cutting limbs and removing dead trees throughout the town. We have the plows ready for winter. I wanted to know if the salt shed repairs have been completed. Nickelsberg said a bill was received and it will be checked. I checked today by Mr. Cooke. Chase said he has a few issues. Nickelsberg said that someone will need to see if they did what they said there were going to do and also have the engineer take a look to see if it was done properly and make sure that we got what we paid for.

Superintendent Chase said there are some loose shingles on the south side that should have been repaired. The entrance to the salt shed – one beam was replaced, but it is not straight. Nickelsberg said that the engineer will look at it before the bill is paid.

Seasonal roads are as follows: Kelly Rd. will be open from CR 360 in as far as the old Kelly barn. At this point, that is what we will keep open – the whole road will be kept open, if possible. At this point, that is what our intentions are. Olmo Rd., Gulf Rd. Extension, Scutt Rd. from McKennas to CR 353, Roney Rd. from the edge of Marcinak's property to the end of the road (which is roughly half a mile;) Camp Winsocki Rd. from Smigel Lane to the Berne Town Line, Edwards Hill Rd. from Feiner's pole barn to SR 145. As long as the roads can be kept open, they will be. Kenyon Road will be kept open all the way through, if possible. There is one section that gets a lot of snow, which can't be kept open. Kenyon Rd. from CR 358 south past Roney Rd. to Michael Williams'. Kenyon Rd. from CR 352 to Fernandez Baldmomero and turn around.

Supervisor Nickelsberg asked what progress had been made about placing additional pavement on top of Kenyon Rd. We ripped the road up, Gorman Brothers looked at it. The idea was to rip it up, put down some item four and light stone dust on it and repack it. We will be doing this.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to accept the following seasonal road list, seconded by Dorman: all above mentioned roads. Unanimously passed.

The town clerk reported that \$2,194.01 was collected in October, paid to the supervisor - \$822.26; paid to Albany County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$41.37; paid to NYS Agriculture and Markets for dog licenses, spay and neutering programs - \$15; paid to NYS Dept. of Health for marriage licenses - \$22.50; and paid to NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation - \$1,292.88. \$413.10 in water rents were collected, as well as \$1,413.94 in sewer rents. Councilwoman Dorman asked about the sporting license, and about how much remains in Rensselaerville. They got \$1,292.88 and Rensselaerville retained \$65.12. A motion was made by Dorman that the report is accepted, seconded by Pine. Unanimously passed.

Tom Mikulka mentioned the first phase of work on the building and that he complimented the two gentlemen for the nice job they did. What is the status of Phase II? Nickelsberg said that an RFP advertised in the paper for the work the two people had intended to do. One bid for \$55,000 was received. Staying with the two people who had completed Phase I would have been about \$22,000. The bid was rejected. It will be revisited in the spring.

Vernon Husek mentioned that they completed the Vision Statement. It will be finalized at the next meeting Goals are being prepared now. A meeting was set Nov. 16 to give the public an opportunity to look at the goals that have been drafted, suggest changes, ask questions and then they will try to finalize the goals by the end of November. Then the Comprehensive Plan will be prepared

(continued next page)

••• *November Town Board Minutes*

based on the vision statement and goals. Everyone was invited. Posters are posted around town.

Nickelsberg said the committee did a great job and should be thanked.

Nickelsberg said there were some questions about the waste oil furnace, which will be discussed. If the town buys the furnace, it will go in the garage. The oil will be collected at the refuse center and carted across to the appropriate storage facility in the garage. It should pay for itself in about three years. The town is interested in saving money. Pine asked about the cost of taking away the waste products.

Dennis Jenkinson, a Clean Burn representative, mentioned that he spoke to Advanced Petroleum Products of Albany, and they charge \$1 per gallon to remove the waste. Nickelsberg made a motion to buy the waste oil furnace as submitted by Clean Burn. Chase asked if a motion had been made at the last meeting to reject the bid. The town board reviewed the minutes from the last meeting regarding the bid, because they did not have all of the answers needed. Chase mentioned that he has not seen any report on safety issues for the person who is going to haul it from the building to building. After all the information is obtained, then they can go back and possibly put it out to bid again.

Nickelsberg said that this would be tabled for another month and come back to it because if we are going to do this this winter, we want to get it going. We have been working on it for six months. The RFP process will have to be entered into again. The motion was to not accept the bid, said Attorney Ryan. Dorman said that if we go through the process again, we should list the information that is needed.

