

Mutual cooperation: a key to municipal success

You may recall my mentioning before the importance of inter-governmental cooperation as one means of providing municipal services as efficiently as possible, at the lowest cost.

A few weeks ago I participated in the most recent meeting of our Pittsford Community Leadership Committee. I sit on this committee along with Village Mayor Bob Corby, School Board President Pete Sullivan and School Superintendent Mike Pero. Every bit as important as the tangible benefits that emerge from these quarterly meetings – and from the interactions of its members between times – is the shared recognition that working together promotes the interests of all residents of our Town.

Over time, we’ve shared services, streamlined them, strengthened programs and services and have reduced the cost of providing them. It’s an ongoing undertaking. New opportunities always turn up.

As I write this, it was just yesterday that Town Fire Marshal Kelly Cline led an incident management training session for administrators in the Pittsford Central School District.

We’ve collaborated with the School District in planning our respective athletic fields improvement projects, enabling us to share fields and thereby reduce overall costs to the community. We partnered with the School District and the Village in installing high-efficiency light fixtures; with the School District in improving the school bus parking lot; with the Village in grant applications for the proposed canalside nature preserve, for the Active Transportation Plan, and for improvements to the Port of Pittsford Park.

These are one-time projects. We’ve institutionalized ongoing collaborative operations in many ways, of which the following represent just a few examples:

- Our Town and Village share services of the Fire Marshal, Animal Control Officer, Assessor’s Office, Parking Enforcement, and Historian’s Office, to cite just some examples.
- The Town and Village share Code Enforcement services on an as-needed basis.
- The School District and the Town have an agreement whereby Town vehicles use the School District’s vehicle fueling facility, thus eliminating the need for a separate fueling station.
- The Village and Town share equipment under a long-standing inter-municipal agreement, thus eliminating duplicate purchases of expensive equipment.
- The Town, Village, School District and the Pittsford Fire District are partners in an inter-municipal agreement for sharing Geographic Information Services.
- The Town and Village are parties to other agreements for cooperation and sharing of Sewer Department services and covering municipal parking arrangements.

- The Village recently turned over administration of its elections to the Monroe County Board of Elections, thereby saving the expense of conducting elections independently.

There are many other examples, but I don't think it's necessary to belabor the point. We work best when we work together.

As ever, I invite you to contact me with your concerns and with your ideas to make Pittsford an even better place to live. You can reach me at 248-6220 or by e-mail to bsmith@townofpittsford.org. To keep abreast of Town news, can sign up for our weekly eNews through the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org.