

# R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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## Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 7, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 7th day of October, 2014 at 7:30 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

There were no interested citizens present.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to begin review of the 2015 Tentative Budget.

\* Superintendent Bates presented his views on the 2015 Tentative Budget. Almost all line items in the Highway budget will remain the same as they were for 2014 with the following exceptions: Superintendent Bates requests that Road Material/Sand/Salt and Gas/Oil be increased by 2%; and Trucks and Miscellaneous Equipment be increased by \$5,000 each.

The Town has not spent any money on equipment this year therefore leaving a surplus of \$30,000. Superintendent Bates would like to add this \$30,000 to the existing Capital Fund to put towards a new tandem plow truck.

\* The figures for Worker's Compensation are still up in the air, but will be finalized shortly. Additionally, the compensation for 'Operator' is yet to be determined, contingent upon the completion of the Union Negotiations.

The C.H.I.P.'s Program is being left at the base amount of \$181,514 for the time being as the Town will not have firm figures until after the State's budget passes.

\* Superintendent Bates addressed the wages of the neighboring Towns' Highway Superintendents and compared them with the Town of Rensselaerville. He noted that the annual salary for the Town of Rensselaerville's Highway Superintendent is on the average, \$10,000 less than that of each of the neighboring Towns of Berne, Knox, and Westerlo. Yet, the Town of Rensselaerville has a comparable number of crew members, but has many, many more miles of roads to maintain. His concern is not for his own salary, but for those that follow. Superintendent Bates also pointed out that any increase should be done gradually, not in one sudden jump. Superintendent Bates acknowledged the reality and what is affordable in a small Town, but noted that there is a cost to having qualified people. He questioned increasing the salaries of all the positions within the Town. For too long the Town has sat on these salaries because there just isn't enough money. Superintendent Bates understands also that there is a political cost to raising salaries; it can become an issue, but there comes a time

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## Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 7, 2014

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where a qualified person needs to be compensated.

\* Town Clerk Kraker has requested a raise for the Deputy Town Clerk who currently earns \$11.00/hour, noting that five years ago, in 2010 the Deputy was earning \$11.88/hour. Once again, comparing neighboring Towns, Deputies earn between \$14.98 (as a new-hire) and \$17.33/hour. Clerk Kraker also noted that no one has taken a new position in the Town earning less money than that of their predecessors; nor even less than that of someone who held the position five years prior, regardless of their level of experience.

\* Supervisor Lounsbury recommends the line item for mileage be increased.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

## Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 15, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 15th day of October, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

There was one interested citizen present. Kim Graff and Connie Kudlack were also in attendance, representing the Rensselaerville Library.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to continue the review of the 2015 Tentative Budget.

1. Kim Graff made an extensive presentation on the Rensselaerville Library. She explained where and how the library has received their funding in the past and what their plans are for the future. 38% of their funds have come from the Town and the School district combined; the remaining is obtained through various avenues such as fundraising. Wills and securities have also helped. Ms. Graff hopes to do more fundraising in the near future, and also hopes that the four new people that are on the Board at the library will bring some fresh new ideas.

Ms. Graff pointed out that there are many new groups to the library such as the poetry group, writing group, and philosophy clubs. She also noted that with the increase in technology, she has been helping and instructing individuals on the proper use of their devices. She has been encouraging different

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## Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 15, 2014

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groups and organizations to make use of the library for their meetings in an effort to increase participation and attendance levels. She is pleased to see new faces and new residents venturing into the library.

The largest line item in the library's budget is personnel. The library simply will not function without its employees and staff. Ms. Graff encourages students to complete their community service obligations at the library which helps out both sides.

The library is looking forward to decreased heating bills this coming winter. Windows have been replaced and a considerable amount of the building has been insulated.

On the down-side, restitution payments have been becoming less and less. There is no way the library can rely on this for revenue.

The computers are seven-year-old hand-me-downs and are still running on XP. Kim will be needing new computers in the very near future. She was able to purchase a server last year and will be able to do upgrades one time instead of spending hours on each individual computer.

On behalf of the library, both Kim and Connie are asking that the Town budget an additional \$2,500 for 2015. In prior years the library received \$25,000 with the exception of 2014, in which they received \$22,500. Supervisor Lounsbury will table this decision until all other items in the Budget have been addressed.

2. Neither the Fire companies nor the Ambulance requested funding increases over last year.
3. The only changes to the Sewer District will be to the ban principal which has increased by \$416.00; and these are scheduled payments. The electric has been raised by \$100 and the telephone lowered by \$100.
4. The same has been done with the Water District. The payment went up on the recap loan and the interest went down.
5. The Hydrant District will remain exactly the same as 2014.
6. Erin Nevins of Nevins Insurance Company will be shopping for insurance for the retirees. The retirees health insurance is increasing from \$301/month to 487/month. The retirees also are reimbursed for their Medicare premiums.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
Victoria H. Kraker, Town Clerk



## Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 16, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 16th day of October, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

There was one interested citizen present.

The purpose of the Special Workshop Meeting was to continue the review of the 2015 Tentative Budget.

1. The Attorneys to the Town have requested a \$2,000 increase. Supervisor Lounsbury has contacted the attorneys and requested that they remain at the same level of compensation of \$34,000 and not be raised to \$36,000. They are willing to do this.

2. Councilman Bolte would like to revisit the Supervisor's line item for equipment. Supervisor Lounsbury is in need of a printer. She uses the printer in the hallway, but is concerned that all too frequently there is confidential information that is being printed where it may be seen by all.

3. Office Supplies line will stay the same.

4. Supervisor Lounsbury would like to invite I.T.S. to come to the next meeting to review their charges.

5. Supervisor Lounsbury will speak to Zee Medical to see if some modifications can be put into place regarding the inventory of the first aid cabinet.

6. Councilwoman Cooke expressed her concerns over the cost of the extra copier in the meeting room.

7. Discussions were had over the cost of fuel oil and electricity. The consensus was to keep fuel oil the same as 2014, but to raise the amount for electricity.

8. Town Clerk Kraker will be keeping close track of exactly how much postage is being used for the initial mailing of taxes, receipts, and second notices.

9. While most line items for the Dog Control Officer will be decreasing, kenneling fees will be going up.

10. Supervisor Lounsbury has spoken to Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh regarding his clerk. Officer Overbaugh is willing to take half of the clerk's annual wages and serve as his own clerk.

11. The Highway Superintendent's wages as well as his clerk's will remain the same.

12. Veteran's Services will remain exactly as it was for 20104.

13. The Preston Hollow, Medusa, and Rensselaerville Parks will remain the same as they were for 2014.

14. The vehicle maintenance line will be increased under Programs for the Aging.

15. The Substitute Recycling Coordinator's line item will be decreased. However, the line item for vehicle maintenance will remain the same.