Chase said that we have talked about the information that was wanted by ENCON rules, as far as the safety issues. What we need to know is who will actually do the process and how we are going to go about doing this. Nickelsberg said the road department and someone in the refuse center will do it. Chase said that there is nothing on paper that said that this is the way it will be done, only what was spoken. Nickelsberg said that they are talking about someone who works for the town taking it from one shed to the other garage.

The update to a new NYS Retirement Plan was discussed. Attorney Ryan explained he has a resolution allowing three employees to move up to a new plan for the sum of \$1,072 per year. The cost is for the entire town, not per employee. Chase made a resolution which stated: Be it resolved that the Town of Rensselaerville does hereby elect to provide the additional pension benefits of section 75-e, 75-g and 75-I of the Retirement and Social Security Law, as presently are hereafter amended. Be it further resolved: that the effective date of such law shall be the first day of Dec. 2006. Seconded by Dorman. Unanimously passed.

There were no legal matters at this time.

Barry Kuhar asked about salt and sand, and had minutes from the April 13 meeting concerning salt and sand. In 1994, when he was councilman, he had the idea that we should be able to sand for the people of the town in the event of an ice storm. Later, in 1999 there was another motion saying that we should be able to do this. Last spring, the town board's minutes said that the town does not think it is a good idea to have this salt and sand and that they were going to come up with an idea so we could still have it and charge the people that need it. Kuhar investigated and asked Chase how much salt and sand was used. It is probably a 10-wheeler load, the cost about \$300. If you place \$100 worth of salt in that, totally \$500 to \$1,000. There are probably a third of the people who live in this town who have driveways that have slopes on them. His mother lives on a hill and walks to the mailbox daily, and could easily break a hip. Is it worth saving a lot of money for one accident if you have the potential to prevent it? There a lot people who come down and get a bucketful of sand, and he gets a pickup truck load to do driveways. He does not charge the people. Ice storms are what people worry about, and not the normal snow storm. If a little snow comes down on an ice storm,

someone could fall and break a hip and it is worth the \$500 to save one of them and save all of the inconvenience of the fire companies, ambulance squad and insurance companies. If you have to charge us a quarter a bucket, or a dollar, or \$5. It has to be done within a month because salt and sand might be needed. There are three other towns in the state that allow this. It is not saying that we as a town cannot come up with that, all we have to do is write a resolutions saying it can be done. It does not mean that we cannot give away salt and sand to save a little money. This is a small town in which he grew up, and the town always took care of us and we took care of the town. He thinks the town should take care of this situation.

Nickelsberg said that they are good points, and Kuhar was right, but there is no time to waste, and we said we would get to it. We have not done so and we need to do that and will by the next meeting. We will figure out what is needed to get the job done.

Attorney Ryan explained that Murial Frasher wrote a grant application to the Environmental Protection Fund, NYS Quality Communities Program to assist with defraying the cost of the consultants fee for the land use work that is being done now. This is a resolutions authorizing her to submit that application to the fund for state assistance permit and authorizing the submission of the grant application.

Dorman made the following resolution: Whereas the Town of Rensselaerville is presently revising the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Subdivision and Zoning Regulations in order to ensure the protection of open space, the establishment of appropriate development and the protection of natural resources and wildlife habitats; and Whereas, the town of Rensselaerville has retained consultants to assist with the revisions to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Subdivision and Zoning Regulations; and Whereas, the anticipated total project cost equals \$58,528; and Whereas to help defray the costs of this project, the town has sought to obtain grants for various third parties such as Environmental Protection Fund, NYS Quality Communities Grant Program. Now, therefore, it is resolved:

1. The Town of Rensselaerville Town Board authorizes the supervisor to execute a grant application entitled Environmental Protection Fund, Application for State Assistance Payments, NYS Quality Communities Grant Program, Year 2006-2007.
2. The Town of Rensselaerville Town Board authorizes that the application for the aforesaid grant be submitted. Unanimously passed.

A motion was made b Dorman to accept the town clerk's reports of unpaid water rents in the amount of \$3,723.57 and authorize her to send them to the Albany County Department to be added to the 2007 property taxes as a relevy, seconded by Nickelsberg. Unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Dorman to accept the town clerk's report for the unpaid sewer rents in the amount of \$4,268.52 and that she be authorized to send them on to the Albany County Department of Finance to be put on the property tax bill as a relevy, seconded by Pine. Unanimously passed.

