

Sparta Update

After 18 years of dedicated service to the Town of Sparta, Highway Superintendent Gary Kreiley has retired. Over the years he has improved and rebuilt many of our roads from the base up. He was never afraid of the hard work. Perhaps most importantly he always, always worked within the budget given to him by the Town Board. If you see Gary please thank him for his many years of service to our town.

The Town Board has appointed Kevin Robinson to the vacant Superintendent position until the next election in November 2016. Kevin has been employed with our Highway Department for over 4 years. He was hired having 15 years of previous experience with North Dansville Highway Department. Kevin also is a 33 year member of the Sparta Center Volunteer Fire Dept currently serving as Chief until his term is up at the end of this year. We look forward to working with Kevin in his new capacity as Highway Superintendent.

Councilman Len Davis has chosen not to run again for Town Board. He has served the community for 12 years in this position. His expertise in the budget process and support of the many decisions that make this community what it is has been truly appreciated. We're going to miss his input and Ann's cookies at Christmas!

As you know Donald "Mark" Caldwell Jr was successful at the election for Len's Town Board position. We look forward to working with Mark. He brings many years of volunteer experience on the Sparta Planning Board in addition to highway experience with the Groveland Highway Department. Congratulations Mark.

The Town Board is looking for someone to help enforce the Junk Law which regulates the storage of junk in our town. It is a part-time position paying a salary of \$2500/year plus expenses. Anyone interested can submit an application to Sheila Duffy, Town Clerk.

If you have been past our highway department lately you may have noticed the construction of our new salt storage facility. The Town Board has been applying for this grant through DEC for over 15 years. We are grateful to DEC for having the funding available and approving our town's application. The State grant of \$153,000 will cover the major portion of the cost with the remaining \$82,000 for asphalt, electrical work and our cost share to be paid by the town. This amount is \$51,000 less than our original estimate of \$286,000. The project will prevent salt runoff into the tributary of Canaseraga Creek. It should also improve ice control on our roads by using less sand and being able to apply salt that hasn't been diluted due to being exposed to the elements. This project is expected to be finished by year end.

The Town Board is also seeking volunteers to assist as an advisory committee for a grant obtained through NYS Ag & Markets. This grant will establish an Ag and Farmland Protection Plan for our town. For more information on this please contact Town Supervisor.

Mark Schuster
Sparta Town Supervisor