16. Supervisor Lounsbury learned from the State Comptroller's Office during her training, that there should not be any funds in a contingency account for the Highway Department. Once money is put into Highway, it cannot be taken out. However, money which is in the General Fund's contingency line may be transferred into the Highway if necessary.

17. Supervisor Lounsbury will double check the figures for Highway employee's wages once the Union Contract is ratified.

18. Under the Highway Department, Road Materials and Gas/Oil have been increased by 2% due increases in costs.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker

Town Clerk

## Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 20, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 20th day of October, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

There were six interested citizens present.

The purpose of the Special Workshop Meeting was to continue the review of the 2015 Tentative Budget.

1. Supervisor Lounsbury notes that due to the Health Insurance rates going up 60%, and Liability Insurance and Workman's Compensation rates going up as well, it will be incredibly difficult to stay within the tax cap.
2. Areas which were in need of revisiting included the Justice Court's computer supply line, the Deputy Town Clerk's wages, the Town Clerk's mileage, medical supplies, and computer fees from I.T.S.
3. Supervisor Lounsbury has made the correction to the records management code.
4. Town Law states that the Town cannot have a contingency account in the Highway Department. Therefore, that amount will be moved to the General Fund contingency account.
5. The Town will only be able to give the Library an additional \$1,250 of the \$2,500 they requested.
6. Medical insurance for the retirees has gone from \$301.00/month to \$487.00/month. Supervisor Lounsbury has contacted the insurance agency, but will not have concrete figures until after the next meeting.
7. The State Retirement will be less for 2015.
8. Revenues for the upcoming year which include, but are not limited to clerk fees, kenneling fees, recycling fees, gifts and donations, and fines and forfeited bail will remain the same. A slight decrease was expected for franchise fees, dog licenses, and sales of recycling. Zoning fees, Planning Board fees, and Building Permits have been increased slightly based on 2014's figures, although contingent upon activity within the Town. Per Capita and Mortgage Tax line items have been increased as well.
9. C.H.I.Ps funding for the Highway will remain at \$181,000.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

Did you know...

... that a local County Legislator who was cited in July 2014 for trespassing in Washington County has been convicted of this noncriminal violation? Although offered adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, she and her co-defendant opted to take the matter to trial. And she is now decrying the waste of taxpayer money over such a trivial matter. Two questions arise: Shouldn't elected officials be held to a higher standard of behavior? Shouldn't adults take responsibility for their actions?

## Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 23, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 23rd day of October, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

There were three interested citizens present.

The purpose of the Special Workshop Meeting was to continue the review of the 2015 Tentative Budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to schedule a Special Meeting for October 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of setting a date for the Public Hearing regarding the Tax Cap Override; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

I.T.S. was scheduled to review the proposed budget with the Board, but due to a family emergency, could not attend.

Except for a 2% increase in two of the Highway Department's line items (which was due to a drastic increase in the price of materials); the 60% increase in health insurance; and increases in Liability Insurance and Workman's Compensation, most other line items have remained the same as 2014. However, Supervisor Lounsbury announced, regrettably, that there will still be a 4% increase in the taxes.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to move the Tentative Budget to the next stage of Preliminary Budget; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

## Draft Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 28, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 28th day of October, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke

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**Draft Minutes of The Town Board Special Meeting, Oct 28, 2014**

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ABSENT WAS: Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

There were no interested citizens present.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to schedule a date for the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 1: titled "A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2015".

Supervisor Lounsbury read the text of the proposed Local Law in its entirety.

The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE  
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE  
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State established a 'tax cap' that generally limits the increase in the Town's assessment for Fiscal Year 2015; and

WHEREAS, the tax cap statute permits a local government to override the limit for the upcoming fiscal year through adoption of a local law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it may be necessary to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2015 that incorporates a tax increase in excess of the tax cap;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville that pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law and the General Municipal Law, a public hearing shall be conducted at the Town Hall on November 6, 2014 on the attached proposed Town Law, and notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published on or before October 31, 2014 in a newspaper circulating in the Town.

By motion was made by Councilman Bolte and 2nd by Councilman Wood, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 28th day of October 2014 as follows:

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent/Abstain</u>
Valerie Lounsbury, Supervisor	X		
Marion Cooke, Councilwoman	X		
Robert Bolte, Councilman	X		
Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilwoman	X		
Gerald Wood, Councilman	X		

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

The Public Hearing will be held at 6:30 PM on November 6, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker

Town Clerk

## DRAFT MINUTES THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING - PRELIMINARY BUDGET NOVEMBER 6, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 6th day of November, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Dana Salazar, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were a total of nine interested citizens as well as Highway Superintendent Randy Bates. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on the 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Lounsbury read an email from Marie Dermody as follows:

Valerie Lounsbury

From: Marie Dermody  
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 3:19 PM  
To: Valerie Lounsbury  
Subject: Public Hearing: 11/6/2014

Since I am unable to attend the Public Hearing on the 2015 Preliminary Budget for Thursday, November 6, 2014, I request that this letter be read into the minutes at the beginning of the public hearing.

Having to create a responsible budget in a questionable economy is no easy task. But that does not mean that it is impossible. It is the responsibility of the governing body, the Town Board, to make difficult decisions that provide its residents with necessary services at an affordable cost. When you consider that the retirees will get a 1.7% COLA (cost of living adjustment) in Social Security benefits for 2015, it is clearly unconscionable to present a budget with an almost 4% increase.

In examining the 2015 Preliminary Budget, several questions/issues arise. (Please note that many of these questions might not have been posed if the year-to-date figures had been updated to a more recent date.)

1. Why is there a \$400 (160%) increase in Misc. Contractual in the A1220E (Supervisor) line? And why was this line overspent by \$581.04 as of September?

*Supervisor Lounsbury: The reason for this is training.*

2. What is the rationale for a \$100 (66%) increase in Travel Mileage in the A1410E (Town Clerk) line, especially when you realize that the Town Clerk is now permitted to use the senior car when available for bank and post office errands?

*Supervisor Lounsbury: The car is only used when it is available.*

3. What is the rationale for a \$700 (28%) increase in Taxes and Assessment in the A1410E (Town Clerk) line?

*Supervisor Lounsbury: It is the cost of the software for the tax collection.*

4. Why is there a need to increase Misc. Contractual in the A1410E (Town Clerk) line by \$200 (500%) when only \$12.50 had been spent by the middle of September?

*Supervisor Lounsbury: Again, the reason is for training.*

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**DRAFT MINUTES THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING - PRELIMINARY BUDGET NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

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5. When you calculate the salary of the Assessors' Clerk for 52 weeks at 20 hours per week (the maximum allowed as per Civil Service) at \$10.50 per hour, the result is \$10,920. So why has the Town Board budgeted \$1,394 (12.7%). The fact that she might have to put in additional hours during the "busy season" simply means that she should be working fewer hours during other weeks. We DO have three assessors who should be competent to handle some this work.

