



Town of Torrey

PO Box 280

56 Geneva St

Dresden, NY 14441

Phone: 315-536-6376

Email: townclerk@townoftorrey.com

Website: townoftorrey.org

Newsletter

September 1- December 31, 2024

The Torrey Town Board is sending this newsletter to bring residents up to date on some of the issues the town has considered and/or is working on since the last newsletter (May 1 - August 31).

Town Officials -

Peter Martini	(Supervisor)	martinivms@gmail.com
315.536.9781	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2025	
Colby Petersen	(Deputy Supervisor)	colby@ycsoilwater.com
315.536.1014	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2025	
Grant Downs	(Councilman)	gjdowns1946@gmail.com
315.531.8441	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2025	
Bruce Henderson	(Councilman)	blhenderson83@gmail.com
315.521.7108	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2027	
Kathy McGrath	(Councilwoman)	kmcgrath2006@gmail.com
585.339.8300	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2027	
Betty Daggett	(Town Clerk)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.6376	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2025	
Tim Chambers	(Hwy Supt.)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.729.2706	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2025	
James Smith	(Town Justice)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.5655	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31,2025	
Dwight James	(Code Enforcement Officer)	torreycodes@gmail.com
315.536.6376 (cell 315.730.3291)		
Stephanie Holz	(Town Assessor)	assessor@townofbenton.us
315.536.7551		

A Note from Town Supervisor Peter Martini

As the year 2024 has come to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities and issues the Town of Torrey experienced this past year. Perhaps the most significant accomplishment in 2024 was the completion of the municipal water project for Water District One (**WD1**). This was a very challenging project for the Town. It was only with the significant contribution of the Torrey Highway Department and the Town of Benton Water Department supplementing the work of the engineering firm (**CPL**) and construction company (**Nardozzi**) the water project was successfully completed. There were a total of 48 meter pits installed and 26 property owners connected to the main municipal water line. The Town Board in 2025 will now turn its attention to the Perry Point Water District (**WD2**). However this project is dependent on the Village of Dresden completing its Water System Main Replacement project which is tentatively scheduled for June 2026. The Town of Torrey has been tentatively (based on Congressional final budget reconciliation) awarded a \$2.2 million grant for the **WD2** project towards the total cost which is budgeted at \$2.8 million.

The Town in 2024 has also been awarded two grants totaling \$2.67m for culvert replacement work on Perry Point Road. This work will be undertaken in 2025 coordinated by the Hunt Engineering firm.

Another important accomplishment in 2024 was completion of the property revaluation in the Town of Torrey by our assessor, Stephanie Holtz. This resulted in an increase of taxable property value to \$287,133,158 with the town accounting for \$264,042,034 while the Village of Dresden value was set at \$23,091,124.

This past year also included a much needed upgrade to our phone system in the Town Building. Calls now will be automatically directed to the desired individual- assessor, highway superintendent, judge, and/or town clerk as well as provide a mailbox option.

The Town Board also continued its environmental initiatives with its annual "Cleanup Day" in June as well as its first "Earth Day" roadside pickup. The town board members were joined by many community volunteers to make each event a success.

The Town of Torrey held its 102nd Memorial Day Observance at the Gazebo in the Village of Dresden and concluded with a ceremony at the Evergreen Cemetery.

The 2024 year concluded with the Town Board working diligently on developing the Town Budget for 2025 (see the breakdown in the following section for more details). This proved to be very challenging given the significant rise in the cost of materials, services, and insurances the Town Board confronted. Let me assure you, the Town Board did its best to keep the tax rate as low as possible while at the sametime providing the necessary services you the taxpayers require.

Finally, let me encourage you to attend the monthly Town Board meeting which is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Town Building on Geneva Street. You will not only have the opportunity to see the issues facing the Town of Torrey discussed, but you will also have the opportunity to bring forward your concerns and comments on town issues.

