

Dear Village Residents,

I am writing to you today to shed light on the plans moving forward with our Main St. This has been a difficult winter with the constant snow and continual plowing of the streets. As you probably know, our sewer system is located under the village streets.

We are ready to commence a replacement/major repair of our 130+ year old sewer system for the Main Street corridor. We are in contract with Carver Construction to do the work. We will have a pre-construction meeting with our engineering firm and Carver this week, to discuss the starting timeframe, scope of work and logistics for this large project. After this meeting, our engineering firm, Barton & Loguidice will schedule a public open house to inform the residents of detours, time frame, and answer any and all questions regarding the construction. We will let you know when this meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

That being said, most of North Main (to the bridge) and all of South Main Street is owned and maintained by NYS. The NYSDOT is responsible for all maintenance of this road, which is State Route 167. We have been in constant contact with them regarding our project as well as the condition of Main Street. They can only do so much in the winter as the roads can only be “band-aided” with cold patch. I can only tell you that it will be repaired **AFTER** our project is completed. I totally understand your frustration, as I live right in the center of Main Street and have to travel it every day.

Regarding the funding for our \$ 12.1 million dollar project...

We have garnered around \$ 10 million from federal funding for the project. The remainder will be bonded; we are designated a “hardship community” and the long-term bond will be at 0% interest. It is a very lengthy process getting grants for any project. Typically, it takes 6 months to 1 year for grant awarding after we apply. Some applications have been successful, some have not. They are all competitive. Grants that are awarded for a particular project can ONLY be used for that project.

For this project, I started seeking grants as soon as I took office 7 years ago. First, we had to get grants to clean and camera the entire sewer system. We received 2 - \$ 100,000.00 grants in 2 separate years to complete the necessary tasks to assess the system’s condition. It was determined by engineers involved in this process that a replacement/major repair was necessary along the Main Street Corridor.

Please remember that we suffered the flood of 2019, which was a lengthy process to get the folks on North Main Street closure for the disaster. On the heels of that came COVID in early 2020. The Government grant processes were virtually shut down for at least 2 years. That was a huge setback in the progress of grant application.

This project has been 7 years in the making, incredibly involved, and here we are now, ready to enter the starting gate.

I appreciate all those who have been so understanding of this difficult situation. I appreciate our Main Street businesses for persevering this winter.

Sincerely

Mary E. Puznowski - Mayor