*Supervisor Lounsbury: The extra 55 hour will be used for training and due to the fact that she is new and still unfamiliar with much of the workload, she will need extra time.*

6. What is the reason for increasing Misc. Contractual in contingency (A1990E) by \$10,000 (40%), especially since nothing had been spent out of that line as of September 18, 2014. During budget workshops, it was mentioned that this line would be increased because it is not legal for the highway fund to have a contingency line and this was once a way to set aside money for highway contingency. Has anyone checked on the legality of budgeting highway funding in the general fund?

*Supervisor Lounsbury: The Board did not feel \$25,000 was adequate when there was a zero balance in the Highway Fund.*

7. It is certainly admirable that the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer has agreed to take over the clerking duties for 50% of the clerk's salary. But that salary was increased by 20% before calculating 50% of it. Doesn't that constitute a raise even though the line decreased? And what will the salary be if and when a clerk needs to be hired?

*Supervisor Lounsbury: The clerk went from a salaried to an hourly position.*

8. At a time when everyone is tightening their belts, is it prudent to grant a \$1,250 (5.5%) increase in the library allotment? Yes, no one can deny that they do a wonderful job...but so do many others who are not being afforded the luxury of an increase in salary or allotment.

*Supervisor Lounsbury: Revenues for the library are down. A couple of years ago, their budget was lowered, however more people in the community are using the library and the Board felt they should be given the additional money.*

9. Although at last report, the collective bargaining agreement had not yet been ratified by the members of the union (the highway crew), the Town Board has already agreed to the terms of this new contract. And it is pretty much common knowledge that the Town Board has agreed to a 2% raise for each year of this 3-year contract. Who was the lead negotiator representing the Town Board? Does this councilperson realize that his responsibility is to represent ALL of the residents/taxpayers of this Town? I firmly believe that raises go to everyone or they go to no one. That doesn't seem to be the philosophy of this Town Board.

Yes, our highway employees work hard and do a good job. Nothing in this commentary is meant to detract from the work they do or the quality of that work. But shouldn't that be the expectation of all our employees, regardless of their department? Other employees were not treated equally with regard to raises.

The rationale for the raises has been that the highway men haven't gotten a raise in a couple/few years. Perhaps that is true if you look at their hourly rate. However, what do you consider the following benefits in the 2012/present contract:

...two additional floating holidays with pay? The list of paid holidays now equates to about 3 full weeks of paid time off, in addition to accrued vacation time.

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**DRAFT MINUTES THE TOWN OF RENNELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING - PRELIMINARY BUDGET NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

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... a lower premium on a high deductible health insurance plan? For those employees that must pay a portion of their insurance premium, this results in lower deduction out of their paychecks.

...the Town pays up to \$5,000/\$10,000 of the employees' deductibles? Does this not leave more money in their pockets?

How can you not consider these benefits a raise of some sort?

*Supervisor Lounsbury: The men have not had a raise in five years and the 2% raise amounts to 0.36/hour.*

10. A great deal of money is placed in the health/medical lines. I realize that this is because you have to budget as if everyone maxed out their deductibles. However, the public needs to know that although insurance costs have risen, a great portion of the increase in this budget line is due to the need to cover deductibles.

I strongly urge the Town Board to use whatever funds that are not spent for 2014 to offset any budget increase for 2015 and not set aside for a "rainy day fund."

*Supervisor Lounsbury: This is what has been done in the past.*

I realize that many of the issues presented equate to nickels and dimes in the whole scheme of things. But nickels and dimes add up to larger amounts. It's time to start making those difficult decisions.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my questions regarding the 2015 budget.

Marie Dermody

END EMAIL

**Public Comments:**

**Diana Hinchcliff** began by thanking Supervisor Lounsbury for answering her extensive list of questions recently. She also thanked the Town Board for their hard work as well.

1. The CPIU (Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers), what the State tax cap program is based on, was 1.7% from September 2013 to September 2014. The rate of inflation for 2014 was 1.58% in January, 1.66% in September and 1.7% from September 2013 to September 2014. The tax levy on the Preliminary Budget is going to be 3.8% which is way higher than any of those numbers and the increase in appropriations is around 8% for the whole budget – for the Highway and General Funds, which way exceeds both the CPIU and the rate of inflation. This is a very large gap. There are more people every year going on fixed incomes; people that can't find jobs; or people that are under-employed. Although the tax credit refund may not be a lot of money, for some it makes a difference.

2. The largest increase in the budget is in health insurance. For the General Fund the increase is 35% and for the Highway Fund the increase is 40%. Due to the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies must now cover all these people that are now in the system and the burden is being placed on policy-holders and premium-payers to cover that cost. This drives up the Town budget. The Town pays for the premiums and deductibles of all current employees and retirees. (Supervisor Lounsbury explained that the older retirees do not pay anything, but the younger retirees pay a certain percentage based on stipulations in the Contract.) This is an issue that needs to be rethought because people are living

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**DRAFT MINUTES THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING - PRELIMINARY BUDGET NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

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longer and the Town will be paying these costs for a very long time. Ms. Hinchcliff stated that she doesn't know of any employer that pays either entirely for their employees' health insurance costs or that requires such a minimal payment. (Supervisor Lounsbury responded by stating that the issue has been addressed in the new Contract, and then proceeded to explain the details of the new stipulations.)

3. Ms. Hinchcliff inquired further into whether it was true that the Town reimburses retirees 100% of their Medicare Part B and if it would be changing that policy. (Supervisor Lounsbury explained that that policy went into effect around the early 2000's and assured all that it was something that is going to be researched. However, she noted that changing something that was part of a retirement package cannot be done quickly and requires extensive research to make certain it is done legally.)

4. Ms. Hinchcliff suggests other area of possible savings. She noted that market analysts predict the price of gas is going to remain low at least for the upcoming year and she thought perhaps that line item could be reduced.

5. In regards to the contingency fund, Ms. Hinchcliff asked what emergency situation could arise that would cost \$35,000 that would not be covered somewhere else in budget and suggested that perhaps the contingency line could be cut further.

6. The library is considered a Special District for purposes of calculating the tax cap. There can be an increase in the library budget and still come under the tax cap.

7. Ms. Hinchcliff suggested, as undesirable as it may be, that a cut in the Culture and Recreation budget could also help the bottom line.

**Georgette Koenig** began by commending Diana Hinchcliff for an excellent job.

1. Mrs. Koenig inquired into the line items for the Town Attorney vs. the Attorney for the Town. Supervisor Lounsbury explained the differences.

