

**State of the Town
December 2025**

Dear Friends,

I hope this update finds you well and finding joy during this holiday season. I continue to be proud of the work we are doing to serve our residents and better our community. Movies and Music in the Park had another successful season. We are working to publicize these events more and I encourage each of you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and the Town website. We held our first Fall Festival which many of our residents enjoyed. Kathy Rose held a festive event at the town hall for families to enjoy making gingerbread houses. No cost to the town but this was enjoyed by dozens of children. We are working hard to bring low-cost activities to our community that everyone can enjoy.

The playgrounds continue to be enjoyed and we have just approved community benefit agreements (CBA's) with the solar companies entering our town. These funds could give the town close to \$13,000 per project but must be used for direct community benefits (i.e. a community center, splash pad, festivals, improved playgrounds ...). As we begin to receive these funds, we will be reaching out for your ideas on how to best use the funding and benefit our town in the most proactive way.

Taxes remain at a 2% levy (essentially flat) and raised less than \$50,000 from last year. We continue to work hard to keep the tax burden low while still best serving our residents. Salaries/personnel and health insurance continue to be the highest portion of our budget. Medical insurance increased by 18% this year but the board voted to increase employee contributions from 2% for individual plans/4% for families to 10% across the board to aid in this increase. Our current insurance provider is still saving the town nearly \$70,000 annually compared to our previous provider. Much of this cost savings comes from increased work out of the Supervisor's office but knowing the amount we are saving ... the extra work is worth it!

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is moving forward as planned. This grant allows low to moderate income residents to fix essential parts of their home (i.e. roofs, foundations...) at no cost should they qualify and be selected. We have applied for \$450,000 and are anxious to begin these projects! We know there is a great need and are working toward assisting our town residents.

We have applied for grants to bring sewer down 352 to increase businesses in our area. Looking toward the future, we want to keep taxes for residents reasonable and increasing businesses may allow us to do that. **A grant for a community center has been submitted and I am anxious for community comment at our meeting on December 16th at 7 pm.** Please make time to attend or reach out you're your thoughts on the project. Aiding our young and elderly alike is truly important to me and I am working hard to find ways to do that. We will be in need of a fresh Comprehensive Plan as ours is nearing ten years old and we all know the changes that have occurred since

COVID. I will be looking for grants to help cover the cost of this and I will work hard in assisting to write a new plan. This document helps us when applying for grants but also showing the direction our community is going.

More grants are being posted in the Spring such as the records retention grant which could help the town turn many of our paper documents into an electronic form for ease of access. As I find more grants and opportunities, I will continue to apply and try to bring funds to our region. Our current reserves (for all our funds) are approx. \$1.7 million. We are doing exceptionally well financially and I want to continue that trend. The Town Supervisor audit came back in 2024 and 2025 without any noted concerns. These reports are posted on the website for your review. I am so proud of the work we continue to do together and for all of your feedback in moving us forward!

We are changing our workers' compensation insurance starting in 2026 which will save the town nearly \$25,000 while still maintaining the same services. As 2026 nears, I will be researching best medical insurance options on how we can save and maintain the best coverage during a time when premiums continue to rise. This is an on-going challenge we will continue to address and work to manage.

Next year I am hoping to offer a CPR class to residents and employees to try and bring life-saving capabilities to anyone who is interested. Many of you know I am a Registered Nurse and want to use my skills to give back to a community I truly care about. I am working with our local church to offer free dinners to our area as I know hunger is another issue many of our residents' face.

I want to personally thank Lon Fiscus and Donna Gridley for their hard work on the board. As they are stepping off, we want to welcome Lauren Gaige and Linda Shock to the board. We are hopeful for a smooth transition as new ideas and people filter onto our board.

I want to wish each and every one of you the happiest of holidays and I cannot stress enough that my office door is always open. Please feel free to reach out with ideas, questions, or concerns. I am so grateful for your continued support and I will continue to work hard for each and every resident.

Warmly,

Jenniffer L. Tuttle, Town of Corning Supervisor