

# What's New in the Village of Fonda

Newsletter – Mayor's Report  
March 2020

**Mayor**

William Peeler

**Board of Trustees**

Timothy Healey, Deputy Mayor

Lynn Dumar

Randy Wellman

Kimberly Flander

**Village Clerk & Treasurer**

Christine Kearns

JoAnn Downing – Deputy

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### Did you know?

The Board of Trustees meet at least once per month, and often multiple times per month?

**The Second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM.**

## We Need Your Help!

I hope this finds everyone doing well in this mild winter that we have had so far this year. Let's hope I am not jinxing this weather we are experiencing.

In this newsletter, I wish to communicate with you some changes we have experienced and provide you with major construction schedules.

I also want to let you know how you may become involved with your community.

We are looking for summer help for 2020 - we have both parking attendant and laborer positions open in our DPW. Additionally, we are looking for seasonal laborers experienced in construction. We are accepting immediate applications for the **Joint Waste Treatment Board, and Chairperson, both paid positions.**

### *Additional Committee's & Board's Available for Membership*

- Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Waterfront & Recreation Park Committee
- Fonda Fultonville Joint Wastewater Sewer Board
- Comprehensive Planning-Steering Committee
- Flood Damage Prevention Appeals Board
- Home & Community Includes - Parks & Recreational
- Personnel Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- Streets Committee

**Apply at the Village Clerk's Office by April 1, 2020**

**For More News - Visit Our Website**  
[www.villageoffonda.ny.gov](http://www.villageoffonda.ny.gov)

## Changes in the Village Administration

*A few words about change* - Changes help us move forward and become better people and better communities, and even small changes allow us to be flexible and adaptable. If we refuse to step beyond the routine, we become rigid and can lose the capacity to improve ourselves and our surroundings.

Even though we have essential changes and improvements occurring through our various projects, we have a couple of significant changes that have occurred in the make-up of the Board of Trustees.

### Walter Boyd - Retires from Board of Trustees

Effective December 31, 2019, Walter Boyd retired from the Village Board of Trustees. Wally has long served his community on the Board in addition to his service to local volunteer fire departments. He and his wife, Jackie, are looking forward to traveling and enjoying their new Recreational Vehicle. I would like to wish them nothing but health and happiness as they enjoy some relaxation. We ask that you join the Board of Trustees and me in our heartfelt thank you for his service to our community.

### Kimberly Flander is Appointed to the Board of Trustees

On January 13, 2020, I appointed Kimberly Flander to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees passed a motion in support of my choice for this position. Kim previously served as the Mayor of Fonda and is very familiar with not only the requirements for serving on the Board but the needs of our Village. During Kim's term as the Mayor, she worked to improve our Village in several different ways, including the aesthetics of the Village. It is to this end that I look forward to working with Kim, and I appointed her to the Streets and Community, as well as the Building and Grounds committees. I will continue to look at various positions that will allow her to continue to work for the improvement of blight issues and the like.

### Dissolution of the Consolidated Board of Health

The creation of the Consolidated Board of Health was a collaborative effort to address public health problems within the Village of Fonda and the Town of Mohawk. The Board met annually, and whenever a problem exists that needs attention. The Mayor of the Village and the Town Supervisor rotate, serving as Chairman of the Board. A public health officer is named to a one-year term annually.

By a motion of Ed Bishop, Town of Mohawk Supervisor, we dissolved the Consolidated Board of Health. As Mayor, I believe this Board was a duplication of service with services handled through Montgomery County and State Department, such as the County and State Health Department, and the Montgomery County Mental Health Services.

The dissolution of the Board does not mean the two communities will not assist wherever and whenever needed. Our appointed physician will remain available to the two municipalities for advice as required.

## Contact for Health-Related Assistance

### New York State Health Department

<https://www.health.ny.gov>

866.881.2809

### Montgomery County Services

<https://www.co.montgomery.ny.us>

Mental Health Services - 518.853.8220

Health Department - 518.853.3531

### Registrar (Town of Mohawk)

[www.townofmohawkny.com](http://www.townofmohawkny.com)

518.853.3031

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world” - Mahatma Gandhi



## New Decorations and Displays

The holiday snowflakes slowly have begun failing. The Village, with the assistance of the Town of Mohawk, has ordered new snowflake decorations to be disbursed to approximately every fourth or fifth decorative light pole for the winter holiday season. Also, we will place ornaments on the Village Hall and other areas throughout the Village.