From the Desk of Town Board:

- The Town Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Town Building at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden, NY.
- The Town Board accepted the Stork Insurance Agency insurance proposal from October 1,2024 to September 30,2025 with a premium of \$22,901.51. This compares to the previous year's premium of \$22,901.51
- The Town Budget was adopted at the November 19th public meeting as follows:

Adopted the Town Budget for 2025

Summary of Torrey Town Budget

Fund	Appropriations & Provisions	Less Est Rev	Less Unexpended Balance	Amount Raised by Taxes
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Gen A	441,272.00	69,473.00	100,000.00	271,799.00
Gen B	35,205.00	17,048.00	0.00	18,157.00
HWY DA Townwide	293,859.00	43,531.00	60,000.00	190,328.00
HWY DB Outside Village	279,859.00	105,244.00	0.00	174,615.00
Subtotal	1,050,195.00	235,296.00	160,000.00	654,899.00
Fire Cnt	109,978.00	0.00	0.00	109,978.00
Totals \$ (2025)	1,160,173.00	235,296.00	160,000.00	764,877.00
Water District 1 Only	75,868	20,648.00		55,220.00
Totals \$ (2024)	1,144,564.00	229,217.00	200,00.00	715,347.00
Totals \$ (2023)	1,133,707.00	402,741.00	15,000.00	584,909.00
Totals \$ (2022)	1,183,209.00	404,916.00	75,400.00	675,502.00
Totals \$ (2021)	992,453.00	259,508.00	75,284.00	657,661.00

Town of Torrey Tax Rate per 1000/Unit

Year	Town Tax Rate Outside Village	Town Tax Rate Within Village	Torrey Fire District
2025	2.232295	1.537631	.363862
2024	3.127547	2.143089	.532713

2023	3.0077324	2.212658	.531278
2022	3.009402	2.506435	.535331
2021	3.000419	2.239000	.517019

- Approved the Appointment and Compensation schedule for 2025
- Approved a new health care policy for medicare eligible employees
- Received from the Village of Dresden Fire Department a voucher (**\$109,978**) for Fire Protection in 2025. This was accompanied by a **Summary of all Calls by Type of Situation found for Dresden Fire Department in 2024**
- The Town Board reappointed Frank DiOrio to the Board of Assessment Review and Deanna Lamborn to the Zoning Board of Appeal

From the Desk of Town Clerk (Betty Daggett):

- The Town Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am - 4:00pm. The office phone number is 315-536- 6376.
- Tax Collection is in full stride. The new collection system introduced by the county in 2018 was plagued with initial glitches. Those problems have been resolved, and the 2024 tax collection is running smoothly. On the tax bills is the option to pay Town & County Taxes online at <https://www.yatescounty.org/519>. However, standard processing fees will be applied , which can be substantial!
- Notary Public - No Fee
- Fee collection such as building permits,fines & fees issued by Code Office, Watershed Inspection for property sales
- Registrar of Birth / Death Certificates Vital copies - \$10.00 fee.
- Handicap Parking Permits
- Hunting/Fishing Licenses are on sale during normal business hours. Fishing licenses are available any business day, while hunting licenses are available starting August 1st
- Marriage License Requirements: Bride/Groom/Spouse must be present to obtain a license. The license is good for 60 days. There is a \$30 fee. Evening or Saturday appointments are available.

- Dog Licenses: State Law requires all puppies to be licensed at 4 months. At time of licensing, a rabies certificate and neuter/spay certificate must be presented. Licensing Fees: Unspayed/Unneutered \$18 and Spayed/Neutered \$10.
(It is NYS Ag & Market law- **ALL dogs** harbored in the Town of Torrey must be licensed yearly at the Town Clerk office.)
- There is an app, **NIXLE**, to be alerted to infrastructure issues specific to Yates County posted by the Sheriff's Department. Those interested should go to **NIXLE.COM** with your zip code to review current alerts and also sign up to have alerts sent directly to you.
- The Town of Torrey website can be accessed in one of two ways
townoftorrey.org
townoftorrey.com
- Appropriate Public Notices for the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board are placed in the newspaper (Chronicle Express), on the town website, and at the rear of the Town Building near the entrance to the Town Court.

