

TOWN OF FORESTBURGH  
P.O. Box 114  
Forestburgh, New York 12777

Tel. (845) 794-0611  
Fax (845) 794-0678

August 7, 2013

Town of Thompson  
Supervisor Cellini/Members of the Town Board  
4052 Route 42  
Monticello, NY 12701

Re: Highway

Supervisor Cellini and Members of the Town Board,

Tony, after some of our conversations I wanted to run some of my thoughts by you in reference to the Highway Departments, Town of Forestburgh and the Town of Thompson. However, these are just thoughts, nothing is in stone. I'm looking for feedback from your Town Board and Forestburgh's Town Board. After giving it some serious consideration, reading the emails which have followed from Thompson (Michael Mednick, attorney and Rich Benjamin, Superintendent of Thompson Highway, along with Superintendent Dan Hogue, Forestburgh). Maybe it's time to take an additional step and move beyond a Shared Service Agreement and look into combining the smallest Highway Department, which is Forestburgh, and the largest Highway Department, which is Thompson, into one Highway Department. It is extremely important to understand that our Highway Superintendent relies heavily upon Town of Thompson for the use of their equipment. The emails have indicated as such.

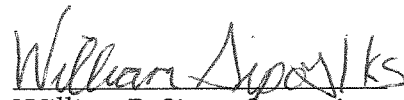
By joining forces the Highway Departments of Forestburgh and Thompson could save the taxpayers money by offsetting some of the cost which is now incorporated in our budgets. Forestburgh and Thompson's Highway Superintendents, along with another DPW head/Superintendent from another Town have stated to me based upon the emails and conversations the type of money in which it saved as follows:

- A. Rental fees for equipment for resurfacing roads;
- B. Underneath a combined Highway Department the record keeping and tracking as to the work being done in each town would be minimal;
- C. Labor Costs - It may be possible for the Town of Thompson, as well as the Town of Forestburgh, to slash positions in each department, saving the taxpayers the added cost of health insurance, along with retirement and other payroll costs;

- D. Liability - Which I believe to be the biggest issue. Insurance underneath each town's policy would then cover the entity as one, reference liability insurance in the event there was a motor vehicle accident. The liability insurance would serve as an umbrella to each town so the smallest town is not wiped out in the event of a catastrophic accident where policy limits would be reached, this then would be shared. Underneath the current agreement, which there is none for shared services, our town trucks are covered in Thompson, as Thompson's is covered in ours. Underneath the umbrella reference to towns maximum liability policy. Currently with no agreement if there is an accident with our trucks in Thompson we are only covered to our maximum limit;
- E. Equipment Maintenance - For each town being that the towns would be combined we would be able to work in either barn, the Town of Thompson barn and the Town of Forestburgh barn; and
- F. Salt - We would no longer need to worry about who is taking what salt, from where, Town of Forestburgh and the Town of Thompson. Thompson would be able to access our salt shed as needed without having to worry about who's accounting for the salt being removed from Forestburgh even though there is no accounting for it now.

Tony, once again these are just my thoughts and ideas. As we both are aware of how each Superintendent from each Highway Department in each town feel towards working together. I think by joining into one department we could set the stage for other towns in the county to do so. Highway budgets as we all are aware of is the largest cost to the taxpayers. You are already aware of as I am, both highway heads are already acting, why not the towns get on board. I'm sure we will be able to work out the technical language between attorneys and Boards, as well as the highway department heads. The Superintendents both have both indicated that the comptroller's office encourages this type of use between towns. Let me know what your Board's thoughts are and I will do the same in Forestburgh.

Thanks,

  
William B. Sipos, Supervisor