

## Conversation with the Mayor, February 2, 2009

Vicky Daly

For the last several weeks, groups of all sorts and descriptions have been interviewed on local and national media about the stimulus package being created in Washington. Everyone has something that, by golly, is exactly what the program was intended for. Wordsmiths and humorists are enjoying the wide range of definitions provided by the aforementioned groups, of 'shovel ready'. One thing everyone agrees upon is that there is a dire need for the creation of jobs. Good jobs, not the 'fries with that?' variety.

And of course, the Village of Palmyra has its list. We have been working with Village Engineer Bob Raeman of Clark Patterson Lee on preparing our proposals. The requirements for projects make careful prioritizing and planning essential. Guidelines were somewhat fluid initially but seem to have stabilized. Basically, it is a question of preparedness. 40% of a project has to be under contract within 90 days of an award. An additional 27% has to be under contract by the end of 120 days, and the project completed by September 2009. The proposals themselves have to be submitted by February 9, 2009. This is a tough schedule if you are starting from scratch. We are told, though, that there will be subsequent rounds, a second and perhaps a third.

By the time you read this, we will have submitted three proposals. They are:

- Canandaigua Street/ NYS Route 21 – The need is obvious. Although it is a NYS touring route, it belongs to the Village and we have the responsibility for maintaining and repairing it. Simply put, we do not have the funds to do so.
- Hyde Parkway – Did you know that this is the busiest street in the village? Highway Superintendent Mike Boesel did a traffic count on village streets and Hyde Parkway wins the prize for traffic numbers. Again, the need is obvious. This project is not only shovel ready, work on water and sewer lines on the northern portion has already begun. The fact that village crews are already engaged in this project should be an asset.
- Comfort Station complex at the marina – This, too, is shovel ready. Work could begin as soon as weather allows. The award of an Erie Canal Greenway Grant should also be a plus for our proposal as it indicates that New York State sees value in the project, both economically and for quality of life. If this proposal is accepted, a change in procedure would have to happen. We had planned to do much of this work in-house as in-kind services, but that is not permitted with the stimulus initiative whose purpose is to create jobs. That's fine. That would free up our village crews to do other things. There is a special category within the stimulus program for inland waterways and the Erie Canal certainly qualifies.

So there we are, that is what the Palmyra Village Board is requesting this round of the stimulus initiative. You can be sure, with subsequent rounds being discussed, that we will continue to plan and become 'shovel ready'. Good jobs that benefit not only the jobholders but the whole community are worth the time and effort to prepare.