2. She questioned the Board as to whether the sales tax revenues were expected to be on target. Supervisor Lounsbury confirmed that, yes, they were.

3. Mrs. Koenig inquired into the decrease in the C.H.I.P.s funding line. (Supervisor Lounsbury explained that there was additional funding for 2014 due to the 'winter recovery' and there would not be a guarantee that the Town would be receiving it again for 2015.)

ADJOURNMENT ; A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to close the Public Hearing at 7:35 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

Did you know ....

... as a result of an issue brought up by a Town Councilman, the Town Board is now contemplating a second parking ordinance for the Rensselaerville hamlet? The Town Supervisor has requested that the Attorney for the Town craft a resolution similar to the one that exists for Methodist Hill Road for discussion at a future Town Board meeting.

## **DRAFT MINUTES THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING - TAX CAP OVERRIDE NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 6th day of November, 2014 at 6:30 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Dana Salazar\*, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood\*\*, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

\*Arrived at 6:36

\*\* Arrived at 6:32

Also present were a total of nine interested citizens as well as Highway Superintendent Randy Bates.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014 – A Local Law Overriding the Real Property Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2015.

Supervisor Lounsbury read the proposed Local Law as follows:

Town Law No. 1 of 2014 of the Town of Rensselaerville  
A Local Law Overriding the Real Property Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2015

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

### Section 1. Legislative Authority

Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State, incorporated in Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law, established a 'tax cap' that generally limits the amount of a municipality's real property tax levy for the upcoming fiscal year according to a formula set out in the statute, but the statute also authorizes local governments, pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c(5), to override the tax levy limit for the upcoming fiscal year.

### Section 2. Override of Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2015

The real property tax levy limit set out in §3-c of the General Municipal Law is overridden, pursuant to New York General Municipal Law §3-c(5), for Fiscal Year 2015, and the Town may adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2015 that incorporates a real property tax increase in excess of the otherwise applicable tax levy limit.

Section 3. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

END LOCAL LAW

### **Public Comments:**

Diana Hinchcliff thanked all for the opportunity to be heard. She continued on to state that the projected tax levy based on the 2015 Preliminary budget will increase by 3.8% which will exceed the allowable tax cap. This means if it stays in place, next year taxpayers will not receive a tax rebate. In order for a government to participate in this program, the budget must be under the allowable 2% after all adjustments, and the government must repeal the Local Law or resolution to exceed the tax cap. As it stands right now, it appears that the Town will in fact exceed the tax cap.

Georgette Koenig: Social Security goes up by only 1.7%. A 3.8% increase in anyone's taxes could be devastating and then losing the tax credit relief on top of that could be even worse. We need to bring it back under the 2%.

**End Public Comments**

*(Continued on page 13)*

**DRAFT MINUTES THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING - TAX CAP OVERRIDE NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

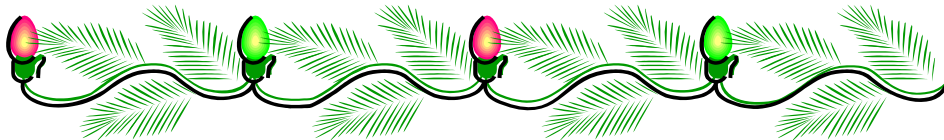
*(Continued from page 12)*

Supervisor Lounsbury stated that the Town has worked very hard on the budget and have kept it as low as possible. For the past two years, it has been kept under the tax cap, but that can no longer be accomplished with the increases that are beyond the Town's control. Taxpayers will still be eligible for rebates at the County level.

Councilman Bolte expressed that it is impossible to keep the taxes down when so many want the roads salted pure white. The cost of salt is going up along with the price of stone. The money needs to come from somewhere.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to close the Public Hearing at 6:39 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

**Town Law No. 1 of 2014 of the Town of Rensselaerville**

Town Law No. 1 of 2014 of The Town of Rensselaerville

A Local Law Overriding the Real Property Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2015

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

**Section 1. Legislative Authority**

Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State, incorporated in Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law, established a "tax cap" that generally limits the amount of a municipality's real property tax levy for the upcoming fiscal year according to a formula set out in the statute, but the statute also authorizes local governments, pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c(5), to override the tax levy limit for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Section 2. Override of Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2015**

The real property tax levy limit set out in Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law is overridden, pursuant to New York General Municipal Law § 3-c(5), for Fiscal Year 2015, and the Town may adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2015 that incorporates a real property tax increase in excess of the otherwise applicable tax levy limit.

Section 3. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

## Resolution of The Town of Rensselaerville Town Board

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State established a "tax cap" that generally limits the increase in the Town's assessment for Fiscal Year 2015; and

WHEREAS, the tax cap statute permits a local government to override the limit for the upcoming fiscal year through adoption of a local law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board conducted a public hearing on the attached proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014 on November 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of the issue and the entirety of comments at the public hearing, the Town Board has determined that it may be necessary to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2015 that incorporates a tax increase in excess of the tax cap;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, ordains and enacts the attached Local Law No. 1 of 2014, which is incorporated herein.

By motion made by Marion Cooke, and seconded by Gerald Wood, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 13 day of November 2014 as follows:

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes	X	No
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes	X	No
Councilman Bolte	Yes		No X
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Yes	X	No
Councilman Wood	Yes	X	No

## Union Contract Ratified

The Town of Rensselaerville and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 158 (the Union) have settled contract negotiations. The three-year agreement became effective October 24, 2014, and guarantees a 2% raise for highway employees in each year of the three years of this agreement. In addition, the Town will cover up to \$400 of prescription co-pays per year per each employee for the life of the contract. It also puts a 10-year limit on the time that the Town will cover insurance costs for retirees (and their spouses) with 15 or more years of Town employment who retire after October 23, 2014. The Town will cover 80% of the insurance costs for retirees and 50% for their spouses.

In the contract that was settled in 2012, highway employees were also granted two floating holidays (bringing paid holidays to three weeks annually, not including earned vacation that varies from one week to four weeks depending on years of employment); lower premium costs for those who must contribute to their health insurance plan; and Town reimbursement of deductible costs of up to \$5,000 for those with an individual health plan and up to \$10,000 for those with a family health coverage.

To view this contract in its entirety, this collective bargaining agreement should be available for public distribution via a FOIL request to the Town Clerk.

## TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE SEASONAL ROADS

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville wishes to inform the residents of the Town and the Public that the following roads are Limited Use Highways and will not be maintained from December 1, 2014 through April 1, 2015:

Gulf Road Extension from Gulf Road to the northerly end of State Lands;  
 Kenyon Road from the intersection of Roney Road to CR 359;  
 Roney Road from the last residential structure in from Pearson Road to the intersection of Kenyon Road;  
 Scutt Road from the southerly end of State Lands to CCC Road; and  
 Edwards Hill Road, from 500 feet in from SR 145 to the top of the hill.

