

Town of Kent Highway Department Richard T. Othmer, Jr., Highway Superintendent 62 Ludington Court Kent Lakes, New York 10512 (845) 225-7172 Fax (845) 225-9464 Email: <u>rothmer@townofkentny.gov</u>

Kent Highway Department Facility & Fleet Improvements 2014 – 2021

- In 2014, the average age of the Highway Department Fleet was 18-24 years old. A ridiculous amount of time & money was spent on repairs & unnecessary shop time. Excessive man-hours were wasted due to broken down antique equipment. A concerted bi-partisan effort between the Town Board & Highway Superintendent has upgraded the situation & we now have a modern fleet of good equipment increasing productivity ten-fold.
- In 2014, thirty-six junk vehicles & twenty four 30 yard dumpsters of scrap metal were removed from the Highway yard & sold. Additionally, the yard was re-graded (Kent Employees) & these two factors tripled the size of our storage space eliminating the need to build a new facility somewhere else.
- In 2016 2018, a NYS DEC mandated salt storage dome & concrete material bin was constructed on site. In my 2nd month in office, I was issued a summons by the DEC charging the Town with dereliction of duty by ignoring orders to comply with the above mandates by previous administrations.
- Through bi-partisan cooperation between the Town Board & Highway Superintendent, our 1968 garage is moving forward with a complete renovation. Additionally, a new separate "lean too" building which will house Lake Carmel Sanitation & Highway Trucks is being constructed in the newly enlarged yard space.
- An engineered 400' L x 15' H concrete retaining wall has been constructed in the yard by Kent Highway workers which maximized yard space & saved the town 1.5 million dollars by doing this in-house. Intelligent bonding strategy has enabled this while maintaining a manageable tax base.