

# Town of Hartsville Newsletter

## Message from the Town of Hartsville Supervisor – David Gerhard

Welcome to the second edition of the Town of Hartsville's Newsletter. For those of you who do not know me, I was married to Kriste, the former Town Supervisor, for 16 years. She unfortunately lost her battle with cancer last September at the early age of fifty-two. As her condition worsened, she resigned last June, and I was appointed by the Board to take her place. Prior to being appointed as the Supervisor, I was heavily involved in town business, helping Kriste for over two years as the Deputy Supervisor. I ran in the election last fall to finish Kriste's term which ends this year. I plan to run again this fall for another two-year term to continue all the important things Kriste and the Board have started.

I grew up in the Buffalo-Niagara region but have been coming to Hartsville all my life for recreational purposes. In the early 1960's my grandparents bought an old farmhouse from Hartman's on Bearlick Hollow Road up a short way off Fall Creek Road. I became a full-time resident of Hartsville 6 years ago. I went to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering. I also hold an MBA from Lynchburg University and started up and ran an engineering services firm for 7.5 years. Today, I work for L3Harris with headquarters in Rochester who make military and commercial radio communication products and systems.

I am proud to say the town is in great shape! We have a great board and volunteers from the community that all pitch in to tackle the many tasks and items that need to be worked. The town meetings run smoothly with focus on progress, listening with open minds, and decision making.

Financially, we are in an exceptionally outstanding position with our cash to debt ratio of 9:1. We continue to take full advantage of the state aid programs to fund our equipment purchase and capital improvements. Did you know we recoup nearly the same amount in state aid funding as we collect in taxes per year? Last year, we recouped around \$240,000 in state aid funding. Hence when you see new equipment rolling around just know we are not buying equipment at the expense of increased town taxes.

Speaking of taxes, the table below shows the tax dollars changes for the last five years for town taxes and fire/ambulance taxes (i.e., the taxes within the Board's control). Despite

COVID and tough economic times, the taxes you pay to the town are 2.69% lower than in 2021! What other expenses can you say have gone down since 2021? This comes from tight spending control, smart fiscal management, and taking advantage of grants and state funding opportunities.

|  | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024       | 2025       | % Change in Taxes over 5 years |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Town Taxes</b>                            | \$ 267,754 | \$ 273,882 | \$ 273,830 | \$ 275,542 | \$ 259,450 | -3.10%                         |
| <b>Fire/Ambulance Taxes</b>                  | \$ 53,278  | \$ 54,244  | \$ 54,240  | \$ 52,458  | \$ 52,935  | -0.64%                         |
| <b>Total Taxes within Town Board Control</b> | \$ 321,032 | \$ 328,126 | \$ 328,070 | \$ 328,000 | \$ 312,385 | -2.69%                         |

Have you noticed or visited the memorial site by the Town Hall? There is a lighted flagpole and seating bench to honor and provide awareness that our veterans and emergency service members are important to us and our community. The funds and labor for this memorial site were 100% donated by townspeople. Last holiday season, a Christmas tree and lights were placed at the site for community enjoyment and a place for family and friends to hang ornaments in honor of their loved ones. We will continue to decorate the area during the holidays throughout the year.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hartsville Cleanup Day (i.e., Gabby Cleanup Day) is this Saturday on April 12<sup>th</sup>. People will gather at 9:00 a.m. at the town hall to get a supply of garbage bags and to determine which roads people will focus on with return around 11:00 a.m. Bagged garbage will be placed in the Front-End Loader in the salt shed. Light refreshments and breakfast items will be provided. Gabby Steffey started this event. Her inspiration was earth day and environmental awareness. This is a wonderful opportunity to get our youth involved, get credit for community service participation for things like School Honor Societies, and meet the town's local officials.

Soon, we will be launching a new website. The town's website will be changing to <https://townofhartsvilleny.gov>. With the move to the .gov domain, the town's email addresses will also be changing. For instance, the old Supervisor email was [hartsvillets17@gmail.com](mailto:hartsvillets17@gmail.com). It will change to [supervisor@townofhartsvilleny.gov](mailto:supervisor@townofhartsvilleny.gov). This move to a new domain and standard emails is all part of our IT posture and improvement strategy required to protect the town and comply with insurance requirements. For those of you who have signed up for our email and/or text updates, we will notify you when it goes "live." If not subscribed to updates, you can do so on our existing website.

