

PRESS RELEASE

RE Retirement of Ellicott Town Clerk Michael Erlandson

Ellicott Town Clerk Michael Erlandson will be retiring, effective April 1, 2019.

Erlandson stated: "The time is right for me to retire. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my wife and family and doing some volunteer work."

Erlandson has served as Town Clerk for over 27 years. "It's a bittersweet day for me because I've enjoyed every minute of my tenure as Town Clerk. I've loved serving town residents and I had the opportunity to work with four excellent administrations and many dedicated public officials."

Erlandson assured residents that there will be no drop off in service when he leaves. He explained that current Deputy Town Clerk Amy Bellardo will be taking over as Town Clerk on April 1. "The office won't skip a beat! In fact, the town couldn't be in better hands. Amy will be a fantastic Town Clerk! I'm really happy for her. Amy's worked hard and has energy to spare. She's also a leader in the community. She deserves the position. I'll continue to help her any way I can to ensure a smooth transition. Believe me, I would not even think about retiring if I wasn't confident in Amy's abilities. One of my objectives before retiring has always been to make sure there would be no drop off in service when I left. Amy allows me to leave on a positive note."

Besides his family, Erlandson stated that he has many people to thank for his success. However, he is particularly indebted to two people. "First, I want to sincerely thank my good friend Chautauqua County Democratic Election Commissioner Norm Green. Without him I would never have been elected Town Clerk in the first place. Norm reached out to me back in 1991 and asked me if I would be interested in running for the position. I was honored to be asked. He explained what I would need to do to win the election and helped me every step of the way. He's continued to go out of his way for me through 13 more successful campaigns. I'm forever grateful to him."

"Second, I want to thank my long-time Deputy Town Clerk and dear friend Valerie Pierce. There are really no words to express my appreciation for what she has done for me. I learned so much from her. I didn't even know what a Town Clerk did when I started. But Valerie got me through it and helped me in so many different ways. She was an extremely hard worker who always made me look good. It made my job easy. I was lucky to have her. There's no way I would have lasted this long without her support and dedication. Valerie is a genuinely special person and I'm a better person because of her. The Town of Ellicott couldn't have asked for a better public servant."

He also thanks former Deputy Town Clerk Karen Okerlund who served the town for 14 years. "Karen had exceptional organizational skills and worked for several different departments during her time here. She really helped us out a lot."

Erlandson also expresses his gratitude to Ellery Town Clerk Rebecca Haines for her continuing guidance and advice. "Becca's great. She's a leader. I can't count the number of times I called her when I needed a question answered. She has an encyclopedic knowledge of Town Clerk issues".

Finally, Erlandson credits the Chautauqua County Municipal Clerks Association. “I can’t say enough about the CCMCA. What a tremendous organization! I would always learn new things from my fellow clerks at our monthly meetings. Just an amazing and supportive group of people”.

Erlandson is proud of his accomplishments during his tenure with the town. He has continually streamlined operations in the clerk’s office and has been a leader in regards to sharing services. “I think I’ve moved the town forward. But most importantly, I strived to be accessible and helpful to town residents. Hopefully, I achieved that. I always tried to do a good job.”

Erlandson will miss everyone at Town Hall. He is optimistic about the future of the town. “Our current Town Supervisor Patrick McLaughlin is doing a great job. Among other things, he’s adamant about addressing the weed problem in Chautauqua Lake. He is also trying to bring municipal water service to the Fluvanna Ave. Ext. corridor”.

One thing Erlandson would like to see changed is for the Town Clerk and Town Supervisor positions to be lengthened to 4-year terms. “In my opinion, these positions need to be four-year terms. We have a very busy town. There’s always a lot going on. Two years is just not enough time to achieve much – particularly when someone new comes in. It’s really not in the best interest of town residents.”

Erlandson stated: “What I’ll miss most is the people. I always enjoyed talking with our residents when they would come to the clerk’s office – usually to part with some of their hard-earned money. It has been an honor to serve them. I love the Town of Ellicott. Thanks again to you all.”