The town board at the Nov. 8 budget workshop discussed item amount changes and created some new items. We are leaving the specific items that have been added to the budget and voted upon out of these minutes because of the cost. If anybody wants to see the complete minutes, they are in the town hall and on the website.

Nickelsberg made a resolution adopting the 2007 Town of Rensselaerville Final Budget, seconded by Dorman. Whereas the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board has met and considered the 2007 Preliminary Budget and has conducted a public hearing thereon, as required by town law, Resolved that in accordance with town law, the 2007 Preliminary Budget, on file with the town clerk, as changed, altered and revised hereby is adopted, and Further Resolved, that all amounts set in the adopted column of said budget, hereby are appropriated for the purposes specified, effective Jan. 1, 2007.

(continued next page)

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Councilman Chase added that before you adopt this budget, that last night we made a resolution that was rejected. There are a few things in this budget that I don't agree with an I don't think Pine agrees with at this time. I cannot adopt this budget based on the money that was taken away from the grievance committee and other entities of the town. Last night I made a motion on the floor that was rejected, and at this time I cannot approve this budget.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Nickelsberg, AYE; Chase, NA; Dorman, AYE; Lansing, AYE; and Pine, NA.

Attorney Ryan mentioned that at the meeting last night the board spoke about capital reserve funds, and he had resolutions for the capital reserve fund in the amount of \$40,000, the insurance reserve fund for \$20,000 and the Equipment fund in the amount of \$80,000.

Pine asked that if that includes the one the did before for the highway road that had to be fixed. Ryan said that was done two years ago, and we don't have to do anything with it.. Ryan said that under the General Municipal Law, you need a resolution to set up the reserve funds, which is what this does and it also states in here that ou have toinvest the money and be prudent and it must be used for the capital improvements.

The following resolution was made by Dorman and seconded by Chase: Resolved that pursuant to section 6-c of the General Municipal Law, as amended, there is hereby established a capital reserve fund to be known as the Town of Rensselaerville Capital Reserve Fund (hereinafter Capital Reserve Fund) in the amount of \$40,000. The purpose of this reserve fund is to accumulate moneys to finance the cost of a type of capital improvement. The type of capital improvement to be financed from the reserve fund is the construction of various capital improvements within the town of Rensselaerville.

The chief fiscal officer is hereby directed to deposit and secure the moneys of this reserve fund in the manner provided by section 10 of the General Municipal Law. The chief fiscal officer may invest the moneys in the reserve fund in the manner provided by section 11 of the General Municipal Law. Any interest earned or capital gains realized on the moneys so deposited or invested shall accrue to and become part of the reserve fund. The chief fiscal officer shall account for the reserve fund in a manner which maintains the separate identity of the cash and investments of the reserve fund.

Except as otherwise provided by section 6-c of the General Municipal Law, expenditures from the reserve fund shall be made only for the purpose for which the reserve fund is established. No expenditure shall be made from the reserve fund without the approval of the governing board and without such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by section 6-c of the General Municipal Law.

Unanimously passed.

The following resolution was made by Dorman and seconded by Pine, relative to the Insurance Reserve Fund:

Resolved, that pursuant to section 6-n of the General Municipal Law, as amended, there is hereby established an insurance reserve fund to be known as the Town of Rensselaerville Insurance Reserve Fund (hereinafter Insurance Reserve Fund) in the amount of \$20,000. The purpose of this reserve fund is to accumulate moneys to pay the cost of any judgment, claim or the defense thereof, against the town.

The chief fiscal officer is hereby directed to deposit and secure the moneys of this reserve fund in the manner provided by section 10 of the General Municipal Law. The chief fiscal officer may invest the money in the reserve fund in the manner provided by section 11 of the General Municipal Law. Any interest earned or capital gains realized on the moneys so deposited or invested shall accrue to and become part of the reserve fund. The chief fiscal officer shall account for the reserve fund in a manner which maintains the separate identity of the cash and investments of the reserve fund.

Except as otherwise provided by section 6-n of the General Municipal Law, expenditures from this reserve fund shall be made only for the purpose for which the reserve fund is established. No expenditure shall be made from the reserve fund without the approval of this governing board and without such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by section 6-n of the General Municipal Law.

