



# The Chairman's Corner

by

**Matt B. Murell**

[Matt.Murell@ColumbiacountyNY.com](mailto:Matt.Murell@ColumbiacountyNY.com)

## **MARK TAYLOR – NEW REAL PROPERTY DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

The month of April saw yet another key Columbia County position filled when Mark Taylor stepped into the role of Deputy Director of the Real Property Tax Service Agency. In the last Chairman's Corner, I spoke to Nina Benvenuto's appointment as the new Office for the Aging administrator.

Dep. Director Taylor is a 2008 graduate of Hudson High, before going on to attend Columbia-Greene Community College, and ultimately Siena College, where he graduated cum laude with a B.A. in management.

He is vice-chair of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and currently chief of the Greenport Fire Department, after having served as assistant chief for the past six years. All in all, Dep. Director Taylor has been a firefighter for 16 years and has donated his services to Habitat for Humanity. In his spare time, he enjoys boating, snowmobiling, and snowboarding.

Dep. Director Taylor is the grandson of Ellsworth Weaver, longtime Copake town supervisor and chairman of the county Board of Supervisors for a time during the 1960s. "My whole life trajectory ties back to my grandfather," he said. "He was a past fire chief of Copake and a past director of the county Volunteer Firefighters Association. Everything I've been doing is kind of emulating him. Although he passed away when I was four, it's been very much been following his legacy and living through the stories of his legacy."

Out of college, Dep. Director Taylor spent two years in the management sector at Verizon Wireless, then worked as an appraiser for the next 11 years at Concra Appraisal Associates until joining the county. "Having been an appraiser has given me a completely different view," he said. "It's a whole different side of the business. I think having that experience brings a whole other body of knowledge to the table."

Stepping into his new position, said Dep. Director Taylor, "It's definitely been an adjustment going from being an independent contractor to working in a municipal setting. The staff in the Real Property office has been very supportive. They're very knowledgeable. It's been a breath of fresh air. It's a very good working group."

"My goal is his goal is to learn as much about the office as I can from Real Property Director Suzette Booy. I'd like to learn from the solid foundation that she's built," he added. "I don't think a lot of people understand what county Real Property does. I'd like to see a little more community outreach to make people aware of what we're doing. I think it would be beneficial for people to have a better understanding of what things like a reval mean, that it doesn't necessarily mean your taxes will go up."

He acknowledged that learning the nuts and bolts of what Real Property does in terms of preparing tax bills and the like is part of his learning curve these days. In the meantime, Dep. Director Taylor has become involved in the project of rebuilding the department's website in the effort to make it more user-friendly both to manage and to use.

The Board of Supervisors and I welcome Mark Taylor to his new position.