From the Desk of Town Highway Superintendent (*Tim Chambers*):

- Off hours emergency callout number: 315-729-2706
- Consolidated Local and Highway Improvement Program (**CHIPs**) monies of \$81,000 was submitted to the State for reimbursement for the town highway projects completed in 2024. This included \$43,652.32 repaving Serenity Road after water main line installation
- Town Board approved two (2) culvert replacement projects on Perry Point Road through the Bridge NY funds at an appropriated cost of \$1,482,000 and \$1,158,000 each. As part of these projects an easement is needed off Hansen Harbor Road to provide access to Perry Point Road.
- There was a fire at the solar farm on the east side of the RR on Hansen Harbor Road in October apparently caused by an electrical fire which caught the panels on fire. It is believed that something chewed the insulation off some wires causing a short which started the fire.
- The Torrey Highway Department assisted in the installing 48 meter pits in Water District 1.
- Reclamation of property in WD1 has been completed
- Sold at auction the surplus 2017 pickup truck with plow and sander for \$14,600

- A **safety** precaution- as we are approaching the time of year when snow plowing is possible, trash cans should **not** be placed on Town Roads, but rather on the right-of-way.
- *Reminder according to NYS law:*
 - + placing trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or refuse on Highways and in the highway right of way is prohibited
 - + the town superintendent of highways shall sue for and recover a penalty not to exceed \$100 from any person depositing ashes, snow, ice, stones, sticks, etc. upon a highway or on grass or loose stones adjoining a town road.

From the Desk of Town Code Enforcement Officer (Dwight James):

- Call the Town Office at 315-536-6376 (cell 315-730-3291) or email at torreycodes@gmail.com to inquire about permits. Office hours are 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday at the Town Building.
- Residents are reminded *When in doubt ask!* Building permits are required for any electrical, plumbing, or structural work undertaken whether alteration, addition, or new construction.
- Reminder all Short Term Rentals (**STR**) must be registered with the Town. The Torrey Town Board adopted the following fee schedule for Short Term Rental (**STR**) permits
 - Initial Fee \$500.00 for 2 years
 - Renewal Fee \$250.00 for 2 years
- A software proposal from Williamson for a Building and Code Enforcement Program (\$6000.00) was accepted with annual support at a cost of \$1450.00.
- Plans are being reviewed for an application for a Site Plan and Special Use Permit to build a campground on the old quarry site on Downey Rd, just north of the Salvation Army Camp. The proposed campground will consist of 28 full hookup RV sites, 4 cabins, 3 earthen dwellings, 11 tent sites and 4 treehouses to accommodate up to 22,000 guests per season (May 1st - October 31st).
- The Town of Torrey Code Enforcement 2024 Annual Report is as follows:
 - Total Permits issued- 116
 - Total rental permits- 43
 - Total other permits- 73

Total value of projects- \$5,538,944.00

From the Desk of Town Planning Board (George Dowse):

- Meets the third (3rd) Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Town Building. Although because of the Federal holidays in January and February, the meetings for those months will be January 27th and February 24th.
- An open house hosted by the developer, Carner Development Group, was held on November 9th at 1:00 pm at the site of the proposed Downey Road Campsite. This is to be located on the site of the old Downey Road Gravel Pit. The Planning Board will review the site plan and special use permit for this project at its January 19,2025 meeting at 7:00 pm.
- New York State has finalized the rules and procedures for implementing the Cannabis Law. Licenses are now being issued. The Town of Torrey did **not** opt out of participating in the sale and dispensing of Cannabis. The Planning Board is finalizing a draft law for the implementation and location in the town where sale and dispensing will be allowed.
- Looking to 2025 the Planning Board intends to review and update if necessary:
 - The Town Comprehensive Plan
 - Solar Farm decommissioning
 - Noise measurement metrics
 - Distinction between Agriculture designation versus Agriculture/Residential
 - Allowing Manufacturing/Light Manufacturing in Agriculture or Agriculture/Residential
 - Building permits including charges for professional services

From the Desk of Town Judge (Hon. James Smith)

- Court is held each Tuesday at 2:00pm on the West side of the Town Building. The phone number is 315.536.5655
- Criminal court is held the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm
- Yearly audit of Town of Torrey Court's accounts was done on January 7,2025 by Town Supervisor, Peter Martini, and Town Councilperson, Colby Petersen

From the Desk of Town Assessor (Stephanie Holtz)

- The Office of the Assessor for the Town of Torrey is located in the Town

Building at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden. Office hours are on Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm through September 31st. Starting on October 1st, office hours will be 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

- A special reminder: **exemption applications** are due by March 1st, 2025.
- The Revaluation Assessment Roll has been completed, filed with New York State, and accepted by the NYS Office of the Comptroller. The taxable value of property in the Town of Torrey has risen from \$179,075,042 to \$264,383,326 after the revaluation in 2024. This is an increase of \$85,308,284
- The Town of Torrey website www.townoftorrey.com has the **2024 Final Assessment Roll**. The website also has the **2025 Special Assessment Roll** for Water District 1 in the Town of Torrey.