Unanimously passed.

The following resolutions was made by Dorman and seconded by Pine concerning the Town of Rensselaerville Equipment Reserve Fund:

Resolved, that pursuant to section 6-c of the General Municipal Law, as amended is hereby established a capital reserve fund to be known as the Town of Rensselaerville Equipment Reserve Fund, (hereinafter Equipment) in the amount of \$80,000. The purpose of this equipment reserve fund is to accumulate moneys to finance the cost of a type of equipment. The type of equipment is to be financed from the reserve fund is the acquisition of various equipment for the Town of Rensselaerville.

The chief fiscal officer is hereby directed to deposit and secure the moneys of this reserve fund in the manner provided by section 10 of the General Municipal Law. The chief fiscal officer may invest the moneys in the reserve fund in the manner provided by section 11 of the General Municipal Law. Any interest earned or capital gains realized on the moneys so deposited or invested shall accrue to and become part of the reserve fund. The chief fiscal officer shall account for the reserve fund in a manner which maintains the separate identity of the cash and investment of the reserve fund.

Except as otherwise provided by section 6-c of the General Municipal Law, expenditures from this reserve fund shall be made only for purposes of which the reserve fund is established. No expenditures shall be made from the reserve fund without the approval of this governing board and without such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by section 6-c of the General Municipal Law.

Unanimously passed.

Ron Case III was welcomed as a new member of the Medusa Fire Company.

The Audience Comments at the end of the meeting can be viewed at Town Hall or on the website.

Dorman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m., seconded by Lansing. Motion carried.

Citizens Provide Input to Town Goals

Fifty-two people attended the public meeting on town goals held on November 16th.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide Rensselaerville residents with an opportunity to comment on draft goals the Land Use Committee has prepared, based on the information gathered from the household survey and visioning workshops.

The meeting began with Ben Syden a planning consultant from The LaBerge Group, explaining the steps involved in updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Vernon Husek then covered the

draft goals and answered questions from the audience. The committee has decided to emphasize the importance of improved utility services as a result of public comments at the meeting.

One of the goals for our town is to encourage appropriate types of rural land use in an orderly manner to support safety, health and quality of life.

Also addressed are natural resources, historic character, business development, transportation, communications, health and emergency services, recreation, agriculture, housing,

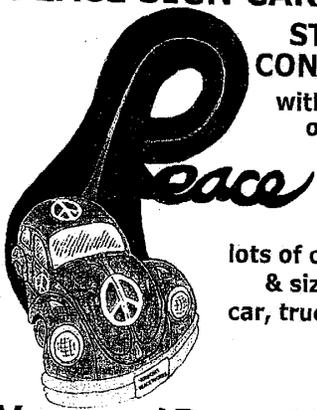
and other issues important to our residents.

The committee will be asking for more input from residents on the future of the Town. Most would like the town to stay rural but improve communication technology.

The draft goals, vision statement, GIS inventory maps and other important documents are currently on the Town of Rensselaerville website at www.rensselaerville.com.

The public is encouraged to attend the Land Use Committee meetings held every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

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2006

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2006

A community pot-luck supper at Conkling Hall will immediately follow the service.

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County Legislature, 39th Dist.

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Albany County Highway Dept.

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Social number— 797-3218

Tri-Village Fire Company, 911

Social number— 239-6780

Medusa Fire Company, 911

Social number— 239-6166

Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911

Information number— 797-5233

Albany County Sheriff, 911, 765-2351

State Police, Rensselaerville & Hilltowns

911, 477-9333

Town Board Meetings

Second Thursday, 7 p.m.; Working meeting

Tuesday before regular meeting, as needed.

Town Justice Court

Mondays, 7 p.m.

Planning Board

First and third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

Thursday, 8-10 a.m., 7-9 p.m.

Town Clerk's Hours

Monday – Wednesday, 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, 1:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m.-noon

Supervisor's Hours

Seven days a week, by appointment

Assessors' Hours

Thursday, 6-8 p.m.

Assessors' Clerk Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday mornings

Dog Control Officer

Cheryl Tefft-Baitsholts, 797-5201

Town Refuse Station Hours

Wednesdays, 7 a.m.- 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, 7 a.m - 3:45 p.m.

Water/Sewer District Meeting

First Thursday, 7 p.m.

Rensselaerville Fire House