



Rensselaer County
Office of County Executive Steven F. McLaughlin
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(518) 270-2900

July 31, 2023

Dear Mayor Allen and Members of the Village Board:

Our seniors deserve support, protection and encouragement and Rensselaer County takes that mission seriously. Rensselaer County operates five senior centers across our county and is unique for our commitment to this service at a time when most other counties contract this work out to third parties.

The county recently unveiled a new senior center in Troy that is among the finest in the nation. We now have plans to improve and expand senior services in the Hoosick area and raise the level of service and care now provided to seniors in the area.

For several years, Rensselaer County has been seeking a new home for senior services now housed in the Murphy building. The Murphy building has continued to deteriorate, and the county no longer has confidence in the ability of the building to house senior, DMV and Mental Health services. Attendance at the senior center in the building is also below a level we would envision as appropriate. We have spent considerable time reviewing available properties in the village and surrounding areas, to no success.

Additionally, there have been zero suggestions from the Village Board on a new location after literally dozens of public mentions of the county's interest in developing a new center location over a several-year period. Rensselaer County will not allow our seniors to eventually be subjected to substandard conditions because of political jockeying and will move forward to ensure a level of care and support we can take pride in for seniors in the Hoosick area.

As stated above, our intentions to find a new home for the Hoosick senior center are well-known. The Reimagine Rensselaer County Facilities plan adopted in 2022 identified a new senior center for the Hoosick area as a priority. I have discussed our plans for a new Hoosick center during State of the County addresses to the County Legislature and the Chamber of Commerce during the past several years. There have been numerous mentions of our intentions in the media and social media.

As recently as April 11 on WTEN the county's plans for a new center were noted. From the WTEN report on April 11, 2023:

County officials say work will begin to replace the current senior centers in Rensselaer and Hoosick Falls. "Rensselaer County is proud we directly provide needed services to our seniors and do not contract the work out," said McLaughlin. "We are equally proud to be making a needed and significant investment in these senior services."

Rensselaer County press release, June 14, 2022:

“A new senior center for Hoosick Falls is long overdue, and I am pleased that it is included in this plan. The improvements at the highway garage in Cropseyville are a welcome improvement and will help improve the level of service to Grafton and areas along the Route 2 corridor,” said Legislator Jeff Wysocki - Hoosick Falls.

Rensselaer County press release, October 14, 2021:

McLaughlin also announced the county will be moving the Troy Area Senior Center to a new, more modern space in City Station in downtown Troy. McLaughlin also said the county will be reviewing possible replacements for senior centers in both Rensselaer, which has had a change in ownership, and Hoosick Falls, which is an older and inefficient facility.

There are other examples of previous public statements made by the county regarding our intentions to develop a new Hoosick senior center.

We are sorry the village was unable to identify a suitable and comparable replacement for the current senior center. Indeed, the village letter of July 28, 2023 also fails to identify any comparable replacement. Absent that help, the county has found a suitable replacement on State Route 22 that will allow the county to improve and expand senior services in the Hoosick area, including other nearby towns, and hopefully help attract new seniors to utilize these services.

Rensselaer County looks forward to working with all individuals and entities who endeavor to provide and maintain a high level of services for our seniors. Thank you in advance for your attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.F. McLaughlin", written over a horizontal line.

Steven F. McLaughlin
County Executive