

## Working Together Saves Taxpayers Millions

In June, I stood with many of my peers to announce our intention to study the possibility of forming a health care consortium. Our decision to collaborate on this issue was driven by the burden that health care benefits have had on local municipal budgets. The Town of Pittsford alone faced a rate increase of 42% since 2008. Many communities in Monroe County faced similar challenges and, collectively, we decided to do something about it.

On Monday, November 15th, I joined with 9 other communities, labor leaders and representatives from MVP at the Pittsford Community Library to announce the results of our five months of research on this issue. Together, we officially formed the Finger Lakes Municipal Health Insurance Trust. Buying collaboratively through the trust agreement will allow us to gain leverage, credibility and, most importantly, mitigate the negative financial impact health insurance costs are having on municipal budgets.

The collaborative partnership includes the Towns of Chili, Henrietta, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford and Webster as well as the Villages of East Rochester and Fairport. The trust also includes the Town of Victor in Ontario County and the Rochester Housing Authority. Together, these entities have almost 1261 insured bodies. Over the next three years, the participating members in the trust will have collective premiums of approximately \$37 million. If the communities stood alone and did not form the trust, we would have collective premiums of approximately \$42.1 million. Thus, the trust will result in an approximate \$5.1 million reduction for the communities in the next three years. Pittsford will specifically reduce spending by approximately \$400,000.

This is a great story about communities coming together to act in the best interest of our residents. By utilizing the concept of cooperative purchasing, we have allowed each municipality to take back control of their healthcare premium costs. More importantly, however, is that together we have saved millions of taxpayer dollars and provided our employees with quality, dependable health coverage.

Forming this consortium has been one of the most rewarding and eye opening experiences of my life. Our ten entities have found a true partner in MVP who has worked hard to provide us with the best plans at a much more affordable rate. The end result will save taxpayers in Monroe and Ontario counties millions of dollars while also providing our hard working employees with the best health care available. This is truly a win-win for all those participating in this venture.

If you have any questions about the formation of the trust, I urge you to check out the Town's website at [www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org) or email me directly at [bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org](mailto:bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org).