From the Desk of Town Watershed Inspector (Yates Cty Soil & Water)

The Town's inspectors can be contacted at the Yates County Soil and Water Conservation Department 315- 536-5188.

FEMA has produced a new Floodplain Map for the Town of Torrey resulting in a number of residences being taken *out* of the floodplain.

The Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District provides the watershed inspection services for the Town of Torrey and Village of Dresden. Educating homeowners on the function of their wastewater treatment systems has proven to be a tremendous benefit.

In November of 2014, the Town of Torrey passed a local Wastewater Law effective January 1, 2015. Under the new law, any onsite wastewater treatment system within 200' of Seneca Lake or a DEC classified stream is required to be inspected every 5 years. The cost of the inspection is borne by the Town of Torrey (unless this is a property transfer). However any pumping of the septic or repair is a cost to the homeowner. We are now in year 9 of these inspections.

The Watershed Inspection Reports for the Town of Torrey over the last three years (the program is has a 5 year cycle) are:

2021- 81 inspections to date

44 Zone 1

13 Real Property Transfer

9 Repairs

3 Tank Replacement

3 Construction

9 Misc

2022- 61 total inspection conducted, 15 more Zone 1 is due in 2022

27 Zone 1

17 Real Property Transfer

2 Repairs

7 Replacement System

2 Construction

6 Misc

2023- 54 total inspections conducted, 12 more Zone 1s due in 2023

24 Zone 1

11 Real Property Transfer

10 Repairs

2 Replacement System

5 Construction

2 Misc

2024- 115 total inspections conducted, 15 more Zone 1s due in 2024, 9 past due from 2020-2023

55 Zone 1

19 Real Property Transfer

13 Repairs

5 Replacement System

9 Construction

14 Misc

13 engineered designs were approved for new and replacement onsite wastewater treatment systems. 10 site evaluations were conducted, this includes deep hole and percolation tests.

If any residents have questions regarding the watershed inspection program, they may call the office at 315-536-5188.

Soil & Water also continues to interact with all of our local farmers utilizing NYS's Agricultural Environmental Management program. This program has been utilized in the county since 1997. We have worked with local farmers on a suite of practices including soil erosion and field runoff, manure storage, barnyard runoff, and manure and nutrient management.

A Land Use Leadership Alliance (**LULA**) event on May 9th & 10th and June 6th & 7th from 9:00 am to #:00 pm at the Yates County Building in Penn Yan.

From the Desk of the Mayor of Dresden (*Brian Flynn*):

- Mayor Brian Flynn (Term: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025)
- Village Trustees
 - John Stryker (Term: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2026)
 - Bret Siegrist (Term: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025)
 - Village Board meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm
- Colleen Riviello is the Village Clerk and Kathy Whitney is the Deputy Clerk. The Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 2:00pm. The Village Office phone number is 315-536-2477 and email address is

villageclerk@villageofdresden.org

- Mayor Bill Hall retired from office effective September 30,2024. Village Trustee Brian Flynn assumed the duties of the Mayor until the March Village Elections. John Stryker has been tapped to fill the remainder of Brian's term as Village Trustee.
- Village of Dresden election for Mayor and Trustee will be held March 18, 2025 at the Village Office.
- The village is designated as the lead agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (**SEQRA**) for the Village of Dresden Water System Main Replacement Project which was awarded a \$4.166 million grant.
- The Water System Main Replacement Project is going out to bid in January of 2025. Construction is slated to begin in the Spring of 2025 and completed in June of 2026.
- The Village of Dresden is in the midst of updating its Comprehensive Plan (last updated in 2004). A survey was mailed to all village-owned residents and businesses to fill out and return to the Village Clerk's Office by December 20,2024. Committee Meetings and Public Workshops were held in the Fall of 2024 under the leadership of Rob Richardson of the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. This effort will continue through the Spring of 2025 with a draft plan completed by May of 2025.
- The new owners, Pete and Maeve Chapman, of the former Dresden Hotel, are pursuing a grant through the **RESTORE NY Communities Incentive Municipal Grant Program** to make renovations to the commercial property.
- In December the Village welcomed the opening of **Bravery Wines** (in the former Mr. Twistee building). The owners are Corey and Jennifer Christman.
- Dresden Fire Department meets the first Tuesday of the month. There is a need for volunteer firemen in Dresden. All residents of the Town of Torrey are encouraged to volunteer.