Dated: November 14, 2014

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Victoria H. Kraker

Town Clerk

***Move***

***Breathe***

***Relax***

YOGA: Tue. & Thu. 9-10:15 am

PILATES: Wed. 5:45-6:15 pm & Sat. 9-10 am

Classes Open to All at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville

Sarah Nelson Weiss, CYT

savitrissarah@gmail.com, 518-239-6825

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00

All Others—\$12.00

Did you know .....

..... a FOIL request submitted on 9/11/2014 seeking documentation regarding FEMA work done by the Town's highway department at the Bayard Elsbree Memorial Park in Preston Hollow has only been partially completed.

Although we've received information about a more than \$40,000 reimbursement to the highway department in December 2012, and some information about the work done, apparently no financial information exists that explains how the labor, materials, and equipment expenses equate to the money that was reimbursed. The Town Clerk reports that no such record of calculations exists. If this is true, how do we know that this reimbursement is an accurate accounting for the work done?

Is this a sound, acceptable financial procedure? Is there a conflict of interest that interferes with proper accounting in this matter?

## Library News

### ***Rensselaerville Library***

The Library's Writing Group will meeting on December 11th at 7pm. This informal and supportive writing group is designed for writers of all interests, backgrounds and abilities. Participants have time to write and share "works in progress" and receive the support needed. If you have questions please call Linda Miller at 936-4402.

The Library's Poetry Group will be meeting on December 9 & 23 at 7pm. Questions please contact Tom Corrado at [tjc123@midtel.net](mailto:tjc123@midtel.net)

The Library's Board of Trustees meeting is on Monday, December 15th at 7pm. The Meeting is open to the public.

The Library's Greenery & Cookie Sale is December 6th from 9-2pm. Trees, Roping, Sprays and Wreaths will be for sale on festive Main St, local vendors set up inside and Children's cookie decorating downstairs. Library's used books will be for sale.

The Library will close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and will be closed all day on Christmas and New Year's Day.

The Library's Web Site has been redesigned. Come visit [www.rensselaervillelibrary.org](http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org) We also have a Facebook page.

Do you have an E Reader, MP3 Player or a Smart Phone? You have access to free e-books and audio books through the Library and your Library card. No Library card? Just stop into the Library and we can help you. Visit <http://digitalcollection.uhls.org> to start downloading.

One On One Computer & Internet Help - Would you like one on one computer or technology help with setting up an email account, word processing, Facebook, Overdrive, E readers, Job Searching sites, etc? Kim is offering individual sessions in the Library to help get you started with almost any common everyday computer/internet questions. Appointments are required. Please visit or call the Library at 797-3949.

Library Wish List – Are you remodeling, reorganizing, or purchasing new technology? Consider donating to the Library. We are looking for the following items: counter height table, large outdoor style rug, children's educational toys, any version of Amazon Kindle, Apple iPad or tablets. Thank you to everyone who has made donations.

Donations -- Your financial support allows the Library to purchase resources, fund programs and support services as well as maintain our historic building. For more information on how to make a contribution please go to the DONATION link on the web site. Thank you for your continued support.

Currently receiving notifications from the Library by phone? Now you can receive 'overdue' and 'availability of requested items' notifications by email instead. Click the button below or stop by the Library and we can assist you.

Hours:        Sunday, Monday Closed  
                 Tuesday, Wednesday 10am - 12pm; 4pm - 9pm  
                 Thursday, Friday 4pm - 9pm  
                 Saturday 9am - 1pm



## Library News (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 16)*

Contact information: 1459 Route 351, Rensselaerville, NY 12147  
 (518) 797-3949; Fax (518) 797-5211  
[www.rensselaervillelibrary.org](http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org)  
 Director Kimberly Graff: [director@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:director@rensselaervillelibrary.org)  
 Library Assistant Katie Caprio: [library@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:library@rensselaervillelibrary.org)

### **Middleburgh Library**

- Dec 2 **10:45am** **Drop-in Story Time** - Get ready to move in this interactive story time designed especially for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. We'll read books, sing songs, recite fingerplays, dance and watch a short movie based on a weekly theme. No registration required. (Also meets Dec 9, 16, 23, 30)
- Dec 2 **1:00pm** **Mahjongg** - In the Community Room (Also meets Dec 9, 16, 23, 30)
- Dec 3 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: Million Dollar Arm (PG)** -.Free Popcorn! No registration required.
- Dec 3 **5:00-6:15pm** **Kundalini Yoga** - Facilitated by Debra Krol, involves repetitive movements with the breath, building strength, toning the nerves and clearing the adrenal glands. Wear comfortable clothing and bring 2 blankets or a mat and blanket. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Use the back entrance when entering the building. No registration required. (Also meets Dec 17)
- Dec 3 **7:00pm** **Not So Quiet Concert Series "Still Hollow"** (Community Room) - Still Hollow is Tom White, Tom Wadsworth, Hank Lamont and Tom Wetmore. They have a wide range of musical styles including swing, bluegrass, Appalachian and original. Tickets are available at the door. A \$10.00 donation is suggested.
- Dec 4 **7:00pm** **Knitting Circle** - These friendly ladies (men are welcome, but we haven't seen any yet!) knit and crochet, embroider and quilt, and more. You can learn a new skill here or share your own special talents with others - or just craft in the company of friends. Drop in anytime! No registration required. (Also meets Dec 11, 18)
- Dec 9 **11:00am** **Toddler Dance-a-Thon!** (Community room)
- Dec 10 **11:00am** **Doodlebugs: Preschool Art Exploration** - Doodlebugs is preschool art exploration for little ones and their caregivers. Appropriate for ages two and up. Registration is required.
- Dec 10 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: Promised Land (R)** - Free Popcorn! No registration required.
- Dec 12 **5:30pm** **Miracle on Main Street** - Please see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Dec 13 **1:00pm** **The Dr. Best House Victorian Christmas Celebration** - The Dr. Best House
- Dec 13 **3:00pm** **Birthday Party Summer Reading Raffle Winner** - (Community Room)
- Dec 16 **7:00pm** **Book Discussion: "The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Win-**

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Library News (cont'd)

(Continued from page 17)

**dow and Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson** - a fun and feel-good book for all ages. Books are available at the Information Desk. No registration required.

Dec 17 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: About Time (R)** - Free Popcorn! No registration required.

Dec 30 **1:00pm** **Family Film: How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG)** - Free Popcorn! No registration required.

Dec 31 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: Jersey Boys (R)** - Free popcorn! No registration required.

