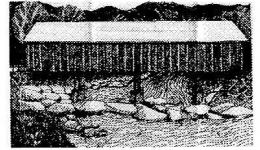


# TOWN OF JAY

Office of the Supervisor  
P.O. Box 730  
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912  
"Home of the Covered Bridge"



Phone: (518) 647-2204  
TDD# 711

Fax (518) 647-5692

February 8, 2012

**Au Sable Forks** – The Town of Jay in conjunction with Essex and Clinton County will be hosting a Public Information Meeting at the Town of Jay Community Center in Au Sable Forks, NY; 11 School Lane on Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm regarding a possible FEMA/SEMO Property Acquisition/Buyout of homes affected by Tropical Storm Irene.

Town of Jay Supervisor/Essex County Board of Supervisors Chairman Randy Douglas lobbied State Emergency Management and FEMA Mitigation Officials to host this meeting at the Town of Jay Community Center.

Douglas said, "I have been working on organizing this event with Essex County Officials (*Essex County Board of Supervisors, Mike Mascarenas, Director of Essex County Community Resources; Dan Palmer, County Manager; Charli Lewis, Real Property Director; and Don Jaquish, Essex County Emergency Services Director*) and Clinton County Officials Eric Day and Rodney Brown and Richard Lord, who is the Chief of Mitigation Programs and Agency Preservation Officer for the NYS Division of Homeland Securities Emergency Services." Douglas continued, "Sue Mutch, the newly appointed Deputy Director of the NYS Emergency Management Office will also be in attendance as well as FEMA Mitigation specialists."

Douglas further stated, "I am most proud of the fact that Essex County and Clinton County are the first out of 28 Counties affected by Tropical Storm Irene in New York State to host such an information meeting. This meeting is monumental for public officials and affected property owners in regards to the acquisition/buyout program."

Supervisor Douglas and neighboring Supervisor Ferebee of Keene; Mike Mascarenas, Director of Essex County Community Resources; Dan Palmer, County Manager; Charli Lewis, Real Property Director; and Don Jaquish, Essex County Emergency Services Director; assembled a team of local officials (Assessors and Code Enforcement Officers) to compile frequently asked questions about the property acquisition/buyout program to be answered at the FEMA/SEMO Public Information Meeting.

Douglas said, "Although the Town of Jay is familiar with the buyout process, having gone through one in 1996; some of the criteria to qualify have changed over the years. For example; for homes to be considered in the acquisition/buyout program, they must have over 50% damage and must have documented multiple flooding incidents."

Douglas said, "So far, Essex County has received over 60 property acquisition/buyout preliminary interest forms from residents affect by Tropical Storm Irene and 45 of those homes are located within the Town of Jay."

Essex County will be the applicant on behalf of the homes that qualify for the program and the County has to have a letter of intent to FEMA/SEMO by 2/29/12. Douglas said the whole process is very complex and time consuming.

Homeowners and Elected Officials from Clinton and Essex County are highly encouraged to attend the upcoming FEMA/SEMO Public Informational Meeting to ask questions and become educated on the acquisition/buyout process.

The February 16<sup>th</sup> FEMA/SEMO Public Information Meeting will begin promptly at 7pm. The first portion of the meeting will be dedicated to educating municipal officials and residents on the buyout process. Following a short break, the next two-parts will be dedicated to question and answer sessions from the general public. If attendees wish to ask questions during the public information meeting, they must write their name and question on a cue card at the beginning of the evening, upon signing in at the registration desk.

Douglas again complimented Essex and Clinton County Officials for being the first in the State to begin the acquisition/buyout process. Douglas said, "We are very concerned about losing tax base from the homes that may qualify for the acquisition/buyout, but we can not morally continue to ask our people to continue to be in harms way."