

# **TOWN OF STARK**

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State of New York

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## **Introduction**

This is the Fall 2024 edition of the Town of Stark Newsletter. We hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. We hope you find these newsletters to be both useful and informative. Our purpose is to keep residents and taxpayers up to date on the happenings of the Town of Stark. We welcome your input on the contents of these newsletters. If you have a comment or question on the contents, please contact any member of the Town Board.

## **American Rescue Plan Act**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is the Federal program enacted for the purpose of helping states, and all municipalities located in those states, to help them recover from the after effects of the Corona Virus and losses of revenue associated with the pandemic. This is a program that the Town had complete control over where and how the money is spent. The Town was awarded a grant total of \$72,922.85.

Thus far, the Town has spend some of the money on the necessary needs for the community. The Fire Department (VHFD) did not receive any funding from the ARPA program, but the Town was allowed to share their award with the Fire Department. The VHFD identified a need and the Town Board agreed to purchase a stand-by generator for the VHFD. The generator was installed by Ed Bello Electric. We all are pleased with the results. Other expenditures included the installation of new computers at the Town for the Town Clerk, Supervisor and Highway Superintendent to improve communication and up-date our data storage.

New garage doors were installed for the Highway Department Garage using these funds. The Town has contracted with C&J Heating & More, LLC, to upgrade the heating and ventilation system at the Town of Stark Courthouse and Town Offices. The Town has installed a heat pump system to accomplish the up-grade.

The Town of Stark also has a website now. The Town of Stark website location is <https://townofstarkny.org>. Funding for the website came from ARPA funds as well. This addition was to improve and speed up communication with the public concerning matters of importance pertaining to the Town of Stark. This includes notification of special meetings and Public Hearings, insofar as the Town of Stark has no circulated newspaper delivery or mailed delivery to our residents. Meeting minutes for the Town Board meetings are available on the website. Information regarding Town Board, Planning Board and Water Board meetings are available on the website also. Fire Department information will be added, as well as the Highway Department and Building Codes information, including permitting fees, are all available on the website.

### **2024 Fall Dumpster Day and White Goods Collection**

The 2024 fall white goods and trash collection day will be held Saturday October 12, 2024 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Town of Stark Highway Department Garage in Starkville. Household hazardous waste, batteries or garbage are **NOT** to be collected on this date. Tires will **not** be collected either. White goods (refrigerators, freezers, stoves, TV's etc.) **will be** collected on this day. The Town employees in attendance will be there to assist you and to determine what can be left off at the dumpster site.

### **Sickler Road Wind**

The proposed community wind project presented by New Leaf Energy has been abandoned by the developer and the permit application has been withdrawn from consideration by the Town of Stark. The Sickler Road Wind project is now over. For those unfamiliar with the project, brief details follow.

The Town of Stark was approached by New Leaf Energy with a community wind proposal for the area near and around Sickler Road. The two wind turbines were to be located on property owned by Greg Ortensi in the Town of Stark. The electricity produced by the 2 wind turbines were to be put directly into the delivery lines which supply electricity to residences and farms and businesses who receive electricity from NYSEG. The Town of Stark was to receive what is known as a host

community agreement payment as compensation for the Town of Stark having the wind turbines in the Town of Stark.

### **Highway Department**

The Town of Stark Highway Department work crew has been busy at work improving the Town roads through the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (Chips). The Town has completed the replacement of the Jordan Road culvert for this year. The other roads completed this year included Park Road, Cemetary Road, Apple Lane, Christamas Tree Hill Road, R. Smith Road and Primrose Lane.

The Town Board has received notice the Volvo 10-wheel Truck ordered by the Town one year ago, has been scheduled for assembly by the middle of October, 2024. A Mack style truck has been on order for the past three years and is still on schedule for assembly. Cost for the Volvo truck is approximately \$336,000.00. This includes all the snow fighting equipmant necessary for our needs during the winter. Payment will be with a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) issued from NBT Bank, the Towns lending institution. Payments to NBT Bank will be made over a five year period with the first payment due in 2025, plus interest.

The Town Board has applied for a Grant Application for the purchase and construction of a Sand/salt storage facility to be built on Town property. Cost of the facility is approximately \$560,600.00. The style building is a Britespan offered by Eagle Associates of Cazenovia, LLC. The total cost of construction is to be paid by the Town of Stark up-front before reimbursement is received from the Grant company. Jerry Stucchi of JGK Associates in Schuyler wrote the Grant application for the project. The Town will find out if we are awarded the Grant in November. If we are successful, the Town would be in line for approximately up to \$500,000.00 of the Cost to the Town for site review, land preparation and purchase, construction material, equipment rental and labor associated with the total cost of the Project.

### **Town Board Topics**

The Town of Stark has a Town Website up and running now. Officials of the Town had hoped to provide the residents of the Town of Stark with monthly information of the actions of the Town Board and keep everyone with a connection to the Town of Stark aware of important happenings within the Town. The up-dated website address and location is [www.townofstarkny.org](http://www.townofstarkny.org).

The Town is also planning to up-date the computers and computer system within the Town offices. This included the implementation of security cameras in and outside the building which will be hooked to the smart phone systems to notify those who need to know of any inappropriate activity inside and outside the building. This was to provide more security for the Town Clerk, Town Justice and the Justice Court as well as the Highway Department and employees. All this was paid for with ARPA funds.

There are no local local elections for this year. Presidential election is November 5, 2024. Hours for election will be held at the Town of Stark Justice Court Building from 6:00 AM until 9:00 PM. Please cast your ballot either in person or by absentee ballot.

The Town Board and Planning Board is working forward on the Moratorium approved on April 30, 2024. The moratorium will last until February 2025, unless extended by the Town Board. Some changes may be deemed necessary to the Land Use Regulations, the Subdivision Regulations, the Town Comprehensive Plan, Design Guidelines, existing Wind Law and existing Solar Law. All the documents will be reviewed and discussed. Any changes will be presented to the Town of Stark residents and a public hearing will be held, at a time to be determined. The Town is also looking to appoint a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The ZBA would meet on an "as needed" basis when the time arises to settle disputes with site plan review and the Planning Board.

### **Cell Tower for the Town of Stark**

Verizon Wireless approached the Town of Stark looking to locate a Cell Tower on Puskarenko Road near the intersection of Travis Road. The Town of Stark Planning Board met many times to listen to the proposal from Verizon and their construction contractor. The meetings resulted in the approval of the the Verizon proposal and the location of the Cell Tower in the Town of Stark. The proposed location should improve the cell phone coverage for the outer areas of the Town of Stark and neighboring communities. Construction of the cell tower should begin in the spring.

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