

# Airmont Villager

Village of Airmont • 251 Cherry Lane, P.O. Box 578, Tallman, NY 10982 • 357-8111 • Fax 357-8307

VERONICA D. BOESCH, *EDITOR*

FEBRUARY 2010

We hope all our residents enjoyed a pleasant start to the new year. Our Mayor and Village Board have been busy trying to ensure that the costs of running our government and providing services to our residents be kept within a responsible budget. To that end, we have explored ways of saving on expenses while ensuring that the level of our services be maintained, and in some cases, be improved. We succeeded in bringing the budget for 2010 in at only a 2.8% increase, amidst a very trying economic atmosphere that has seen home foreclosures, business closings, and job losses. Most municipalities, businesses, and homeowners have experienced a decrease in income while dealing with a sharp rise in costs.

Our 2010 budget was adjusted down by \$242,938. This represents a 7.8% savings. This was done even though the Village saw decreases in income from Mortgage Taxes (\$172,000 in 2008 down to \$95,000 in 2009). Village expenses, on the other hand, increased as money contributed to the State Pension system rose from \$38,919 to \$58,620. We were successful in holding down other expenses by not giving pay increases to our dedicated office staff and elected officials, and cutting the number of hours worked by our Code Enforcer. In addition, we reduced our Village Engineer and Planner's fees by 10%.

The greatest savings were achieved in our Highway Maintenance costs. After nearly a year of diligently exploring the possibility of changing from the Town of Ramapo Highway Department to another service provider, the Village Board came to the conclusion that we could save thousands of dollars in funds and have some control over the provider while at the same time receiving the same or even better service. Our costs were lowered by \$86,695 (from \$516,695 to \$430,000).

Over the last five years, the fees charged by the Town of Ramapo to Airmont have increased **72%**. Five years ago, the cost for the Town's highway service was \$300,000. By 2009 this cost had ballooned to \$516,695. From 2008 to 2009 the increase was \$46,502 which represented a one year growth of **9%**! After hearing that the Village was researching other options, the Town offered to hold its 2009 level for the coming year. This was done as an effort to keep us from switching to a vendor who could supply the equivalent or improved service. However, the Town would not guarantee that their rate would not increase in 2011 or thereafter. In 2009, the Town charged us \$10,000 a week for the following: snow removal, road patching as needed, street cleaning twice during the year, catch basin cleaning, traffic signs,

dead tree removal in the Village's right-of-way, replacement of guard rails as needed, replacement of berms when damaged, and the removal of dead animals from streets.

After ten months of investigating and discussing other options, the Village has contracted with two local companies: CSB Contractors Inc. of Stony Point for snow removal and Belleville Landscaping of Congers for highway maintenance. The total cost for both of these services is \$430,000 per year for a three-year contract. This means that there will be no increases for three years with adjustments for the cost of salt only. The savings for 2010 alone is \$86,695. This represents a 16.7% decrease from what we would have paid if we stayed with the Town services. Obviously, by negotiating a three-year contract, our savings will increase over the next two years when compared with subsequent Town charges.

Under the new snow removal contract with our private provider, the Village will have 5 trucks plus a sixth truck for use by the company Supervisor. In addition, the snow removal equipment and materials are stored within the Village of Airmont. By comparison, the Town of Ramapo provided 3.5 trucks (which varied by storm). Having 5 trucks as opposed to 3.5 ensures that our roads will be attended to quickly and efficiently.

Our new highway maintenance contract provides for improved services to the Village. Under the Town, collapsed sewer covers took months to repair, having cones or wooden horses placed over them. They will now take a week to repair (weather permitting). Pot holes will be filled in more quickly since we will not have to wait to be grouped with other villages for work to be done. The removal of dead animals will now take place seven days a week. During the summer months, the Town does not provide everyday service.

During many discussions, the Mayor and Village Board not only considered the cost savings but also the level of performance being offered to our residents. The new snow removal company has already been on the job during winter storms since January 1. These clean-ups have been closely monitored by the Village Board members who have evaluated each performance. So far the average evaluation has come out to an A++. In addition, we have received numerous compliments from residents who have noticed an improvement in service.

We are confident that we have made the right choice for our residents by switching to private vendors and securing a large savings while receiving the best service possible. Please be advised that Route 59 is still plowed by the Town

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of Ramapo for the State of New York. County roads within the Village will continue to be plowed and maintained by the County.

agreement with the Village of Sloatsburg to share Building Inspector duties on an "as needed" basis. This agreement will provide coverage to the Village of Sloatsburg and, at the same time, provide additional revenue to the Village of Airmont. Additionally, the Village has also entered into an agreement with the Village of Suffern

to purchase fuel for our two Village vehicles.



