

State of New York requirements for our Courts, we will enter into a low cost lease with the Town of Clay to use excess space at their old Town Hall facility. This agreement is a 'win win' for our Justices and for the taxpayers.

We have negotiated labor agreements in 2016 with our three labor unions. We have completed one and I hope to have the other two wrapped up in 2017. Two of the bargaining units have shown a willingness to work with the town on controlling cost; regrettably, we are taking one to binding arbitration.

We are continuing to work with our five fire departments to improve efficiencies and eliminate redundancies. Together, we are working on a plan that will reduce our cost while maintaining a high level of service to our residents. A major goal is to be even more efficient with your tax dollar while reducing the influence of politics and personalities surrounding fire related decision making. This new direction is a significant change from the past and will be a challenge to all participants to see this through to the successful new plan we need. It won't be easy, but the important things rarely are. This is a huge undertaking and I hope to have a plan for public review by the end of 2017.

We launched a new web site that we think is more user friendly and that better reflects who we are. It allows for Town information and notices to be sent automatically via email to anyone who wishes to subscribe to it. Check us out at www.ciceronewyork.net. (Just a reminder: we're on Facebook too. Come 'like' us there.)

We successfully consolidated 19 lighting districts in our Town to just five. This will allow neighborhoods without street lights to get them faster if they want them, and identified properties that benefited from street lights but were not paying for them.

We will continue with our road rebuilding and repaving program utilizing the Cornell Roads model for 2017. We rebuilt over 5.25 miles of roads and spent over \$800,000 on them in 2016 and weather permitting, we plan to accomplish at least as much in 2017.

Senior and Veterans outreach: We started a program to proactively identify seniors, veterans and the spouses of veterans in our town who may be eligible for State and County programs and monies to assist them with such things as home repairs, heating, and meal assistance. We have had three meetings in the last three months with members of these groups with encouraging results. Our plan is to accelerate our outreach significantly in 2017.

Vietnam Commemorative Partner Program: This past June, the Town of Cicero joined more than 8,000 states, communities, businesses and organizations for the Commemorative Partner Program for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Commemorative Partner Program assists in thanking our Vietnam Veterans and their families in their hometowns. About 35% of veterans today are known for the service they offered to their country during the Vietnam War. Recognition events are being planned for 2107 in conjunction with our VFW and the American Legion.

The Budget:

Earlier in this report I highlighted the many areas where we are improving our management of costs and moving to increase revenue, both necessary actions for the future. So, you may be wondering "Why did my taxes go up?" Because our Town cannot keep borrowing to supplement daily operating expenses. Once we lower our debt, we can reduce ongoing costs to residents. Keeping taxes artificially low did not