

Town Supervisor, David Gerhard

Greetings! I hope you all are having a wonderful holiday season! We wish you well in 2026. May it be happy, healthy, and safe.

2025 was a highly active year for the town and the board. During 2025, we closed 47 actions, resolved 29 items, and passed two laws.

Some of the more notable items accomplished this year included improvements in our IT structure. We implemented a new server where all town affairs are stored and backed up weekly, purchased a fire proof safe to store the backups, built a new website (www.townofhartsvilleny.gov) to be in compliance with New York State requirements, and moved away from using personal emails for our town officials (Gmail, Yahoo) to .gov domain emails (supervisor@townofhartsvilleny.gov).

We finished our Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) filing from Hurricane Debby in 2024, including completion of the Fall Creek Road Repair. The crossover bridge was repaired and many of the other road crossover pipes were swapped out for larger pipes to (hopefully) prevent further road damage during future storms. We were reimbursed through FEMA funding to the tune of nearly \$200,000 by diligently working with FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

We used some of the FEMA reimbursement to buy a used fire tanker to use as a water truck for brining roads. It has a stainless-steel tank, only had around 75,000 miles on it, and only required \$45,000 of the FEMA money. This is an excellent choice opposed to putting a brine tank in the back of a dump truck and rotting away a \$300,000+ truck.

We used Capital Improvement Fund money to add dry storage off the Salt Shed for storing the town's equipment. No longer will the equipment sit out in the sun and winter weather shortening its life.

In October, we rewrote the town's Road Preservation Law that was last updated in 2015 to enhance the law, protect our roads, and ensure construction efforts are in compliance with the law.

From a financial perspective, the town remains in excellent shape with only \$32,000 in debt remaining. This debt will be paid off in 2026 when we make the

last payments on the Roller and Dually mini-dump truck. Our cash position remains strong at nearly \$800,000 in cash between the General Fund, Highway Fund, General Reserve Fund (Capital Improvement Fund), and Highway Reserve Fund (Equipment Fund). Part of this money will be used to purchase a new Road Grader in 2026 that will cost nearly \$250,000. However, the purchase of the Road Grader will be completely reimbursable through the Consolidate Highway Improvement Plan (i.e., CHIPs) in which eligible municipality expenses are reimbursable through the state. We already have pre-approval by the state for 100% reimbursement. Through careful planning and fiscal management, we have been able to purchase many new pieces of equipment that have been reimbursed through the CHIPs program including a roller, tractor, dually mini-dump, and pickup truck.

Capital expenditures are also reimbursable, and we have used the CHIPs program to pay for the Dry Storage addition, new roof on the town hall, backup generators at both the town hall and town barn, and a new propane furnace for the town barn.

While the town remains financially strong, expenses continue to rise. You will see a tax increase on your bill this year compared to 2025 but, over the past six years, residents are paying less in taxes than we did in 2021 (\$321,032 in 2021 vs. \$320,323 in 2026). The table below reflects the changes in taxes from 2021 to 2026.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change in Taxes 2025 to 2026	% Change in Taxes over 6 years
Town Taxes	\$ 267,754	\$ 273,882	\$ 273,830	\$ 275,542	\$ 259,450	\$ 266,902	2.87%	-0.32%
Fire/Ambulance Taxes	\$ 53,278	\$ 54,244	\$ 54,240	\$ 52,458	\$ 52,935	\$ 53,421	0.92%	0.27%
Total Taxes (Town controlled)	\$ 321,032	\$ 328,126	\$ 328,070	\$ 328,000	\$ 312,385	\$ 320,323	2.54%	-0.22%

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to tell other residents about the ability to sign up for news updates through our website. It is too costly to send hard copy newsletters to all the residents so many residents will not receive this year end summary without us spreading the word and getting people signed up. Direct them to our web page at <https://townofhartsvilleny.gov> and have them fill out the "Stay Connected" section at the bottom of the home page.

Stay Connected

For Town News and Meetings

Name *

Email *

Cell Phone Number *

Address *

Please select one:

- ☐ Resident
☐ Non-Resident

Subscription Settings - select all that apply

- ☐ New Agenda & Minutes Posting
☐ Town Board
☐ Special Meetings
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☐ News & Notices
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Select how you would like to be notified

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SMS Messages

Our board is committed to serving the town, making smart choices along the way, and ensuring that we remain a model town for others to follow. Thank you for your trust in us.

Sincerely,

David Gerhard

Supervisor, Town of Hartsville

Town Highway Superintendent, Ian Henderson

My name is Ian Henderson, and I am the new Highway Superintendent for the Town of Hartsville. I am also proud to be a resident of the town.

Over the past several years, our community has faced significant weather challenges, including flooding that caused damage to many of our roads and ditches. This past summer, we were able to complete the majority of those repairs, addressing many of the issues resulting from recent flooding events.

Looking ahead, the Town Board has approved the purchase of a new John Deere 622G grader, expected to arrive in 2026. This equipment will allow us to grade roads more efficiently and improve overall road maintenance throughout the town.

Planned projects for the coming year include major repairs on Henry Jenkins Road, Landis Road, and Alfred Station Road. In addition to these projects, we will continue our ongoing work with ditching, brush cutting, and addressing maintenance concerns across the town as time and resources allow.

I encourage residents to reach out with road or drainage concerns, and I appreciate your patience as we work through scheduled improvements. Thank you to the Town Board and residents for their continued support. Residents can contact the Highway Department on (607) 698-2672 with any questions or concerns.

I look forward to serving the residents of Hartsville and working to maintain and improve our town's roads and infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Ian Henderson

Highway Superintendent, Town of Hartsville

Town Clerk, Ashley Gibson

As the time has approached for the 2026 tax collection, I would like to remind residents of the tax collection hours. The hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 4:15-6:00 p.m. and Sundays (January 4th-March 1st) 3:00-5:00 p.m.

We accept check and cash payments. When paying with cash please bring exact change. If you would like to pay with a credit card, you can go to Steuben County website to do so.

Friendly reminder that dog licenses are due every year and can be paid at the Town Hall with check or cash. Dogs that are spayed/neutered are \$10.00 and dogs that are unspayed/unneutered are \$18.00. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccine when renewing your dog's license.

Thank You and Happy New Year!

Ashley Gibson – Town Clerk

Town Health Officer, Misti Carbone

I am happy to say in 2025 we actively rolled out the use of AED's (Automatic External Defibrillators). They are located within Town Hall and on the road with our highway workers.

Training sessions were provided for town residents, highway workers, and boards members. Our highway workers are also trained and certified in CPR/BLS (Basic Life Support) and keep current with these certifications!

There have been "GoodRX" cards placed at the town hall for all residents to take. If you are in need of this service, please come down and grab a card.

With winter officially in full swing. Please check or replace the batteries in your CO2 and smoke detectors and make sure they are fully functioning. Always be safe!

I have accepted the appointment for this position again for 2026. I am always open to suggestions to keep this position an active position for providing health-related information to our residents.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and Happy New Year!

Misti Carbone, NYS EMT, CCTT

Town Code Enforcement, Sam Koehler

As mentioned earlier, the town revised the 2015 Road Preservation Law providing more protection to the town and our roads. If you intend to log your property, kindly point the logger to me and/or Ian Henderson so that we can guide them through the process of obtaining the necessary permits and insurance.

As spring arrives, I ask that you take a little time to clean up your yards. Be respectful to your neighbors and help keep the Town of Hartsville looking beautiful.

Sincerely,

Sam Koehler

Town of Hartsville, Code Enforcement