

Steuben County Newsletter

September / October 2019



*****Please Distribute to All Interested Board Members and the Public*****

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

As the County and Towns enter budget season, we all continue to face many challenges in preparing for the coming year. Most significant for the County are the criminal justice reforms enacted by the State this past legislative session. It is clear that additional operational and fiscal pressure is being placed upon the District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, and other County units. It will require the hiring of additional staff to achieve compliance, which is a significant unfunded mandate that the State again failed to recognize and fund.

With that said, I anticipate the development of a reasonable and fair County budget for 2020, and we will keep you apprised of our progress.

Finally, I would like to extend my most sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you that have sent cards, letters, and condolences for the passing of my wife, Sharon. This outpouring of support is very humbling and has helped me greatly in such a trying time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Hauryski".

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

Real Property Tax Service

Property Owners who may have received "Important Information About New STAR Program Changes" mailing from their NYS Assembly Representative: An informational pamphlet was recently mailed out from the NYS Assembly regarding changes to the STAR Program. The majority of property owners do not need to be concerned about losing their STAR exemption or STAR credit check benefit as they have most likely already submitted the proper paperwork to their Town Assessor or to NYS Department of Taxation & Finance to continue their exemption or they have already registered for the STAR credit check.

As part of the 2019-2020 New York State budget, all property owners applying to switch from Basic to Enhanced STAR or reapplying for Enhanced STAR were required to participate in the Income Verification Program (IVP) in order to receive the Enhanced STAR exemption for 2019-20 school taxes and beyond.

If you have not received a letter from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance directly or from your local assessor requesting additional information regarding your STAR exemption, then you

should not need to take any action at this time. If you are currently receiving the STAR exemption on your school tax bill and are considering a switch to the STAR credit check, it would be in your best interest to wait to register for the credit check after this year's school tax cycle. This is especially important if you have your taxes paid from your escrow account as your account will need to be adjusted for the difference in the school tax bill without the STAR exemption applied.

If you have any questions concerning your STAR status, please do not call the Town Clerk's listed in the pamphlet. Please call Steuben County Real Property Tax Service Agency at 607-664-2373 or contact your local Assessor. The list of local assessors is available in the Real Property Tax Service section of the Steuben County website at: <https://www.steubencony.org> (click on Assessor List link on the left side of the page).

Planning Department – Article B §239-m

The New York State General Municipal Law Article B §239-m requires that municipal boards refer certain planning actions to the County for review. The purpose of the law is to encourage local board members to consider the countywide and inter-municipal impacts of their local land use decisions. Neglecting to refer a land use action to the Steuben County Planning Department pursuant to General municipal Law may constitute a “procedural or jurisdictional error” that could legally invalidate the local municipality's land use decision.

A. Below is a list of potentially referable actions:

- Area/use variance
- Site plan reviews
- Issuance of a special use permit
- Zoning amendments (code/map)
- Comprehensive plan (adoption or update)
- Other authorizations which the board may issue under zoning the local provisions

B. The proposed actions in section A above shall be subject to referral requirements if they apply to real property within five hundred feet of the following:

- The boundary of any City, Village or Town; or
- The boundary of any existing or proposed county or state park or any other recreation area; or
- The right-of-way of any existing or proposed county or state parkway, thruway, expressway, road or highway; or
- The existing or proposed right-of-way of any stream or drainage channel owned by the county or for which the county has established channel lines; or
- The existing or proposed boundary of any county or state owned land on which a public building or institution is situated; or
- The boundary of a farm operation located in an agricultural district, as defined by article twenty-five-AA of the agriculture and markets law (this shall not apply to the granting of area variances).

For more information, please refer to the 239-m Guidance Document at the following link: https://www.steubencony.org/Files/Documents/planning/239-m_guidance_document_final.pdf.

Please feel free to refer any questions to: Matthew Sousa, Senior Planner, Steuben County, msousa@steubencountyny.gov.

Public Health

New Vaccine Regulations

With children returning to school, it is important to note the new regulations regarding school vaccinations. Non-medical (i.e. religious) exemptions for vaccinations will not be accepted this year for any child attending school, daycare, or riding school buses. To remain in school, all children who previously had non-medical exemptions must receive the first dose of any required vaccine within 14 days of the school year starting. Within 30 days of the school year starting, all children must have appointments scheduled for the remaining doses to catch up on vaccine requirements. The 2019-2020 vaccine requirements for New York State by school grade can be found at https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370_2019.pdf. More information on the new regulations can be found at https://health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/school_vaccines.

Public Health holds immunization clinics two times per month by appointment:

- 2nd Wednesday from 1:00 – 3:00 pm (September 11 and October 9)
- 4th Tuesday from 4:30 – 6:30 pm (September 24 and October 22)

Vaccines are available at the clinics for children and adults who are uninsured or those who have insurance that does not cover vaccines. If you have any questions about the clinics or would like to schedule an appointment call 607-664-2438.

Special Children's Services

The Special Children's Services department within Public Health offers a variety of programs for children in Steuben County. Children with Special Healthcare Needs (CSHCN) is a referral and information program that helps parents who have children with developmental delays learn what services are available locally and how to qualify for them. CSHCN is a resource for information for children birth to 21. We help connect families to programs and resources to fit their needs.

Early Intervention is a program for children from birth to three years old. To qualify for this program a child needs to have a 33% delay in one area of concern or 25% delays in two areas: adaptive, cognitive, communication, fine motor, or gross motor skills.

Children ages 3-5 with delays would qualify for the preschool program, which is run through the school district you live in. Contact the district to get linked with services. Both programs offer speech, occupational, and physical therapies and special instruction based on evaluation results.

All of these programs are offered at no cost to families. For more information on the programs, visit <https://tinyurl.com/CSHCNbrochure> or call 607-664-2146.

Public Works – Project Updates

Road Construction - The heavy rainfall earlier this summer impacted our ability to complete some of these projects; however with some coordination and persistence by our crews and contractors, 19 miles of Cold In Place Recycling and 19 miles of Full Depth Reconstruction/Asphalt Injection have been completed. In addition, 30 of the 31 miles of scheduled paving have been completed, along with 28.5 miles of the 35.6 miles of Surface Treatments. The balance of the paving and surface treatments will be completed by mid-September.

Bridge Construction - 8 bridge projects were originally scheduled to be completed this season. The current schedule will allow for 7 of the 8 projects to be completed. 5 of the 7 projects are already complete. The two Bridge Crews are currently working diligently to complete the Clymo Road and Taggart Road bridge projects in the Town of Avoca and Town of Urbana respectively.