

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES

Just about 18 months ago, David Zorn, Director Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, presented a program on pursuing a designation as a **Clean Energy Community**. This program is funded by NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research Development Authority) and the awards varied from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The audience at the meeting consisted of Mayors, Town Supervisors and/or their representatives from the Genesee/Finger Lakes Region. Dennis Palmer, Village DPW Foreman, represented the Village of Livonia.

At the next Village Board Meeting, Dennis presented and explained the program and we discussed the possibilities of pursuing the designation and the grant. The process is as follows: There are ten tasks that they refer to as Action Items and four of these needed to be completed in order to qualify for the grant. The ten items were varied and four had to be completed by a specific date. After some Village Board discussion, Bob Leader agreed to lead this designation and grant acquisition. The following people agreed to assist: Rhonda Roeser, Adam Backus, Alison Hauk, Colleen Hay and Dennis Palmer. Both David Zorn and Greg Albert served as consultants. From the very beginning, David and Greg were very involved in this project and the Committee praised them for their patience and expertise. "They were incredible," said the Committee. This designation could not have been accomplished without their continued assistance.

The four Action Items chosen were: **Benchmarking, Clean Fleet, Unified Solar Permit and Energy Code Enforcement Training**. For **Benchmarking**, Rhonda Roeser pursued the research that detailed the energy use in the municipal building for the past several years. For the **Clean Fleet** action, Dennis Palmer took responsibility for obtaining the purchase and installation of the charging stations. Once Benchmarking was completed, we immediately received a check for \$2,500 and these funds were used to obtain the charging stations. Two Action Items were now completed. The last two Action Items were the responsibility of Adam Backus and Alison Hauk. These items were: **Unified Solar Permit & Energy Code Enforcement Training** which required the adoption of the NYS Unified Solar Permit process and training for the Code Officer and other Village Officials.

The Committee successfully completed four Action Items and we were named one of the fourteen (14) small communities in the Genesee/Finger Lakes region to be identified as a **Clean Energy Community**. Livonia was the only village in Livingston County to receive this designation and the Town of Avon was the only town, and we are now eligible for a \$50,000 grant.

It is clear that this was a team effort and this grant will enable us to continue the upgrade and improvement to our Village street lighting.

Thank you Bob, Dennis, Rhonda, Adam, Alison, Colleen, David and Greg