For all Highway Maintenance concerns please feel free to call Village Hall during normal working hours (9-4 PM, Monday through Friday). For Highway Emergencies, please call the Town Of Ramapo Police Department at 357-2400.

### Other Savings and Income-Producing Changes

The Village has subdivided its property at the Village Hall location into a three-lot subdivision. One of the rear houses was sold in accordance with the required bidding process, and the other house is being leased as a rental. In addition, we have been diligent in applying for any grant monies available to us.

### Sharing of Municipal Services

The New York State Comptroller's Office has asked local towns and villages to explore the possibility of combining some services in an effort to "get the job done" while at the same time saving money and/or generating revenue. With this thought in mind, the Village of Airmont has entered into a "shared service"

We hope you will feel confident that the Mayor and Village Board are always looking for ways to save time and money in an effort to hold down taxes without compromising services. Please visit our website at [www.airmont.org](http://www.airmont.org) for the latest information on issues pertinent to the Village.

Your Airmont Village Board

Mayor Dennis Kay  
Deputy Mayor Anthony Valenti  
Trustee Veronica D. Boesch  
Trustee Dennis Cohen  
Trustee Ralph Bracco

### DID YOU KNOW?

Every year we receive many questions from our residents on a number of topics. Below are the answers to the most common questions asked.

- You are not allowed to park cars in your front yard or within the setbacks
- The Village of Airmont pays approximately \$90,000 per year for street lights

- You or your lawn service company are not permitted to operate any power or manual lawn mower or any other gardening equipment between the hours of 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM. You may not blow or rake leaves, grass, or other debris onto the roadway, right-of-way, or adjoining property.
- A fence is required for any pool capable of holding 24" or more of water and is less than four feet in height. This includes the popular blow-up pools.
- The carting company will not pick up any loose garbage in your garbage pails. This is a directive of the Rockland County Sanitary Health Code. All garbage must be bagged.
- To report a missed garbage or recycling pick-up after 4 PM, you may call Interstate Waste Services directly at 845-753-8023.
- If you are uncertain if an item is an acceptable item to be recycled, please call Village Hall or Interstate Waste Services at 845-753-8023.
- The Village provides for side-yard garbage pick-up. Please do not place garbage containers at the curblane. In addition, if you have bulk items to be taken away, please do not place them out before 3PM on the day prior to pick-up. Bulk items are picked up on the second collection day of the week.
- It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep the fire hydrant in front of their home clear of any snow or debris and to cut the grass around it during the growing season.
- To find out if a registered sex offender is living near you, go to the Rockland County Sheriff's Website. ([www.co.rockland.ny.us/Sheriff/default.html](http://www.co.rockland.ny.us/Sheriff/default.html)) You may also search under Rockland County Government.
- If you are interested in attending any of our village meetings, seeing agendas, or reading minutes, check out our village website at [www.airmont.org](http://www.airmont.org)
- The Village of Airmont welcomes volunteers to serve on our committees. If you are interested, please contact us at 357-8111.

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## SAFE DRIVER COURSE OFFERED AGAIN THIS SPRING

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### New York State Safety Program

The complete Driver Improvement Course will be held on one day . The date is Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 9AM until 4 PM. The fee is \$45.00.

Upon completion, attendees will be eligible for a 10% reduction on auto liability and collision insurance and can have as many as four points reduced from their driving record. If you have any questions, please contact the Village Clerk at 357-8111. You may use the coupon below to register.

### NEW YORK STATE SAFETY PROGRAM

Yes, Please sign me up for the one day Driving Improvement Course to be held on April 24, 2010.

Enclosed is my check for \$45.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

*PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: VILLAGE OF AIRMONT*

*MAIL TO:*

Village of Airmont, • 251 Cherry Lane  
P.O. Box 578 • Tallman, New York 10982

## A Reminder

You can receive timely updates from the Village by signing up for our email blasts. All you need to do is call or email Camille Guido-Downey at Village Hall. Our telephone number is 357-8111. Camille's email address is [cdowney@airmont.org](mailto:cdowney@airmont.org).

Thank you again to *Steve's Lawns, Inc.* for maintaining our lawn  
At Village Hall at no cost to the Village.  
We truly appreciate Steve's generosity and  
look forward, once again, to his fine service.

*Thank You!*

Dennis Kay, Mayor  
Anthony Valentí, Deputy Mayor  
Veronica Boesch, Trustee  
Dennis Cohen, Trustee  
Ralph Bracco, Trustee

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