

Forestburgh Newsletter

January 2017



Forestburgh Town Hall hours are from 9-3 Mon. through Fri. (845)794-0611

Letter from the Supervisor:

One of the necessary evils of the New Year is the inevitable tax bill.

Last year, the Town Board met several times from September to November to work on the 2017 Budget. The Towns budget appears on your Tax bill as "Town to Highway". That encompasses the entire Towns budget, both the Highway and General funds.

We, through our many workshops, worked to keep the budget within the State mandated Tax Cap of a mere .68 %. Even in the face of decreased revenue's, and increased costs, we did just that, and in November we passed the Budget with a .68% increase.

If everyone looks at your Tax bill, you will see that it says that the Tax levy for "town to highway" actually increased 4.1%. This is confusing, and the reason is that Sullivan County adds "chargebacks" to the Town which we have no say in.

Sullivan County added an additional \$74,000.00 plus to our Tax levy. Upon further research I have found that we are charged \$70,069.00 for the county to administer our workers comp insurance, and \$4,414.02 for several other minor chargebacks.

So, even though we worked very hard to keep costs down, and Taxes to a minimum, it is mandates that really end up costing us more and more money every year.

Included in everyone's bill is a summary of where your money goes for the County's portion, and I thought it would be good to help explain where, and why the Town's portion increases significantly more than the Town Board anticipates.

Board and Committee News:

For a copy of the minutes or agendas, please visit our website at forestburgh.net. While on the website, check the calendar for upcoming events and meetings.

Town Meeting Schedules:

Town Board

Regular Town Board Meetings are the 1st Thursday of every month, at 7pm at the Town Hall. The next scheduled meeting will be on **February 2nd**.

Comprehensive Plan Committee

The next scheduled meeting for the Comprehensive Plan Committee will be held at the Town Hall on February 7th at 7pm in the Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Planning Board

The next scheduled Planning Board meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 7pm on January 24, 2017.

Announcements:

Building Department:

There seems to be some ambiguity as to what actions or installments require the issuance of a Building Permit by the Municipality. New York State Executive Law, specifically, Article 18, Title 19, Part 1203, spells out the requirement for permit issuance as any work that requires conformance with the Uniform Code. It is important to note that this is a broad definition and encompasses construction of and additions and alterations to, buildings and structures as afforded in the Uniform Code. The exec. Law further lists what is exempt from the issuance of a permit and this is mirrored in our local code (Chapter 68, §68-4).

The Uniform Code also defines what is considered a repair and what is an alteration, for example replacement of a few roof shingles is a repair, recovering the entire roof surface is a level 1 alteration and thus requires a permit. So, even though a replacement in kind of a building component or system with new material may not increase the buildings physical size or footprint, the alteration does trigger a permit.

The confusion about standby generators, however, if they are not portable in nature and are hardwired to the building's electrical service they do, and always have, require a permit. They must conform to the applicable sections of the Uniform Code, in this case the electrical and fuel gas provisions of the Residential Code, and the NEC and are subject to inspection.

There is a copy of the Code of The Town of Forestburgh available at the Town Hall and also on the Town website at forestburgh.net by clicking on Departments, Code Enforcement Officer and then eCode. Any further information can be obtained by calling Glenn Gabbard at 794-0611 ext.24. The building department is open Tuesday 9-12 and Friday 12-3. To schedule an appointment please contact Wendy Wells at 794-0611 ext. 28 Mon-Fri. 9-3.

Forestburgh Welcome Committee:

A new committee is in the works for the Town of Forestburgh and a few members are needed. As a committee member you would help put a welcome basket together and deliver it to the new residents as a gesture of gratitude on behalf of the Town of Forestburgh. Anyone interested in being a part of this committee should contact Sally Heins-Jasuta at 791-9482 or Joanne Nagoda at 794-0611 ext. 21.

Forestburgh Renaissance:

To help reflect the natural beauty of Forestburgh, we're looking for a few good men and women to help form a plan to continue planting and caring for the Town gardens and to help make the area around the Town Hall more aesthetically appealing. If you are interested in being a part of this group or if you have an idea that you would like to see happen, please contact Joanne Nagoda at 794-0611 ext. 21.

Town Clerk's Corner:

In the spring, we will be doing a dog enumeration. If you currently harbor a dog who is not licensed, please get him or her licensed. Proof of rabies is required. If you get caught with an unlicensed dog during the enumeration, there is an additional \$5.00 fee to the license fee. The cost for a license is \$5.50 if the dog is spayed/neutered and \$13.50 if they are not. If your dog has a 3 years rabies vaccine, we can do a license for up to 3 years so that the rabies and license will expire together.

Ski Program:

The ski program began on January 10, 2017 anyone interested should call Erinn Morse at 794-5002. The Town of Forestburgh pays for the lift ticket as well as offering lessons and rentals at a reduced cost for residents of the Town of Forestburgh. Take advantage of this benefit and go skiing!

Website/Newsletter

As reported for several months, we will no longer be mailing copies of the newsletter unless requested. This is in an attempt to save a couple thousand dollars a year in printing and mailing costs. Please let Wendy know if you would like the newsletter mailed to you by calling her at 794-0611 Ext 28. If not it will be e-mailed, as long as you supply your e-mail address to Wendy. The newsletter will also be posted on the website. If you haven't done so yet, please check out our Town website at forestburgh.net. It has a lot of useful information in it.