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June 16, 2015
Volume 1, Issue 4

Sullivan County Manager's Monthly News

CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 31, 2015

The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) deadline is quickly approaching. The CFA is a single entry point for access to economic development funding that is made available from New York State. This funding is available for municipal projects, non-profits, and businesses including microenterprises.

The Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management (DPEM) has offered assistance to our municipalities. Staff will assist with:

- Conceptualizing projects
- Identifying appropriate funding programs
- Providing contacts at relevant agencies
- Coordinating multiple applications to a single funding agency
- Preparing applications for priority project status
- Additional assistance may be available as requested

DPEM asks that if your agency intends to file a CFA to please notify them. This information will be valuable as DPEM seeks to maximize the competitiveness of all applications coming from Sullivan County agencies.

There is one remaining CFA workshop to be held on June 23, 2015 from 6-8:30pm at Mount Saint Mary College in the Aquinas Hall. Mount Saint Mary College is located at 330 Powell Avenue in Newburgh, NY. This workshop will provide valuable information to any agency interested in submitting a CFA, regardless of whether or not the agency has filed in previous years.

The Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management is located in the Sullivan County Government Center at 100 North Street in Monticello, NY. They can be reached at (845) 807-0527, or via e-mail at planning@co.sullivan.ny.us.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- CFA Application Deadline Approaching

COUNTY OFFICIALS EXPLORING EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING; WARMING STATIONS BEING PLANNED FOR 2015-16 WINTER SEASON

Sullivan County officials have been exploring potential opportunities to establish emergency and transitional housing for the homeless. Several properties have been identified from the County's current foreclosure list as well as one facility located at the Health and Human Services Complex in Liberty, NY.

The establishment of emergency and transitional housing would provide a better environment for those who are homeless and in need of assistance, as well as reduce County costs associated with the currently available option of paying for motel rooms to house the homeless. As the analysis of the potential locations progresses, County staff will continue to identify opportunities to not only provide adequate services to those in need but to also develop programs that will give these individuals the skills and tools that are needed to get back on their feet.

In addition to housing, Sullivan County officials are working on the establishment of warming stations in the Villages of Monticello and Liberty for the 2015-16 winter season. The establishment of these warming stations has been made a priority for next year.

“Overall, the County and Town were able to save \$2,767,622 over the course of three years (2017, 2018, and 2019), with an average savings of \$922,541 per year. This is well in excess of the 1% of the total tax levy as required for eligibility for the New York State Property Tax Freeze Credit .“

FARMER'S MARKETS OPEN

Our Sullivan County farmers have been hard at work and their fresh local produce is available at various farmers markets throughout the County. Locations include:

- Barryville (Saturdays 10am to 1pm)
- Callicoon (Sundays 11am to 2pm)
- Liberty (Starting 7/3, Fridays 3pm to 7pm)
- Monticello (Starting 7/6, Mondays 11am to 2pm)
- Rock Hill (Saturdays, 10am to 1pm)
- Roscoe (Sundays 10am to 2pm)

Each offers a wide variety of locally grown produce. For more information please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (845) 292-6180.

LAKE SUPERIOR SEASON PASSES AVAILABLE; PARK OPENS FOR SUMMER 2015 SEASON

The Beach at Lake Superior State Park, located in the Town of Bethel, is now open on weekends through the end of June. It will then commence its daily operations through Labor Day. The hours of operation are 9am–7pm, weather permitting. Admission to the park is \$5 per person (children under 3 years old are free). Lake Superior participates in the Golden Park Program, which grants senior citizens free admission to the park on weekdays only (excluding holidays). Season Passes are available to Sullivan County residents and property owners at the Division of Public Works office, located in the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701. Each pass is \$15.00 with proof of residency or property ownership, and may be purchased Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm. 2014 season pass holders may download a renewal form from the County website (www.co.sullivan.ny.us) and apply for their 2015 season pass by mail.

Lake Superior Park offers a public beach and swimming access, boat rentals, vending machines, a playground, and bathhouse. There are several picnic pavilions available for rent as well. For more information please contact the Division of Public Works at (845) 807-0261.



SULLIVAN COUNTY SUBMITS GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PLAN TO NEW YORK STATE

Sullivan County successfully submitted its Government Efficiency Plan to the New York State Division of Budget on June 1, 2015. The plan included government efficiency savings for both the County as well as the Town of Delaware, who submitted their documentation to the County by the statutory deadline of May 15, 2015.

The plan contained actions that have previously been undertaken by both the County and the Town since the New York State Tax Cap took effect on January 1, 2012, as well as items that will be implemented by the end of 2016. Overall, the County and Town were able to save \$2,767,622 over the course of three years (2017, 2018, and 2019), with an average savings of \$922,541 per year. This is well in excess of the 1% of the total tax levy as required for eligibility for the New York State Property Tax Freeze Credit (see back panel for information on this program).

