

There are some good things to report this month.

Election Day

First, we congratulate Town Board Members Richard Wolf and Jeffrey Judd. They ran uncontested on Election Day and to no one's surprise both were reelected. Also reelected was Town Justice Glenn Schermerhorn who was likewise unopposed. We congratulate all three, and thank them for their continued public service.

ARPA Funds

Second, an update regarding ARPA funds. ARPA funds are the Federal funds which Copake is receiving as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act. The Town has already received \$174,050.76 in ARPA funds. We will ultimately receive \$348,101.52. We have until December 31 2024 to obligate the funds. .

As I mentioned last meeting I have been concerned since the legislation is quite restrictive in how the money can be spent. And if the Federal Government later decides that you spent inappropriately they can ask for a return of the funds. Therefor I was very pleased to learn that the United State Senate has passed a bill which significantly expands the eligibility of American Rescue Plan Act funding for local governments. I have written to Congressman Antonio Delgado urging that House pass the Senate bill. Expanding eligible uses and allowing for more flexibility will clear up some of the confusion that's arisen surrounding how to use these funds. More importantly, it will allow the town to better serve our communities and use the funding where it is most useful and most needed.

In the months to come the Board will decide how best to hear from the public on where these funds should be spent, but in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me.

Copake Bicentennial

Finally, 2024 is the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Copake. I want to encourage everyone in Copake to be involved in the planning and organizing of our Bicentennial. We hope to appoint a Bicentennial committee which will represent the Town. Whether you grew up here, or moved here recently, whether you are working and raising a family or retired, whether you live here 12 months of the year, or only summers or only on the weekend, we want to hear your thoughts. Please consider applying for the Committee by sending a letter of intent to Town Clerk, Lynn Connolly by December 7th at noon. If you have questions in the meantime please let us know!