



Rockland County Legislator Douglas J. Jobson

District 1—Stony Point, Sloatsburg, Haverstraw

Winter 2010/2011

Message From Legislator Jobson

As the Minority Leader and a member of the Budget and Finance Committee of the legislature, I spend a great deal of time putting various aspects of our budget together, always with the needs and concerns of my constituents guiding my actions.

This year, as the county struggled with declining revenues, two major proposals were made to help balance the budget

given those shortfalls. The first was a proposal by the county executive to sell the Summit Park Hospital, which is operated by the county, in hopes of raising approximately \$18 million.

Another proposal that made its way into the budget was a property tax increase. Though the increase was not much, I decided that I could not support a budget that

would add more burdens to the already great challenges facing the residents of our district.

I voted against the budget because I could not support the tax increase, and because of several concerns I had about the proposed sale of the county hospital.

The needs of the residents of Stony Point, Sloatsburg, and Haverstraw will always shape



my actions as a legislator, and I will keep working to find other ways of raising revenue that don't include increasing taxes on the hardworking families I represent.

Restoring Washburns Lane

When the retaining wall on Washburns Lane collapsed, taking part of the road itself with it, I set out to find the county funds to rebuild the wall and the street.

I collaborated with my colleagues and the executive branch to secure over \$2 million in county funds

to reconstruct the wall and restore Washburns Lane. When completed, residents and drivers will have access to that important roadway once again.

With the funds now secured, work on this project will begin shortly, and should conclude by the end of Summer 2011.

Defending The Stony Point Battlefield And Lighthouse

This year, I was proud to defend a Stony Point landmark. When Governor Paterson proposed the closure of numerous state parks, including the Stony Point Battlefield and its adjoining museum, I led the fight in the legislature to reach out to the Governor to protect the Battlefield, the museum there, and the historic lighthouse.

Last year, there were over 25,000 visitors to the

Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site. These visitors enjoyed their time there, and also supported local merchants, pumping hundreds of thousands of dollars into the local economy. Closing this site would hurt residents, merchants, and sales tax revenue, which helps offset the property taxes people pay. I will continue to fight to prevent this closure for our families, businesses, and tourists.

James Farley Bridge

In October 2007, I initiated legislation seeking state assistance and intervention to replace the Farley Bridge in Stony Point. State officials in the Department of Transportation as well as the late Senator Tom Morahan were instrumental in

securing state and federal funds to replace the Farley Bridge.

The entire bridge was replaced and the next phase of the project will begin shortly. The intersection on the north side of the bridge will be redone to widen Route 9W and create new turning lanes. In the meantime, local residents are able to use the new Farley Bridge every day.



Supporting Community And Veteran Organizations

I have always been proud to work hard to secure funding for organizations that play a vital role in our community.

This year, I was able to obtain funds for several groups, including **Meals on Wheels**. As a proud volunteer as well as a member of the board of the Meals on Wheels organization, I know the as-

sistance it provides to so many area residents.

Supporting our veterans upon their return home from duty is important to me, and that is why I successfully fought to obtain funding for veterans groups, including the **American Legion of Sloatsburg, Post 1643**, as well as the **C. Lewis VFW Post** in Stony Point.

Renovating The County Highway Facility In Stony Point

The Rockland County Highway Facility in Stony Point, which stores salt, vehicles, and snowplows, was in desperate need of repair and renovations. I acted quickly in the legislature so that money would be allocated to rebuilding the facility. Working with Highway

Superintendent "Skip" Vezzetti, this project was completed in short order.

As a result of the renovations, the department's response to snowstorms will be immediate in the Stony Point area. Residents will continue to benefit from this facility for a long time to come.

Celebrating With Champions

On October 5th I invited the Stony Point Little League All Star Team to the legislature to receive recognition for winning the NYS Little League Championship this past August.

Team Coach Ralph Pacella explained their route to victory and provided a personalized introduction of the players, describing each player's strength and contribution to the team.

I also proudly recognized the Haverstraw Senior Little League Softball players for making it all the way to the World Series. The young women on that team played with a great deal of heart and made our entire area truly proud.

Congratulations are also due to the North Rockland Pop Warner program, which sent two cheerleading teams to compete in the 2010 National Championship Competition in Orlando. Their Junior Midget team placed second and their Midget team placed first.

Kakiat Park Improvements

In 2009, Kakiat County Park was closed for a two-month renovation project. When it reopened, we dedicated the new wood footbridge that spans the Mahwah River. A new comfort station was added and parking was improved.

This was an important project to advance, and as a legislator I worked hard to see that Kakiat Park received enough funds for a proper renovation, so that residents could enjoy the natural beauty of the area, and use its trails for hiking and dog-walking.

Holding Cablevision Accountable

When Cablevision pulled The Food Network and HGTV because of a dispute in early 2010, subscribers to Cablevision suffered as a result.

In the legislature, I put forth a resolution calling for an investigation of Cablevision by the NYS Public Service Commission to hold the cable company accountable to its customers. It is unfair to customers who pay for those networks to be denied access to them because of an in-

ternal company issue. After some time, those channels were restored, but the threat of losing access to those and other networks loomed over customers and continues to remain a concern.

I will continue to monitor these disputes as they arise and threaten our consumer rights. I will also examine the feasibility of forcing Cablevision to reimburse their customers for the time channels have been pulled.



Legislator Jobson with the Stony Point Little League All Star Team.

These young champions clearly competed as a team, supporting each other and relying on each other to get the job done, and I join all North Rocklanders in being proud of their achievements.

I value and welcome your input. Feel free to call me with any questions, comments, or concerns at (845) 638-5100, or e-mail me at JobsonD@co.rockland.ny.us. You can also write to: The Rockland County Legislature 11 New Hempstead Road New City, NY 10956