

January 22, 2009

Supervisor's blame is misdirected

Supervisor's blame is misdirected

I was disappointed to see Lewisboro Supervisor Ed Brancati blame this year's 6.95 percent tax increase on the unrealistic projections of my previous administration. As a Town Board member at the time, Mr. Brancati voted in favor of the 2008 budget, and he knows the work we did to implement long-term planning for neglected infrastructure repairs and to preserve our fund balance.

As alluded to in your Jan. 13 article, this year's budget process was the most disjointed in recent memory, making it impossible for town officials to react in time to the current economic crisis. While not all of our projections for 2008 turned out as expected, much of any resulting deficit should have been plugged by the six-figure loss in income caused by Mr. Brancati's failure to maximize the interest rates the town was receiving.

The two minor real estate sales which we had projected to close this year are now projected for next year, which actually helped lower this year's tax increase. Ironically, it is the unrealistic projections of the past Democratic administration for the sale of the three existing homes on the Bell property that has left them unsold for over three years, and represents continuing drain the town's finances. Rather than being served by excuses and denials, in the end the severity of the current economic crisis is one that will require hard work and sacrifice on the part of all town officials and employees.

Edward P. Mahoney

Goldens Bridge

The writer was town supervisor in 2006-2007.
