

Board Workshop meeting.

Town Engineer

- Discussed hiring Alex Herman as the town engineer to assist with projects like culvert repairs and provide more responsive, local support.
- We're currently waiting for a formal proposal from him, as the initial one was just a draft. The expense is already in the budget.
- We agreed the contract details need to be clearly defined, especially what services are covered by the retainer versus what would be billed separately. Councilman Camarata plans to ask for a copy of his contract with the City of Oneonta for comparison.

Grant Opportunities

- Congressional Grants: Supervisor Rivera discussed the application process for these and shared possible projects that were discussed with Nicole, which include:
 - Improvements for Greater Plains Park.
 - Purchase two new plow trucks and a sweeper truck for the highway department.
- Community Visit: Supervisor Rivera and Councilman Camarata had a productive meeting with Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, who toured the town and will provide an outline of available grants.
- CDBG Application: Supervisor Rivera and Councilwoman DeSantis met with Rodney Dorland about his CDBG application for a Southern BBQ Restaurant. A full application will be submitted to the board and a written guarantee from Ed May (who holds the mortgage) to protect the town from liability.

Hemlock Road Development Proposal

- The board met with the project applicants and reviewed a proposal for a senior housing development on Hemlock Road, which requires a zone change.

- The developers are open to adding a deed restriction to prevent the properties from becoming short-term rentals.
- Supervisor Rivera raised the importance of thorough due diligence and taking our time to review to ensure we're protecting our community. Suggestions to the developer included:
 - Adding sidewalks or a wider road with a walking/bike path.
 - Possibly including a community center.
 - Having developers host a community forum to address community concerns directly.

Decisions Made

- Supervisor Rivera will ask the town attorney to prioritize the review of the Hemlock Road development application. Also, he will follow up with Habitat for Humanity, and with the town attorney on other pending items.

Next Steps

- Councilman Camarata will follow up with Alex Herman for his formal engineering proposal.
- Supervisor Rivera will schedule a meeting with the appropriate congressional offices to discuss grant ideas.
- Supervisor Rivera will wait for the full CDBG application from Rodney Thorsland and the written guarantee from Ed May before forwarding it to the attorney.