The events calendar for the Middleburgh Library can be found at:

<http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=8616&thisMonth=12&thisYear=2014>

Contact information: 323 Main Street  
Middleburgh, NY 12122  
(518) 827-5142  
middleburghlibrary.info

## Local Government Website Report Card

On October 30, 2014, SeeThroughNY issued their first ever report card on local government websites. Local government includes cities, counties, towns, villages, and school districts. Conducted by the Empire Center, 500 websites (of larger locales) were evaluated on ten informational categories: contact information, public meetings, public information, budgets, financial reports, contracts, taxes and fees, facilities and services, expenditures, and ease of navigation.

Excerpts from this study follow:

- "Most of the 500 local government and school district websites we reviewed between July and September of 2014 need major improvements before they will be providing citizens with all the public information to which they are entitled."
- "Dozens of localities effectively violate the law by failing to "conspicuously" post meeting notices on their websites."
- "The most common shortcoming among all websites was a lack of financial information, including budgets, taxes and fees, and expenditures."
- "Unfortunately, the vast majority of local governments and school districts fail to post any information about their union contracts online—before, during or after the deals are negotiated and ratified. Since employee compensation makes up the largest category of local government and school expenditures, the online posting of full contract documents and summaries of contract provisions should be routine on all local websites."
- "Except for a small—but notable—group of outliers, local governments and school districts are not providing clear or comprehensive or even the most basic information on their websites. What could and should be useful, powerful tools for taxpayers are very much underutilized."

How would we measure up when confronted by a similar evaluation?

The full report can be viewed at: <http://www.empirecenter.org/publications/2014localgovreportcard/>

*Middleburgh Renaissance Council Invites You To...*

## **MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET**

*Co-Sponsored by the Village of Middleburgh*

*Friday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8:30 pm*

Stroll Down Main Street...Enjoy Caroling & Musicians  
Extended Store Hours and Holiday Treats

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides  
Pictures with Santa at the Theater - 6:00  
Middleburgh Fire Truck with "Sparky" & "The Grinch"  
NY Wildlife Rescue Center  
Patsy's Miniature Horses  
Cookie Decorating - Our Lady of the Valley

*We'll Have.... Soups a' Bubbling, Chestnuts Roasting, Cocoa  
Steaming, Pretzels Warming, Cookies, & Treats!*

*Caroling with MCS Select Choir & Girl Scouts on Library Stairs  
At the Library: 5:30 - Sarah Clermont's Dancers*

*6:00 - Christmas Stories told by Jim Spencer*

*6:30 - Depot Lane Singers*

*7:00 - Christmas Stories told by Jim Spencer*

*7:30 - Mid. Ecumenical Bell Choir*

*8:00 - TLC Cloggers*

*New Hats & Mittens Collection \*\*\* [www.artsmrc.org](http://www.artsmrc.org)*

Albany County Sheriff's Office



NOVEMBER 2014

ALBANY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Volume VII



New Salem Fire Department had their open house offering visitors a chance to ride in a fire truck and suit up in fire gear to get the real feel of what it is like to be a fire fighter. Important safety tips were shared on fire prevention in the home and how to plan for an evacuation if needed.

Article

\* FIRE PREVENTION \*

October was "Fire Prevention Month" and Fire stations across the region opened their doors to share important safety tips.

No one ever wants to think about the devastation that results from a fire in the home.

What everyone needs to consider is an evacuation plan in the event that a fire should happen. Make sure there are smoke and carbon monoxide detectors through out and the batteries are changed twice a year. Best time to remember to do this is when the clocks get

changed! Keep portable heaters away from flammable objects such as clothing and bedding. Also make sure your home has a small fire extinguisher handy incase a fire does start. If a fire does happen, get family members and pets out of



the house immediately, call 911, and NEVER try to go back into the house. Safety first!!

2015 Events

Any organization or agency interested in having the ACSO attend their event for 2015 should contact Investigator Tracy

Mance at 518.655.7831 or at Tracy.Mance@albanycounty.com. The earlier the better to ensure availability as seasonal dates will fill up quickly!



ALBANY COUNTY

**Albany County Sheriff's Office**



## Cash for Guns Buy Back

Pastor Charlie Muller teamed with Albany County agencies on Saturday, October 25th to hold a **CASH FOR GUNS** buy back at the Victory Church location at 118 Quail Street in the City of Albany. Any operable handgun, assault rifle, or shotgun could be brought to the church and turned in for a Pyramid Mall gift card. 40 guns were brought in

and turned over ... that is 40 less guns on the street that could be used to commit crimes! This is a no questions asked - open door policy which allows people to dispose of weapons, legal and illegal, to help make communities safer. A person does not have to reside in the city of Albany to be able to turn in a gun at this location. If there are

other organizations around the region that are interested in partnering with Victory Church to hold a Cash for Guns buy back, Pastor Charlie is willing to host this event at other locations. For more information or to contact Pastor Charlie you can visit the website at [www.victoryalbany.com](http://www.victoryalbany.com).



### Around the Town



*Investigator Tracy Mance has been making some rounds through the community. Early October she stopped in to speak with the New Scotland Seniors at their monthly meeting. Topics included disaster preparedness, protecting the home and assets, phone/internet scams, and safe driving. Written information was provided for the membership to take home with them including magnets with important ACSO phone numbers. Next stop...Bryant & Stratton College to talk with Criminal Justice*

*students about careers in law enforcement, the police exam, and hiring procedures. Then lastly off to Glenmont Job Corps to speak to the security students not only about law enforcement careers, but also about goal setting and being a positive role model for peers. All groups were very receptive of the information that was provided and many questions were asked and answered. It was great to be invited to speak to these groups to help promote safety, security, and recruitment opportunities.*

## Albany County Sheriff's Office



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior that is culturally learned and socially condoned. Abusers engage in a variety of tactics with the goal to gain control and maintain that control with their spouse or partner. There are many forms of domestic violence and it is often a combination of these actions that are found in an abusive relationship. Many victims choose to ignore or "deal" with any abuse that may occur in their relationship. Many domestic crimes go unreported to authorities, especially if the victim is scared of repercussions, divorce, or further abuse. If leaving the relationship is something that is decided, be sure to have a plan to be protected as abusers may have tendencies to escalate tactics. As the victim, know that the abuser's behavior is *their* choice. It is your choice as the victim to recognize the abuse and decide to get help. There are many organizations to assist with domestic violence and abuse. Check your area for any hotline phone numbers, support groups, law enforcement, or shelters that assist victims and families of domestic violence.

### SAFETY PLAN

- ✦ Open bank account
- ✦ Get a Post Office box
- ✦ Secure home/ get alarm system
- ✦ Tell family/friends/ counselor the plan
- ✦ Screen phone calls and messages
- ✦ Consider obtaining an order of protection from a Family Court Judge



### EXAMPLES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### *Physical Abuse*

Punching, slapping, pushing, physical restraint, kicking, biting, withholding medical treatment if needed

#### *Emotional/Psychological Abuse*

Name-calling, humiliation, put downs, bullying, mind games, lies, instilling fear, threaten harm

#### *Economic Abuse*

Controlling money and bank accounts, preventing victim from maintaining employment, making victim sole income provider, other acts to make a person financially dependent.