Lastly, I encourage you to become more familiar with the town board members and consider volunteering on a committee to help in the development of our community. We have several residents that volunteer, including Alice Ward who helps us with Grant searches and writing, Tom and Christine Fisher who have helped with the updating cemetery drawings, road use agreement revisions, and buildings code revisions. The more people involved the easier it becomes to manage the workload of the town. Please consider getting involved.

Sincerely,  
David Gerhard

## **Message from the Town Clerk: Ashley Gibson**

I would like to remind you that the dog license renewal is due every year and can be paid for at the Town Hall on Monday and Wednesdays from 4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. or by appointment. Spayed/neutered dogs are \$10 and unspayed/unneutered are \$18. Proof of rabies is required when registering your dog. Letters/Invoices are due upon receipt. If you have a first-time registration, you must show proof of neuter/spay certificate.

Hartsville property taxes have been collected and turned into Steuben County. If you still need to pay your 2025 property taxes, you will need to call the Steuben County Real Property Tax Office to arrange for payment. I can no longer accept tax payments.

## **Message from the Superintendent: Jeff Getman**

We have recently filled the open Machine Equipment Operator (MEO) position with the candidate starting near the end of April. This will bring our staff to three people. Me as the working Superintendent and two full time MEO people. We also utilize part-time help from qualified residents in the town when warranted.

Soon we will begin ditch work to clean up from winter followed by grading once the roads firm up. It was an extremely challenging winter and seemed like we had to plow and sand every day. The roads need surface repair. Please be patient as we work our way around the town.

You may have noticed that the road repair on Fall Creek Road near Bearlick Hollow Road is still not complete. We are at the mercy of Steuben County Soil and Water as they will be the group that does the actual repair. We do not have the equipment or material to fix it ourselves and they have been consumed with other repairs across the county from the flooding last fall. We are also working closely with FEMA to be fully refunded for the Fall Creek repair and other repairs that were needed following the flooding.

## **Message from the Code Officer: Sam Koehler**

Several residential complaints have come to me regarding trash, appliance, and vehicle violations. I will be out delivering citations for those in violation in the coming months. Please be aware if you have debris, trash and/or appliances laying around they are a violation and not just an unsightly appearance to your neighbors. Also, broken down cars or cars without tags are a violation.

Now that the weather is breaking, please be diligent about cleaning up your property. If you have questions, please contact me at 607-382-0301. Soon we will be adding a Forms and Permits page to the new website that will provide guidance on codes, permit applications, and violation details.

## **Message from Historian: Steve Amidon**

I am actively seeking new and old photos as well as stories you have to share about the Town of Hartsville history. Also, if you have any information regarding cemeteries and locations of individuals, please pass it along. I am excited to hear what you have to share about the history of Hartsville. Please contact me at 607-661-6235 or [steveamidon46@gmail.com](mailto:steveamidon46@gmail.com)

## **Message from the Health Officer: Misti Carbone**

A quick note for those who may not know me. I have lived in the Hartsville area for about 15 years and was elected for Councilperson last year. I have been in the medical field for 24 years in all areas including the ER, ICU, Medical, and then finally streamlining into Cardiology. My titles include NYS EMT, CRAT, NYS HIV Counsellor, and NYS Hazmat First Response Operations. I have also been appointed to be the Health Officer for the Town of Hartsville.

I am sure that everyone is ready for spring and to get out of the cabin fever funk. Mental health is super important for all of us. As the weather becomes nicer be sure to get your daily dose of Vitamin D and get outside.

I hope to focus on health maintenance and living in future newsletters. If you would like me to highlight something, please reach out with ideas and suggestions. I would like to be sure that residents have access to health benefits. I will be placing "Good RX" cards at the town hall. I am also in the process of getting pamphlets for local services. From medical specialties to services offered at the YMCA.