

TOWN OF HARTSVILLE NEWSLETTER

Message from the Hartsville Town Supervisor – Kriste Gerhard

Welcome to the first Town of Hartsville's Newsletter. Going forward, the newsletter will be posted on the Town Web Page at <http://townofhartsville.com> due to the expense of printing and mailing. We urge you to visit and subscribe to push messages via email and/or text messaging to get all the updates and notices regarding town business. After this newsletter, if you would like a paper copy, stop by the town clerk's office for a printout. We will post links and additional information on our website to make getting involved and being aware much easier.

For over 5 years I have enjoyed working for you in many capacities, alongside the board, to help our town grow and become a strong small town as well as part of our surrounding communities. We fight hard to keep Hartsville from being forgotten. We are committed to improving our town's strength and longevity. We have been extraordinarily successful at keeping our contracted services honest and fair, providing the best service for our taxpayers at the lowest cost possible. We have been diligently utilizing state aid programs (CHIPS, Extreme Weather, Pave our Potholes, and PaveNY) for equipment purchases.

I am immensely proud to say that over and above my daily responsibilities to the town, my personal mission of providing community outreach has been supported and successful. We have several committee projects that are doing very well and some that are new this year.

First to speak of was our 3rd Annual Hartsville Cleanup Day which was a tremendous success at improving the appearance of our roadways. We look forward to the fourth annual coming in the of Spring 2025. This was started by Gabby's Cleanup / inspired by earth day and environmental awareness. This is a wonderful opportunity to get our youth involved, meet the

town's local officials, and get credit for community service participation for things like School Honor Societies.

We are adding a memorial site soon by the Town Barn which will have a Flagpole and seating bench to honor and provide awareness that our veterans and emergency service members are important to us, and they have our support. The funds for this memorial site are being donated by several townspeople. Watch the website for dedication ceremony details.

In addition to all these things we also provide presentations with secure internet and meeting space for the Hartsville Historical Society and any other group that may need space to help our community.

We are in the process of making our Town Barn and Town Hall a safe place for our towns people during storms and outages. We have already installed backup generators at both buildings, and we are planning to purchase Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices for medical emergencies.

We have a committee member that has been working on cemetery cleanup and grave location details. See the town clerk or historian if you can help with details about the cemeteries. We could use the help.

Finally, we have been working toward a near and dear project to me. Hartsville Harvest! We will utilize the Town Barn parking lot to buy, sell, and trade locally harvested or handmade items. This would also be a wonderful place to meet and greet others with similar interests. Cards, quilts, jams, jellies, garlic, produce, syrups, pumpkins, etc. Just bring your table, chairs, and tent and support your friends and neighbors. If you want to highlight your Hartsville company this is a good place to do so. See the attached flyer for more information.

As a late/or not so late introduction, for those who do not know my husband David Gerhard, he is and has been the Deputy Supervisor as well as the 5-year planning and budget committee chair. David has an electrical Engineering Degree (BSEE) from RIT (NY) as well as an MBA (Master of Business Administration) from Lynchburg College (VA). He has also attended the new officer training hosted by the Office of the State Comptroller. He has been a great asset to the town and will continue to serve the town by appointment.

David chairs one of the most important aspects to our success and strength as a community; a five-year rolling strategic plan. Every year, a committee reviews the capital improvement needs and equipment upgrades for the next five years. Through this planning, we have accomplished many remarkable things like upgrading computers, upgrading lighting to LED lights, installing a new roof on the Town Hall, adding backup generators for both the Town Hall and Town Garage, and strategically buying new equipment such as a roller, tractor with boom mower, and a new dually pickup truck with a dump bed to service our roads. A few items that we will be examining closely this planning period include dry equipment storage off the salt shed and replacement of the road grader which is 23 years old. Five-year planning allows for us to strategically schedule updates and upgrades to coincide with state aid such that impact to taxpayers is minimal.

Lastly, I encourage you to become more familiar with the town board members and consider volunteering on a committee to help in the advancement of our community. We have several residents that volunteer including Alice Ward who helps us with Grant searches and writing, Tom and Christine Fisher who have helped with the updating cemetery drawings, road use agreement revisions, and buildings code revisions. The more people involved the easier it becomes to manage the workload of the town. Please consider getting involved.

Sincerely,

Kriste Gerhard

Message from the Assessor:

There were 30 - 40 people who showed up at the Town Hall on grievance day. The assessment board did an excellent job balancing the prior assessment from 2019 vs the proposed 2024 assessments, and what the owners were requesting. Even with some changes here and there, the amount of the changes does NOT affect our level of 100% full market value for each property, which was the goal. Overall, the property owners were amazing. People were polite, really wanted to understand what was going on, and inquisitive about what prompted the assessment increases. Note my hours have changed to Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to noon until further notice.

Message from the Town Clerk:

I would like to remind you that the dog license renewal is due every year and can be paid at the Town Hall on Monday and Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Spayed/neutered dogs are \$10 and unspayed/unneutered are \$18. Proof of rabies is required when registering your dog. Letters/Invoices are due upon receipt. If you have a first-time registration, you must show proof of neuter/spay certificate.

Hartsville property taxes have been collected and turned into Steuben County. If you still need to pay your 2024 property taxes you will need to call the Steuben County Real Property Tax Office to arrange for payment. I can no longer accept tax payments.

Message from the Code Officer:

Several residential complaints have come to me regarding trash and appliance violations as well as logging landings/paths. I will be out delivering citations for those in violation in the coming months. Please be aware if you have debris, trash and/or appliances laying around they are a violation and not just an unsightly appearance to your neighbors. If you have questions, please contact me, Sam Koehler, at 607-382-0301. Soon we will be adding a Code Enforcement Page to the website that will provide guidance on codes and violation details.

Message from Historian:

I, Steve Amidon, am the town's newly appointed town historian. I am actively seeking new and old photos as well as stories you have to share about the Town of Hartsville history. Also, if you have any information regarding cemeteries and locations of individuals, please pass it along. I am excited to hear what you have to share about the history of Hartsville. Please contact me at 607-661-6235 or steveamidon46@gmail.com

Message from the Superintendent:

We are actively seeking/hiring a full-time Machine Equipment Operator (MEO). We currently only have one MEO (union member) and me, as a full-time working Superintendent. While we are utilizing part-time help to fill the short-term need, the longer-term plan of hiring another MEO is of the utmost importance to the Town. Help spread the word. We will work closely with our Collective Bargaining Unit to obtain and utilize the applicant that meets the NYS MEO Standard. If you know anyone that would be interested in applying, please contact me, Jeff Getman, at (607) 698-2672 or (607) 382-1834. Alternatively a resume can be sent to hartsvillhgwysup@aol.com or hartsvillets17@gmail.com.

We continue to grade roads and are mowing the shoulders. We were able to obtain a limited use brine permit this year. This limit (in amount and monitored use) is for using brine only when rebuilding roads and not for general dust control as we have done in the past. We apologize for the inconvenience, and we will do our best to keep the dust down as we have in previous years with a different mixture. Our CHIPS state aid paperwork for reimbursements has been submitted for this quarter for equipment payment reimbursements. This submittal covers about one-third of our state aid allotment for the year.