#### *Sexual Abuse*

Forceable sexual acts, withholding sex, exploiting sexuality

#### *Isolation*

Preventing family and friend contact, relocation, controlling people interaction

#### *Stalking*

Repeated and unnecessary contact through texts, phone calls, emails, social media, planned appearances where the victim frequents, following

### Albany County Sheriff's Office



#### APD Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Walk/Run

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Albany Police Department hosted their first annual Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Walk/Run at the Hudson Riverfront. Over 200 participants showed up on the sunny autumn day to support the cause and fly purple colors. Money raised from the run will go to help

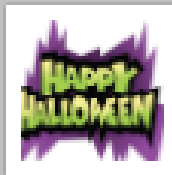
domestic violence victims through out the county. In 2013 there were over 2,000 domestic violence related arrests in Albany County that were reported to NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and over 8,800 calls were made to the New York State Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline. NYC and Long Island had the highest

cell volume in the state. Outside NYC, Albany County ranked the third highest county in the state with 8% of the total calls to the hotline. If you feel that you are a victim of domestic violence or know anyone that might be a victim, the NYS Hotline number is 800.942.6906.

### GUILDERLAND HIGH SCHOOL TRICK OR TREAT STREET

Guilderland School District held their annual **TRICK OR TREAT STREET** at the High School. Doors to the whole school were opened for parents to bring their children of all ages to show off their costumes, play Halloween games and visit the haunted house. Other activities included Bounce houses, martial arts demonstrations, Zumba dancing, and magic shows! The Guilderland Police Department and the Albany County

Sheriff's Office were on site talking to children about Trick or Treat safety and providing glow sticks for those planning on going door-to-door on Halloween. For the adults, ACSO had **STOP DWI SCAN FOR CAB** lanyards. "Scan for Cab" has a QR code generator that will list cab companies in the area in the event a ride home is needed. Halloween safety for all!



### Albany County Sheriff's Office

## BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO AFTER SCHOOL

ACSO made a special visit to the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Connections After School Program. The students were pleasantly surprised by Investigator Mance and Deputy Strollo as they brought K9 George to visit and show them how police dogs do their job. Fake "drugs" were hidden around the classroom in places that the children suggested. George came in and did his thing! How exciting it was for the children to watch as George worked around the room to find all of the samples that were hidden. Everyone

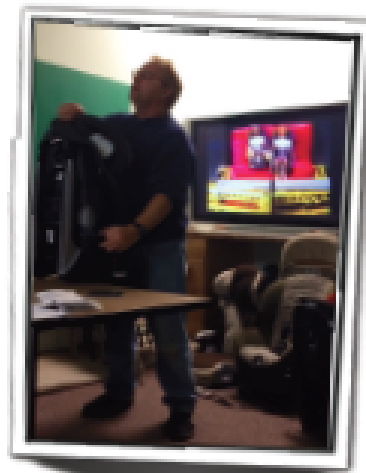
giggled and laughed as Deputy Strollo rewarded George for being a "good boy" each time. Play tactics are used to reward Police K9's when they do their job. The more fun they think it is, the harder the dogs work. Thank you BKW Connections for letting ACSO come visit!



### ✱ CHILD SAFETY SEAT CLASSES ✱

Albany County Department of Public Works has a Traffic Safety Education unit dedicated to instruct parents and families on the proper installation of child safety seats. Bill VanAlstyne is the guru of safety seat instruction and spends a lot of his time going around the county to make sure children are safe in their care giver's vehicles. Investigator Mance is a certified Child Seat Technician and she joined Mr. VanAlstyne at

the Alpha Pregnancy Center in the City of Albany to help teach parents the dangers of not installing a car seat properly and to educate them on the proper location, direction, and harnessing of the correct seat for their child. All participants were attentive and thankful for the free class. If anyone is interested in making sure their child's seat is installed properly, please contact Investigator Mance to make an appointment.



**Above:** Bill VanAlstyne teaches new parents the importance of properly installed child safety seats.



## Senior Citizens Info

The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Town Hall at 239-4225 or 797-3798 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ruth & Tom Snyder (239-4376) the day before about riding the bus if you are interested.

The Town of Rensselaerville Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Medusa Fire House at noon. Anyone 55 years of age and older can join. Dues are \$8.00 a year due in June. We collect \$1.00 a month at the meeting for coffee, milk, etc. Please bring a covered dish to share. We eat promptly at noon and the meeting commences afterward. We have a picnic in August; in November, we have a Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant; and in December we have a Christmas dinner also. We have bus trips in the summer and fall. For further information, call Tom Snyder, President, at 239-4376.

Our trip to Holyoke, MA, to the Log Cabin for a Christmas show. The cost is \$52 for members and \$57 for non-members. See Janet Nelson if interested in joining us.

Please note that we are in desperate need of drivers for the bus and the car. Please call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 if you're interested in volunteering as a driver for our senior citizens.

Additional Important Phone Numbers:

- Department of Aging 447-7179
- HEAP: 447-2551

## Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

### H.E.A.P. OUTREACH DAY

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Rensselaerville Town Hall

Emergency HEAP can often help people who are confronted with heat-related emergencies, such as a lack of fuel, a utility shut-off, or inoperable/unsafe heating equipment.

We have information on this page about income eligibility limits, where to apply, and how to download a printable application. For additional information, you contact us the Albany County HEAP Hotline at (518) 447-7323 or by email at [energy@albanycounty.com](mailto:energy@albanycounty.com)

If you are unable to attend the H.E.A.P. Outreach Day at Town Hall ... the link below will take you to Albany County's HEAP page: <http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/DepartmentofSocialServices/ProgramsandServices/HEAP.aspx>. This page contains information about income eligibility limits, where to apply, and how to download a printable application. For additional information, you contact us the Albany County HEAP Hotline at (518) 447-7323 or by email at [energy@albanycounty.com](mailto:energy@albanycounty.com)

**If you are eligible for HEAP, we encourage you to apply.**



# **BREAKFAST AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

7:00AM TO 11:00AM

~~September 2, 2014~~

~~October 18, 2014~~

~~November 15, 2014~~

December 20, 2014

January 17, 2015

February 21, 2015

March 21, 2015

April 18, 2015

**PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPT**

Fresh, hot, all-you-can-eat breakfast made to order

**Free will offering**

Please note that the Medusa Volunteer Fire Company is also selling Christmas trees from now until Christmas. The cost is \$25.00. No other information was available at press time as to times when trees will be available. Contact a member for further information.





