

## November Notes from the Supervisor

The board adopted the 2018 Caroline Town Budget at our November 17 business meeting. The total amount of town taxes to be raised (tax levy) is 1.24% greater than in 2017, well below the current annual inflation rate of about 2%. Total Assessed Value of town properties increased this year more than 8% so that tax rates will be down for 2018 by 6.7%. The 2018 budget is 1.90% (\$32,963) below the Tax Cap. Please see the 2018 Adopted Budget and Supervisor's Summary at the town website for more details.

Work continues on our Subdivision and Site Plan Review Local Laws to ensure that we maximize opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting water conservation for larger developments that would fall under the purview of these two local laws. We are now planning to introduce these revised local laws in December.

We've been working hard on developing our proposal for our Clean Energy Communities \$100,000 grant that we earned by accomplishing four "High-impact Action Items" to move us toward energy sustainability in Caroline. Energy Independent Caroline met five times in October and November to share information and ideas and made a lot of progress. One concrete action that the committee has resolved to include in our proposal is to convert Caroline streetlights to LEDs. We expect that after LED streetlight conversion, there will be a substantial portion of grant funds available for other actions and the group is currently working on those plans. Happily, the submission deadline for our proposal has been extended to February 6th by NYSERDA. We trust that this is a vote of confidence that we are making good progress!

The Electric Vehicle Charging Station at the town hall is now installed and will be operational any day! (not surprisingly, it looks like we will need a cell-signal booster to enable communication of our charging station with ChargePoint). The charging station is along Midline Road in line with the three spruces. We currently encourage casual perpendicular parking along Midline, especially for Park-N-Ride, and will be making improvements to delineate this parking area. We understand that very few people currently own electric cars. This is about the future - building out the infrastructure to support the transition to electric vehicles. This opportunity was largely funded by New York State through NYSERDA. The town portion of this \$18,000 project will range from \$400 to \$1,400, depending on need and cost for a cell-signal booster. Thanks to the Caroline highway crew for excavation and installation of the concrete pier. This helped to contain town costs. Users of the charging station will activate charging and payment with their ChargePoint cards.