### New Banner Decorations

I am looking into unique banner decorations for the Spring and Summertime months. Out of respect for the men and women who sacrificed themselves for the American Flag, we have reduced displaying our pole flags to just the period of each holiday appropriate for doing so. Our change will prolong the life of the flags. We will continue to proudly display our American Flags at the Village hall and the other locations where we have flagpoles in the Village. The banners will facilitate the celebration of different seasons that we enjoy in our small community while still displaying our American Pride throughout the spring and summer.

### New Flower Displays

We will have a new addition to our flower displays this year. We are starting with just a couple of pots in some chosen areas and will be adding to these later on. We will utilize large water troughs filled with potting soil to place flowers. These troughs will blend with our Main Street projects in the future with the theme of the "Modern Industrial" appearance.



## TWO YEAR AGREEMENT FOR THE JOINT WASTEWATER PLANT

The Villages of Fonda (Mayor Peeler) & Fultonville (Mayor Peterson-Law) have signed a two-year inter-municipal agreement for the operation of the joint wastewater facility.

Among the more substantive changes under the new agreement is the size of the new Board and the makeup of the Board itself. The goal of the Village Boards is to create an impartial FFJWWTF Board that will represent the needs and interests of both Villages and meets the recommended ethical standards for local government.

The FFJWWTF is a critical piece of infrastructure for the two Villages, as well as parts of the Towns of Mohawk and Glen, to include the Sheriff's Office, Fonda-Fultonville School District, and our local private enterprises.

The Joint Wastewater Board will have its work in front of them, and we are happy that the two Villages are working together with common purpose and goals.

Visit the Village of Fonda website for the Press-Release in its entirety.

## Pedestrian Safety Improvements

You may have noticed - this past summer and fall, I worked with the Montgomery County Health & Highway Departments, along with NYS DOT, to improve our crosswalk safety. We tested red markings in the crosswalk at the corner of Park and East Streets, and with assistance from DOT, we added additional pedestrian crosswalk signs in the Village.

I have made the final decision to utilize yellow, white and red markings to highlight our Village street crosswalks to improve safety.

This summer, I will continue to work with DOT and the County in improving signage and markings throughout the Village. I hope DOT will follow our lead in marking state-controlled roadways in the same manner.

You soon will see new playground signs at the playground on Park Street. Our insurance provider recently approved these signs.

If you see needed improvements, please contact the Village Clerk for more information to request a change.

## The Process of a Public Project

The question, "Why Does Everything Take So Much Time?" is often asked of me when it comes to projects and plans moving forward for our community. Here is how a Public Work Project proceeds.

### Do You Want to Improve Your Commercial or Residential Property?

Since early 2019 I have researched funding available through the Office of Community Renewal (OCR). It is through this organization that I am looking to establish funding streams for the revitalization of Main Street and renewing our residential properties and preserving our neighborhoods.

The first step is for the Village to make its case in the need for revitalization - it is here we need your cooperation. If you are interested in receiving funding for improving your home or business, I need to know of your interest. Funding may be for weatherization, living improvement, or exterior revitalization of your commercial building.

For us to be successful, we must meet several thresholds for application approval. In some instances, is your financial commitment to improve your property in matching funds. Yes, in some of the programs, you will have to invest financially a percentage of the cost for improvement.

If you are interested in improving your property, please **write to me**; Mayor Peeler, Village of Fonda, PO Box 447, Fonda, NY 12068.

**Provide** Your Name, Physical & Mailing Address, Type of Improvement you wish to make to your home. i.e., New Roof, Windows, Insulation - whatever it may be.

**Look** for more information in the future on our website regarding this pursuit as it develops.

Homes and  
Community  
Renewal



Together - We will improve Our  
Community

#### Step 1 Establishing Needed Projects & Priorities

The first thing that you must establish in the process is knowing the needs within the community and what each project's priority is.

#### Step 2 Identifying How a Project Will Be Funded

Funding through grants is not a choice but a requirement for a municipality - if you want to maintain your tax levels. You hope your needs at the local level match the priorities of the State and Federal Governments (where the grant money is). If you are unable to locate current funding through grants that match your needs, you either have to table the project and wait for funding or find local money to accomplish the project. With or without grant funding, you attempt to keep your debt as low as possible; in government, this is bonding. As a final resort, and only if feasible, you look at increasing taxes. To put this in daily terms, can I make do without getting the new or improved item that I feel I need until the money is available - living within your means.