# Christmas

C N L E F W T C Q H P K O D P B U G  
 F A P I D J G N U P P T L U N K I U  
 R W N V G A P W N C S H A L I S I D  
 W E M D W H A W R S T N E S E R P A  
 N R B B Y I T E O H C A R O L S H O  
 A U K M D C I S G O A K Z L E E R I  
 M D F V E N A I S A N T A C L A U S  
 W O Z Y D C N N G M C J T V Z Y Y D  
 O L W E L T E K E L C X E L A L X X  
 N F E P N L P D I S H S A I I N B P  
 S R O E B T X S V I R V J M V R E K  
 Q S L E T W D S I L I H A S L F C H  
 T I H E E R F D Z Z S F F B C O Y M  
 S X A I H R B D R Q T D Z D K J Q B  
 S L L E B A T U Y Q M B N J Y R H K  
 C U K Z T U S J U L A A C D A N E G  
 R U U I D V W B M G S D R M B O A T  
 J P E N M F Z P E R C H M Y C A F E



- BELLS
- CANDY CANES
- CAROLS
- CHRISTMAS
- DECEMBER
- ELVES
- FAMILY
- LIGHTS
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER
- RUDOLF
- SANTA CLAUS
- SILENTNIGHT
- SNOWMAN
- TREE



**From the Editors:** Please be advised that the draft minutes for the Town Board meeting of November 13, 2014, were not received in time for this newsletter. However, as soon as we get them, we will send out an addendum to this newsletter later in the week. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

## On The Calendar

Dec 4		<b>Senior Trip to Log Cabin in Holyoake, Mass, for Christmas</b> Program. \$52 for members and \$57 for nonmembers. See Janet Nelson.	
Dec 6	9am-3pm	<b>Medusa Church Holiday Rummage Sale</b> Lunch is available. Hall is loaded with good items.	Medusa Church Hall
Dec 6	9am-3pm	<b>The Museum of Medusa History will be open.</b>	
Dec 6	4:30pm	<b>RVFD Children's Christmas Party</b> Santa arrives at 5:00pm Hayride to Christmas tree lighting at 5:30pm	RVFD Firehouse
Dec 6	7pm	<b>Bates Hollow Church Annual Christmas Program</b>	
Dec 7	6:00pm	<b>Democratic Social Club Holiday Dinner</b>	Vince Anna's Westerlo, NY
Dec 9	12 noon	<b>Seniors Club Christmas Dinner</b> Bring donations for Food Pantry.	Quarry Steak House Rte. 81 in Climax
Dec 9	7pm	<b>Town Board Work Meeting</b>	Town Hall
Dec 11	7pm	<b>Town Board Regular Meeting</b>	Town Hall
Dec 20	7-11am	<b>Medusa VFC Breakfast</b> Free will offering	Medusa Fire House
Dec 20	8am-12noon	<b>Medusa Church 2nd Holiday Rummage Sale</b> Lots of stuff added.	Church Hall
Dec 20	8am-12noon	<b>The Museum of Medusa History will be open.</b>	
Dec 24	8pm	<b>Christmas Eve Candle Light Service</b>	Medusa Church



Did you know .....

..... that Officer Tracy Mance was promoted on October 20th? She now carries the title of "investigator" and also holds Civil Service status of "sergeant".

Investigator Mance writes, " I will be continuing as the Community Liaison with the Community Relations Unit as I have been which will include (but not limited to) events, topic talks, non-emergency quality of life concerns, and attending town meetings. I can be reached by email or phone if anyone ever has a question. I have very much enjoyed the past year meeting and interacting with different groups of people to promote the Sheriff's Office. There are so many valuable resources that the agency has to offer that many people do not know about. It's great to be able to inform the public of these resources. It is equally great to be able to talk to different civic and school groups about awareness and prevention. If any of the information that I share can help one child make a smarter choice or one adult remember to lock their home when running errands, then I have succeeded in my mission."

Congratulations, Investigator Mance!

**Contact Information for Elected Officials & Department Heads**

Position	Name	Email Address
Town Supervisor	Valerie Lounsbury	vlounsbury@rensselaerville.com townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Marion Cooke	mcooke@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Robert Bolte	rbolte@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Margaret Sedlmeir	msedlmeir@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Gerald Wood	gwood@rensselaerville.com
Supervisor's Clerk	Sarah Hunt	shunt@rensselaerville.com
Town Clerk	Victoria Kraker	townclerk@rensselaerville.com
Highway Superintendent	Randy Bates	rbates@rensselaerville.com
Assessors	Donna Kropp Richard Tollner Kathryn Wank	assessors@rensselaerville.com
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Overbaugh	codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com
Planning Board	Richard Amedure	mcarney@rensselaerville.com
Zoning Board of Appeals	John Mormile	mcarney@rensselaerville.com
Board of Ethics		ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	Phone: 797-5201
Town Hall		Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339



**Competitive Bidding Practices**

A reader/subscriber who wishes to remain anonymous submitted this link regarding some improper bidding practices in the village of Schuylerville in Saratoga County.

<http://blog.timesunion.com/saratogaseen/state-wants-better-bidding-in-schuylerville/22484/>.

The comptroller's audit of village of Schuylerville revealed some purchases that "were not competitively bid or properly awarded on the basis of best value in accordance with state General Municipal Law." This person questioned whether competitive bidding practices in the Town of Rensselaerville were consistently in compliance with the requirements of NYS GML.

## The Back Page

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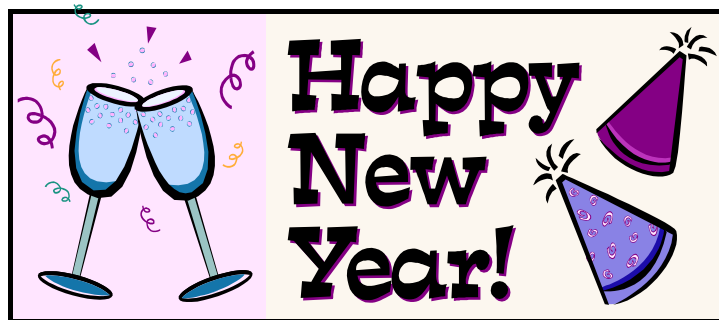
**From the Editors:**

*As always, we ask that you make a copy or two of this newsletter to share with friends and neighbors who may not have Internet access. Our readership continues to grow, but we invite others to sign on by sending their email address to [rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com). We look forward to getting your feedback.*



Link to the Albany County Sheriff's Office November 2014 Newsletter:

[http://www.albanycounty.com/Libraries/Sheriff\\_Department/nov\\_news\\_sm.sflb.ashx](http://www.albanycounty.com/Libraries/Sheriff_Department/nov_news_sm.sflb.ashx)



A community newsletter **BY** the community **FOR** the community