From Yates County Legislators (Terry Button,Richard Harper, Rick Willson)

- A public budget hearing on the 2025 spending plan was held on November 21,2024. The adopted \$58,186,074 budget is 1.35% less than the 2024 spending plan. The tentative budget set a tax rate of \$4.01 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The number for 2024 was \$4.48.
- Work has been completed on the new County Highway Building in the Town of Benton. The transition to the new facility started in November..

- The Yates County Hazard Mitigation Plan grant involving the nine (9) towns and the three (3) villages has been completed with the subcontractor Tetra Tech compiling the final product.
- At the November 12, 2024 legislature meeting passed resolution 550-24 authorizing the Chair of Legislature to sign an agreement for Professional Services related to the development of a site management plan for the Torrey Landfill.
- The County has purchased software that identifies properties that are being used as rentals. The data will be shared with the nine(9) towns in the County
- Additional information regarding Yates County Government can be found on the website- www.yatescounty.org

Community Events

- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) puts out each week a bulletin detailing proposals and actions throughout the State.

The Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) is available at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>

Yates County is in Region 8

Be aware since 2009, there is a **no burn** regulation from March 15 - May 15!

- **Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO)** last meeting was held on October 28, 2024 at the Geneva Town Hall. Mark Venuti was elected Chairman and George Lawson Vice Chair with Jim Smith reappointed Treasurer and Ian Smith as Secretary.
- Emily Bolt, the Director of **Seneca Lake Pure Water Association (SLPWA)** reported on its activities since the last **SWIO** meeting (see below).

- The Seneca Watershed Steward (Ian Smith) gave status on various projects that he is spearheading for SWIO. These include:
 - Odessa Green Infrastructure Initiative which is being closed
 - Seneca & Cayuga Road Drainage Assessment mapping roads and culverts
 - Keuka Outlet Wetland Creation which is awaiting a NYSDEC permit
 - Keuka Lake Level Management looking to install equipment in the Spring of 2025 to get information on the flow at the gates
 - Municipal Guidance Manual for the towns has been initiated
 - Castle Creek assisting the City of Geneva. Delineation is complete.
 (Those seeking additional information can contact Ian at ismith@hws.edu)
- The next SWIO meeting is Wednesday *January 29, 2025* at 7:00pm. This will be a virtual only meeting through ZOOM.. Details to follow.
- **YATES COUNTY Board of Elections**
 Additional information regarding the Board of Elections can be found on their website- boardofelections@yatescounty.org
- **Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association** (SLPWA) started monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on August 1st by upwards of 100 local volunteers and continued through Columbus Day weekend. It was a very active season with 330 confirmed (with photos) and 420 overall reported. Emily DeBolt, association director for SLPWA, posted an email on October 21, 2024 on SLPWA's 2024 Seneca Lake PFAS Testing which can be found at

Review Our Initial PFAS Findings

Emily's email address is info@senecalake.org for more information. You can also check the SLPWA website www.SenecaLake.org for additional information or to volunteer!

- **Friends of the Keuka Outlet** (FOTO) will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 4th at its campground (a lean to and 3 tent platforms on Hopeton Road. Check the **FOTO** website www.KeukaOutletTrail.org for details of this event and others as well.

- **Yates Transit Services** provides public bus service throughout the County including a route from/to Dresden and Penn Yan. Call 315.694.7700 or go to their website- yatestransitservice.com for additional information.

From the Desk of the Newsletter Editor (*Grant Downs*):

- The response to the town newsletter continues to be very positive. Additional feedback and/or comments are welcome and can be submitted by either calling 315-536-6376 or sending an email to: townclerk@townoftorrey.com
- Newsletters will also be posted on the Town of Torrey website: <https://townoftorrey.org>
- Delivery of the Town Newsletter will be electronically only, although there will be a limited number available at the Town Office and Village of Dresden office.
- Those wishing to have future newsletters sent by email should provide the following information and send it to the town clerk:

NAME: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____