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TOWN OF LA FAYETTE  
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### LaFayette Community Development Committee News

This is a follow-up article to our initial article released in March that introduced the LaFayette Community Development Committee (LCDC) and talked about the possible development of the old LaFayette Hotel property. This article informs residents about the possible construction of the Senior Center, and a public meeting on May 10.

In 2021, the Town was awarded a \$150k grant to go towards construction of the Senior Center. The initial construction cost was estimated at just under \$1M, but when the Town released a request for bids in the latter half of 2021, the bids came back just over \$2M, given the supply chain and workforce shortages last year. When the Town rebid the project this year, the bids came back even higher, just over \$3M, reflecting the continued supply chain shortages on top of inflation. Given the most recent bid results, LCDC will be looking into potential strategies to make the Senior Center project possible.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our County Legislator, Dave Knapp recently secured a \$500,000 grant from the County Hamlet Main Street Revitalization Program for the Town of LaFayette to be used specifically for the rehabilitation of the former LaFayette Hotel building at the intersection of Routes 11 and 20. This funding is in addition to the Federal ARPA infrastructure funding the Town is receiving in the amount of just under \$400K. A committee of development professionals appointed by the Town Board have been reviewing building and site conditions and identifying the best strategies for developing the highest and best use for this strategic property.

A public meeting at the Town Hall will be held on May 10 to review the Town's options for the old hotel property will be reviewed along with potential community and commercial benefits. Renderings will be presented, as well as grant strategies and expected costs and outcomes based on examples of similar community revitalization work that has been done in other central New York communities. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Town Board approved an offer by Jeanie Gleisner, Program Manager at CNY Regional Planning & Development Board (and a long-time LaFayette resident), to prepare and submit grant applications pro bono for the rehabilitation of the old hotel.

A community survey will be posted (for two weeks) following the meeting, where residents can weigh-in on options for the Senior Center and old hotel property. It is important for the Town to hear from residents about what they would like to see based on project costs and outcomes. It is also important to note that both projects are potentially beneficial. Grant-funded Hamlet revitalization and Senior Center strategies can proceed simultaneously or sequentially (it is not an "either or" proposition).

Of import, construction for either property will not commence until strategies are identified, and grant decisions are received so we know what the cost to taxpayers would be for each project. Our goal is that neither of the projects will cost the taxpayers anything, but if grants cannot cover the entire costs, the next major step would be for the Town to hold a referendum on each project, which will determine the final decision to proceed with the projects.

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At the Town Board meeting on May 10, following the public meeting, the Town Board will be asked to approve the expenditures for the cost of the development of the public meeting information and survey (to be covered by the Town's HUD grant). At the June Town Board meeting, the results of the community survey and a funding strategy will be shared, and the Town Board will be asked to approve the strategy and the submittal of any appropriate grant applications.

So please attend the May 10 public meeting and/or respond to the survey. If you cannot attend the meeting, the public meeting information will be made available online with the online survey.

**Mark Distler, Deputy Supervisor**