

Office of the Mayor  
Village of Sleepy Hollow

February 2015

Dear Sleepy Hollow friends and neighbors,

As you are aware, after 18 long and contentious years, the blighted General Motors property was finally sold this past December. Not since Washington Irving penned the legend has there been such a singular event in our history. The Village has truly shed a huge weight from its industrial past. After a 29 year absence, this property is now back on the tax rolls. The next step is for the developer – Lighthouse Landing – to get site plan approval, which involves working closely with the Village Planning Board. This is a highly detailed process, and I expect that actual construction will begin on the site in 2016. During this year we should see signs of the mobilization as equipment and certain supplies (clean top soil for example) are moved on to the site. One of the first construction projects undertaken by the developer will be the renovation of the Beekman Avenue Bridge.

Our new reservoir will be under construction soon, solving a serious water capacity problem that has plagued the Village for quite some time. This new 1.4 million gallon reservoir will bring us into compliance with the New York State requirement that the Village have storage capacity equal to the amount of water we use in 24 hours.

With these two major projects underway, we can imagine, plan and construct our future. This is a once in a century opportunity for our Village and we have to get it right.

I'm sure we all are looking forward to the day when we can freely access the Hudson from Kingsland Point Park to Ichabod's Landing. With new and dynamic parkland along the banks of the river, Sleepy Hollow will be the jewel at the gateway to the Hudson Valley. While this will be a huge and permanent improvement, we must be careful and purposeful as to how we integrate Lighthouse Landing, into the Village. It is critical that we continue to support the families and businesses that have already invested themselves in our Village. You are the people who define Sleepy Hollow.

In the coming weeks I will be presenting the Mayor's Budget for the next fiscal year. While I work through the numbers with the Village Treasurer Sara DiCiacomo and Village Administrator Anthony Giaccio, here are four areas that I will focus on:

1. Property tax relief;
2. Ensuring that staffing levels for all Village services – including police – are at optimum levels;
3. Developing a comprehensive master plan for the Village, something not possible until GM and the water issues were settled; and
4. Ensuring the programs that our seniors rely upon are not only secure, but enhanced.

As a Village, we have worked very hard to get to this place. Many, many people have given an extraordinary amount of their time and energy, elected officials as well as private citizens. We should all be proud of what has been accomplished. I look forward to working with you all to continue the process and the progress.

Ken Wray  
Mayor

