

## **TOWN OF COLONIE ADDRESSES BUDGET SHORTFALL**

After several weeks of shuttering most of America due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are steadily approaching the relaxing of stay-at-home orders at the federal and state levels. The Town of Colonie is dedicated to the safety and health of our employees and the public we serve. “The Town is basing the decisions made to re-open and how we conduct everyday business on information received from Federal, State and County health officials to provide the safest environment possible,” says Supervisor Mahan.

The Town of Colonie is anticipating a \$7 million shortfall, possibly more depending on how we progress, due to the projected reduced revenue from sales tax, mortgage tax, and other revenue streams. Because of the reduced revenue, the town has had to make some tough decisions in its approach to offset this shortfall. The town has enacted a ten-percent reduction in budgeted expenses and has reduced overtime across all town departments. Other steps such as staff reductions through attrition and postponing some projects that were scheduled for this year have also been enacted. The town has also furloughed approximately 50 employees with the majority being part time employees. Many employees were reassigned to various departments to reduce the number of furloughs.

As of this date, town buildings remain closed to the public until further notice. The town has adjusted the workforce to meet the needs and vital services of the community.

Unfortunately, like many other communities, the Town of Colonie swimming complex and the Summer Playground Programs will not be opening this year. On a positive note, the town has opened The Crossings to vehicular traffic and all of our parks are open so that everyone can enjoy the trails for walking, running and bicycling. Following New York State guidelines permitting golf courses to open, the town golf course and driving range are open and available seven days a week.

“Colonie will be phasing in its reopening process while continuing to follow the CDC guidelines. I will continue to advocate for federal relief, which is critical not only for Colonie, but for all local governments.” says Supervisor Mahan.