

Bi-monthly Report from the Supervisor – September/October 2006

## **New Planning Board, Charter Reneges, Budget up 2.8%**

A very public thank you to five civic minded residents: By resolution 50-06 the **Town Board reestablished a Town Planning Board** at the September meeting. Serving will be **Joe Donnery** (one year term), **Joe Racette** (two year term), **Harold Ryan** (three year term), **Craig Von Barga** (four year term), and **Cindy Waldron** (five year term). Non-voting member and Councilman, Mike Tedford, is currently acting as the Chairman. The Planning Board will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the old courtroom in the basement of Town Hall and the meetings are open to the public.

I have been working with the Board Members on the 2007 budget. The Federal Department of Labor lists the August 2006 Consumer Price Index 3.9% higher than it was in August 2005. We are trying to be frugal with your money, just know that the town faces the same dilemmas you face in your family budgets. Particular to the town however, and especially noticeable this year, is the rate increase in salt for the roads and the steel for the cutting edges for the plows. Those two items alone cost \$89,000. Superintendent of Highways Lee Vann has cut the tonnage of salt from 1500 to 1350 and can go no lower on that amount. Blacktop has also risen dramatically from \$30.25 to \$49.40 per ton. **We have a preliminary budget which increases last year's total amount to be raised by taxes at 2.8% and puts the actual tax rate per thousand down by \$.25 for the general fund and down \$.64 for the highway.**

A section of the old wooden fence at Picketts Corners Park is being replaced. Part will be done this year and the rest will be done next year. The old shingles on the dugouts are being replaced. Plans are for the parking space in front of the Court House/JCEO building to be paved this fall.

Last March I was told by Charter Communications that we would have a substantial new build in the area to bring in cable tv and high speed internet. That has changed. **Charter told me in a phone conversation last month, that their calculations were done incorrectly** and that their original numbers were wrong. While they must serve any road that has 20 houses per mile, they had included in their spreadsheet report to me—which I reported to you-- roads in the new build that had fewer than that – 16.7 and 18.2 for example. By local contract they are not obligated to furnish service to any road with fewer than 20 houses per mile (NYS law specifies 35 homes per mile). However, Charter clearly gave me the impression that they were going to serve these roads even if they didn't meet the minimum requirements. As of today, the roads that meet the 20 homes per mile criteria are the following: Picketts Corners Road from the end of the existing plant to Bucks Corners Road. Bucks Corners Road from house 591 to 501. Ryan Road from pole 16 to the Dannemora Water Treatment Plant entrance. According to their Director of Government Relations in Worcester, Massachusetts, that new build is scheduled for the spring.

The federal Help America Vote Act, which we are expecting to be fully funded, will **affect the five voting places in the town** (Town Hall, Redford and Saranac Fire Stations, High Banks Fellowship Hall, Dannemora Village Office). Entrance thresholds have to be lowered; door handles, rest room faucets, rails, and widths have to be altered in order to meet federal standards regarding handicapped accessibility.

**You are all invited to Town Hall** to see the artwork of Joseph Crouse which is currently on display. Also, you may view the nine pieces done by Saranac High School artists which are on exhibition in the Court House/ JCEO building (3668 Route 3, next to Town Hall). In November the Crouse exhibit will be taken down and new student artwork will be hung in Town Hall.

As the geese, the maples, and the milkweed tell us that the season is changing, know that all of us here in Town Hall look forward to continue serving you no matter what the time of year.