#### Step 3 Funding Source Located

Once you have located a potential grant, you create a detailed plan with cost estimates. You then make an application for the award and wait to see if you are approved. This process takes *6-9 months*. If approved for the grant, contracts need to be signed, and this process is *3-5 months*.

#### Step 4 Obtaining Permits and Approvals

The project will dictate the number of approvals you will require several different authorities; i.e., the Health Department, ENCON, FEMA, and Army Corps of Engineers, are just a few. The time for this fluctuates greatly *1-24+ months*. Recently on the boat launch, it took over two years to get final approval from the Army Corps.

#### Step 5 Submitting Final Planning for Approval form Granter of Funds

Once everything is in place, you must submit the final engineering plans to the agency, managing or granting you the funds for your project with pricing. Time for this is *4-12 months*.

#### Step 6 Placing the Project for Bid

The engineering firm and the Village places the public project out for bid by contractors. *1 - 1.5 Months*

#### Step 7 Construction Scheduling and Completion

The project is placed on a construction schedule and depending on the time this is done will dictate how long it will take before you are on the contractor's schedule. The construction itself is dependent on the depth of the project. *The average time for this in the Village is 3-18 months.*

As you can see, knowing what projects are needed is the simplest part of the project. Placing everything into action is another story. Best case scenario it will take eighteen (18) months to sixty-nine (69) months to see a project from start to finish. **That is 1.5 to 5-6+ years!**

## Improvements & Projects

Our engineers have been working diligently to get many projects on the Construction Calendar. These are significant projects that require time and planning. But once completed, the results will have a positive impact on our Village.

### What we are currently working on:

#### Project 1 & 2 Water Filtration Plant

Water Filtration Plant improvements that will improve the overall water quality of the water treated from our reservoir and distributed to our users throughout the Village. This work will improve the past issues with manganese (the discoloring of the water) and turbulent water, allowing for more transparent and aesthetically clean water.

Our own Street and Water Department has started portions of this project with significant improvements going out to bid.

#### Project 3 Water Distribution

Water distribution and Sanitary Collection are essential parts of our overall infrastructure. We have several lines on varying streets that need repair and, in some cases, replacement.

The improvements made will help with water quality in your drinking water and the capacity of our waste treatment facilities by reducing what is called Infiltration and Inflow (I&I). I&I is mainly groundwater, or foreign water entering our sanitary system that causes unnecessary treatment and related cost to treat the material coming into our treatment facility. For example, in November 2019, we had excessive rains that created I&I from both the Village of Fonda and the Village of Fultonville. A typical three-day period would have 1,800,000 gallons coming through our waste treatment facility; during this rainstorm, we had 6,509,452 come through and overburdening our treatment abilities. The rain caused a net difference of 4,709,452 gallons of unnecessarily treated fluids.

#### Project 4 Waterfront and Park Improvements

The Army Corp of Engineers have finally improved our waterfront improvement project. The approval by the Corp has exhaustively delayed our entire project causing much work for me to hold onto the money granted by the Department of State and Canal Corporation. Now we await DOS approval. We are preparing to place projects out to bid once we receive permission for each project. Our Department of Public Works has been preparing for these projects through the completion of any pre-construction work allowed.

#### Project 5a and 5b North Center Street

The North Center Street Project has been a long time coming and has caused delays in improving the roadway for some time. The lead agency on the funding for this project is the Village of Fultonville. We have, for several years, partnered with the Village of Fultonville, successfully, in applying for grant money to improve our sanitary systems.

After a lengthy process and negotiation we are going to bid for construction to improve water, sanitary, and storm drainage on North Center Street. Paving of this street will come after the subterranean work is completed.

#### Project 6 Street Light Improvement

LED Conversion and Return of all Street Lights. I signed the approval for the return of our street lights and the conversion of these lights to LED on March 18, 2019. The discussion for this project started sometime before this approval.

After a year of work to get this to fruition, we have been advised by National Grid the conversion and return of the lights are scheduled to happen before April 1 and will take about one week. In the interim, our Department of Public Works staff has been converting the decorative lights on Main Street to LED and will continue these improvements.



518.853.4335 - Tolkjhome  
518.853.4555 - Facsimile

March 18, 2019  
Tom Wind, National Grid  
Sent Via Email

Reference: LED Conversion Program

Dear Tom,

This letter is a follow-up to our conversations, email, and meeting. The Village of Fonda Board of Trustees has provided approval for the Village to work with National Grid toward the LED Conversion plan and changes.

Please let this serve as our official commitment to work with you and your company to improve our lighting services by taking advantage of this program.