The County achieved the following savings:

- \$350,000 in avoided capital expenditures by conveying a building and property to Cornell Cooperative Extension located on Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty, NY.
- \$100,000 in anticipated annual operating savings due to installation of an energy efficient HVAC system at the Sullivan County Government Center and other efficiencies identified in a study by the New York Power Authority.
- \$200,000 annual savings due to bulk purchase of electricity through the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance.
- \$300,000 in annual operating savings since outsourcing the Continuing Day Treatment program in Community Services.
- \$180,000 in annual savings realized by facilitating court mandated pre-sentence interviews and expediting the release of inmates who are candidates for the Pre-Trial Release program due to implementation of video conferencing for incarcerated individuals.

The Town of Delaware achieved the following savings:

- \$1,297 in annual savings due to the sharing of Dog Control Officers with the Town of Fremont, as well as making this a contractual service as opposed to a salaried position.
- \$1,824 in annual savings due to reduced salary of Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer salary.
- \$5,634 in annual savings due to move from 3 part time elected assessors to one sole assessor.
- \$7,196 in annual operating savings by combining phone and internet services under one provider for Town operations.
- \$660 in annual operating savings by combining phone and internet services under one provider for Sewer Department operations.
- \$9,263 in annual savings by granting a uniform allowance instead of purchasing uniforms for Highway employees.

Both the County and Town have additional cost saving measures that are being evaluated that were not included in this plan. It should also be noted that the Government Efficiency Plans were only able to account for savings realized since the implementation of the tax cap, and as such it is not inclusive of many cost saving actions that were taken in immediate response to the economic recession which began in the latter half of 2008.

Ultimately, the Government Efficiency Plan is reflective of the commitment of the Town of Delaware and Sullivan County to keep spending down in those areas of our budgets where we have the control and capabilities to do so.

Please note: While the Town of Delaware was the only town to submit a Government Efficiency Plan with the County, other towns may have opted to submit plans directly to the State on their own.

SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY

Disability Compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are determined to be disabled by an injury or illness incurred or aggravated by active military services.

The rating of a disability may range from 0% to 100% in 10% increments, with provision for higher levels of compensation for certain server disabilities.

In addition to direct monetary benefits there are also substantial additional benefits dependent on the overall level and types of disability.

Compensation benefits may also be available to surviving spouses, dependent children and parents in the event of a Veteran's passing. Please contact our agency for explanations of this benefit. These benefits are far reaching and frequently difficult to comprehend from available literature.

The Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency is ready to explain this program and discuss the Veterans individual circumstances. We will assist with the acquisition of necessary documentation, guidance on developing effective medical evidence and completion of the required applications.

If you are a Veteran of the U.S. Military, we encourage you to contact the Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency.

**Sullivan County Veterans
Service Agency
PO Box 2012, 100 North
Street
Monticello, NY 12701
(845) 807-0233**

We will make sure that you have maximized your access to the programs and services that you have earned.

NYS PROPERTY TAX FREEZE CREDIT

The NYS Property Tax Freeze Credit is a program designed to keep property taxes “flat” in eligible jurisdictions.

While property taxes may increase up to the amount allowed under the NYS Property Tax Cap, the State will reimburse property owners for the increase in taxes.

In year one (2014) jurisdictions achieved eligibility by staying within the NYS Property Tax Cap. In year two a jurisdiction is eligible if it stays within the NYS Property Tax Cap AND submits a Government Efficiency Plan that manages to realize a savings of at least 1% of its tax levy in each of the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. Sullivan County and the Town of Delaware met this requirement by submitting a Government Efficiency Plan to the NYS Division of Budget on June 1, 2015.

The County Manager is the full time Chief Executive and Administrative Head of the County of Sullivan. He and his dedicated staff are prepared to answer your questions and to hear your comments.

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SULLIVAN COUNTY CAPITAL PLAN REQUESTS FILED

On June 1, 2015 the County Manager filed the 2016-21 Requested Capital Plan with the Sullivan County Legislature. This six year plan presents capital projects and their projected costs that will be necessary during that time. Capital projects include items such as vehicle and equipment purchases, property acquisition, building construction and maintenance, and infrastructure (i.e.: roads and bridges).

The six year Capital Plan requests represent over \$165 million in capital projects. \$30,440,618 is requested for 2016. The projects include:

- Roof replacements for various County facilities
- Fuel tank replacement at various County facilities
- Nursing station replacements at the Sullivan County Adult Care Center
- Renovation of a facility for the relocation of the Sheriff’s Patrol
- Purchase of various equipment including backhoes, excavators, loaders, etc.
- New evidence locker for the District Attorney’s Office
- Construction of a corporate hangar at the Sullivan County International Airport
- “Re-flooding” of the D&H Canal
- Approximately \$10.85 million in roadwork
- Approximately \$3.3 million in bridge work
- Purchase of vehicles for multiple departments including the Sheriff, Transportation, Family Services, Public Health, Community Services, Probation, Emergency Management, District Attorney, and the general County fleet

The Capital Plan will be vetted in the Capital Planning subcommittee and incorporated into the County Manager’s Tentative Operating Budget for 2016. The final plan will be adopted with the Operating Budget by December 20, 2015.

