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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Penfield, School District to Evaluate Shared Services

The Town of Penfield and the Penfield Central School District have announced that they are preparing a joint grant application to the New York State Department of State for a Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Grant. The grant would be used to evaluate the feasibility of constructing a shared services facility to be located on the town’s public works complex on Jackson Road.

The LGE Grant award would pay for ninety percent (90%) of the estimated $50,000 cost for completing a feasibility study. The school district and the town are committed to contributing $5,000 each towards the total estimated cost of the study.

The feasibility study will explore the potential for cost savings, potential consolidation, and increased efficiency through the construction of a shared facility; centralized storage of vehicles and equipment; development of a legal framework for a formal inter-municipal agreement for shared services; and a shared purchasing process for fuel, supplies and equipment.

This consolidation effort is still in the very early stages of development and no specific concept has been determined. However, if feasible, the district is seeking to move its Buildings and Grounds Department out of the existing school district transportation site on Five Mile Line Road to free-up much needed space for school bus parking, a new bus maintenance garage and employee parking.

“We believe there is a real match between the functions of our Buildings and Grounds department and the town’s Public Works department and the possibility of a shared facility is definitely worth exploring,” said Superintendent Dr. Stephen Grimm. “We are very pleased that the town is willing to partner with us on this application.”

This application is one example of how the Town of Penfield and the Penfield Central School District are working collaboratively to find solutions that are both productive and cost-effective. Sharing services will benefit the school, the town and the taxpayers.

“Municipalities and school districts are faced with similar increasing cost pressures and shrinking resources,” said Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “With the economy in a prolonged recession and many major revenue sources in decline, there is heightened interest in exploring innovative ways to control local government and school district costs by reducing or eliminating duplicate services. The school district and town partnering on this project is a strong example of helping to manage costs for the taxpayers of Penfield.”

If the town and the school district receive the LGE grant, the feasibility study will begin later this spring. The study is the first step in subsequent applications for grant funding assistance from New York State for the construction of a shared facility.

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