Sincerely,

William Peeler  
Mayor

### Project Schedules with Funding & Approximate Dates

#### Project 1 & 2 \$5,700,000 (Includes Project 3)

Bid Award June 2, 2020 / Partly Awarded  
Construction Start July 6, 2020 / Portions in Mid-March  
Approximate Completion July 31, 2021

#### Project 3 \$5,700,000 (Includes Projects 1&2)

Bid Awards Jan 11, 2021  
Construction Start April 1, 2021  
Completion November 1, 2021

#### Project 4 \$800,000

Bid Awards April 13, 2020  
Construction Start April 1 through May 1, 2020  
Completion May 1, 2021

#### Project 5 \$900,000

Bid Awards March 16, 2020  
Construction Start May 1, 2020  
Completion September 20, 2020

#### Project 6

Agreement Entered March 18, 2019  
Construction Start March 2020  
Completion April 1, 2020

## New Website - Coming Soon!

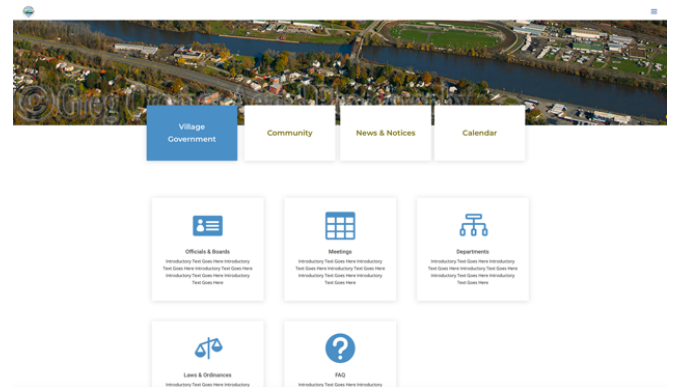
The Mayor, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, is developing a new website presence that will all our visitors to navigate important information more efficiently.

The new website will help you discover relevant information on what is happening within the Village, along with what government agency is to be contacted depending on your needs. Additionally, there is a calendar of events, document downloads, and the like.

The website will have general announcements and emergency announcements that may affect your day.

Future additions will include current peddler permits issued, applications for permits with a payment portal.

Currently, underway is the creation of our new logo that will illustrate our location within the valley on the river below the Great Adirondack Mountains.



## NYS Building and Code Enforcement

The Village of Fonda hired a new Code Enforcement Officer in 2019 to assist us to improve blight and structural safety for our homes and commercial properties. Changes have not come without challenges, and we are working to improve these services so our property owners may keep moving forward.

### The Goals I have Now Set for Code Enforcement.

- Improve Property Maintenance of Lawns and Overgrowth
- Improve Sidewalk Winter Maintenance in Snow & Ice Removal
- Improve Electrical Safety for All Properties
- Improve Structural Safety During Renovations and New Construction
- Improve Fire Safety Through Working with Our District Fire Chief
- Reduce the Unnecessary Paperwork by Removing the Notarizing of Document and the Like
- Open Communication Between Our Property Owners and Enforcement
- Bring Focus to Life Safety for Our Multi-Family Properties

### I Want to Hear More From YOU!

I have heard from you, but I would like to hear more! As with all Village Operations, I want your feedback. I would like to know what is working and what is not, and the only way I may learn this is by having you communicate with me. Please, contact me. Best methods for understanding your concern is through our Board Meetings, online complaint form, email, and let me know what your experiences are and how you see we may improve safety and blight throughout our Village. My official email is [bpeeler@villageoffonda.ny.gov](mailto:bpeeler@villageoffonda.ny.gov) or mailing address: Mayor Peeler, Village of Fonda, PO Box 447, Fonda, NY 12068.

### We Need to Conform to Laws

On the local level, we may hear recommendations for law changes, and if approved by the Board of Trustees, we may make amendments to our Village laws and rules. State Law is another case when it comes to making changes. You may share concerns with local officials, but you must contact your State Legislator to change State Laws. The Village is responsible for following all laws within our Village and State Governments.

### Opening Communication

The goals I have set, include accessibility and clarity in our application process for receiving and completing required forms within the Village. We will refresh our documents on our new website. We will be adding a new website form that will allow you to report any code or maintenance issues you find immediately. In addition to this, we will be adding a page on the website where you may view all issued permits.

### Helpful Links

**New York State Building Standards & Codes**  
<https://www.dos.ny.gov/dcea/>

**Village Website**  
[www.villageoffonda.ny.gov](http://www.villageoffonda.ny.gov)