

**A Statement from the Town Supervisor regarding the Storm Water Management Committee:**

It has never been and will never be the Board's practice or intent to act in secrecy or preclude the public from any matter concerning the administration of Town business or the expenditure of public funds. The Town Board was elected to serve the residents of New Hartford and the individual Board members have dedicated themselves to that purpose. The Board has been working diligently to resolve difficult and long neglected problems, not the least of which is storm water management.

I know that this Board believes that involving the public in the mechanics of governing and including them in the process of resolving problems that touch their lives and impact their pocketbooks is a necessary component of successful administration of Town business. When the \$2 Million storm water bond was approved by the voters, the Board went to great lengths to put together a committee comprised of Town Staff, Town residents and local experts to prioritize areas with storm water issues and making recommendations to the Board. The Committee members are your Highway Superintendent Cleveland, Town Engineer Meagher, Town Planner Schwenzfeier, Planning Board Chairman Hans Arnold, JoAnne Faulkner from Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District and residents Doug Peterson, Ed DeSanctic, Ken Lowell, Lis DiGironimo and Frank Montecalvo. Councilman Payne and Councilman Reynolds are Board Liaisons. With this diverse cross-section of members, it is believed that most, if not all interests are adequately represented.

In recent weeks, the Committee traveled via bus tour to various areas impacted by storm water runoff. They have also met with storm water management experts. The Committee is still evaluating the individual situations. Status reports are provided to the Town Board at its regularly scheduled Town Board meetings by Committee Chairman Roger Cleveland. When the Committee's evaluation is complete and they are ready to make recommendations on how best to proceed with the work and the expenditure of public funds, a presentation will be made to the Board. At that point, the Town Board will schedule the matter for public presentation to inform the residents of the Committee's findings, answer questions, and solicit public comment. All will be completed before any final decisions are made by the Board.

A time and place for public involvement will always be provided and never overlooked in the administration of Town business.

Earle C. Reed  
New Hartford Town Supervisor

## **Stormwater Bond Update**

By

Roger A. Cleveland, Superintendent of Highways

In a separate article by one of the Stormwater Group's members, Mr. DeSanctis shares with you some of the issues that this working committee has been dealing with and other matters that they intend on addressing as the working group prepares a plan going forward. One criteria he mentions for prioritizing projects is the health, safety and welfare of the resident population in that there are situations where flooding can interrupt the providing of emergency services.

Two projects had already been investigated to varying degrees prior to the formation of the Stormwater Group. The Oxford/ Kellogg Rd. project had already had a drainage analysis done on the watershed when we first started meeting. The findings were presented to the Group and it was voted to recommend advancing this project to final design. This improvement will result in the construction of a detention facility on the corner of Oxford and Kellogg Rd., along with some piping modifications downstream. There is the possibility of starting construction before the end of the year and working into the winter, weather permitting.

The other project to be advanced was the Woodberry/ Beechwood collection area. This was recommended for a hydrologic analysis as proposals for doing so were already in the works as we started to meet. Both this location and the Oxford/ Kellogg Rd. location has the capability of disrupting emergency services during severe storm events, and were believed to be high on any prioritization list.

As with any project under the Stormwater Bond, an open house will be conducted so that residents can view the plans and have any questions answered. For the Oxford/ Kellogg Rd. project, we will be sending out notices as soon as we receive those plans.

TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD  
REVIEW OF STORMWATER GROUP ACTIVITIES  
AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2007

BY ED DESANCTIS, MEMBER

In the spring of 2007 the residents of the Town of New Hartford approved a Stormwater Bond to address some of the long-standing flooding issues throughout the Town. A working committee of eleven people was formed that includes private citizens, town staff and elected officials. Various other professionals including members from the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District were also invited to assist us in evaluating improvement proposals, and provide the group with their expertise and guidance. We are a diverse group of people with varied and valuable perspectives and a common goal of solving storm water problems throughout the town.

Since July, the stormwater group has been meeting on a monthly basis. At this point, we have had several meetings in which to clarify for ourselves what our mission is, how we can ensure your bond money is spent appropriately and begin discussing how to tackle the many tasks ahead of us.

We are evaluating the stormwater problems throughout the town and developing guidelines and criteria for spending the bond monies. We recognize that \$2 million is not enough to address all of the Town's stormwater issues, so we are in the process of developing a prioritization methodology that will help us determine which projects to focus on. Locations that have the capability of disrupting emergency services during severe storm events were thought to be high on the prioritization list. Once the projects are prioritized, we will attempt to establish a timeline and budget for each prioritized project.

We are pledged to making certain your tax dollars are spent effectively. The expert members added to our group are intended to ensure that the solutions determined are both cost-effective and scientifically sound engineered answers to the Town's stormwater problems. Before any project is begun or monies are spent on project work, the group intends to present a comprehensive proposal to the public for review, questions, and comment. Additionally, written comments from all citizens during this working process are always welcome.

Thus far, the group has been working on educating itself with the various storm water issues. The complexity and magnitude of the storm water problems are not easily understood at first glance, especially for private citizens such as myself. Some of the most educational sessions we have had to date have been tours of a few of the problem areas. On two different occasions we have performed site visits to some of the problem areas, and have spoken to residents surrounding these areas. Visiting these sites has certainly been an eye opener for the group since the magnitude of the problem becomes very clear while walking and surveying some of the areas in question. The topography and inaccessibility of some of the terrain increases the difficulty and likely the cost of

potential solutions. There are a multitude of areas in the Town where stormwater creates problems for emergency vehicles, and damages homes, businesses, roads and infrastructure. The Committee has started to brainstorm how additional funding might be obtained so that it can continue to solve issues beyond what the \$2 million dollar bond will cover.

The only incidental bond monies the Committee has preliminarily requested from the Town Board are those to pay for studies and outside experts to help us identify and understand the magnitude of problem areas and possible engineered solutions for those areas. The group will continue to meet on a monthly basis, working to solve storm water problems that have plagued the town for many years.