

“If Cost Control Associates had not done their review, we would never have realized a refund of \$102,056”.



Background

The Town of Hamlin, located in Monroe County, New York, is primarily a rural town with agriculture and tourism leading its economy. The Town is fortunate to have preserved some of its history such as the North Star History Center Building (pictured above) that was originally one of many one-room schoolhouses in the Town.

While its 44.4 square miles make it the second largest Town in Monroe County based on land area, its population of just over 9,000 people is indicative of the rural nature of the Town.

Case Study - Town of Hamlin

Like many other Towns, fiscal times were tight so Town Supervisor Austin F. Warner III was looking out for new ways to reduce Town expenses. The Town paid just over \$22,000 per year to the utility company for street lighting services and was unsure if this amount was correct. He felt that having an expert review these costs could be quite productive.

Challenges

Besides Town-wide lighting, there were four special street lighting districts. The costs for these special districts were billed to those property taxpayers located within the special districts. The physical boundaries for each of these special districts could not be readily determined.

Solutions

When he heard about Cost Control Associates' **Cost Recovery and Reduction™** program for street lighting, the Town Supervisor quickly saw the benefits and signed up for the program. Cost Control Associates then began their review that included:

- ✓ A complete physical survey
- ✓ Comparison of survey results to utility company records
- ✓ Refund computation and negotiation
- ✓ Provision of detailed inventory record

Fees for Cost Control Associates' services were paid out of the refunds and savings they produced.

Results

Cost Control Associates' field personnel first assisted the Town in determining the appropriate street lighting district boundaries. They then created an inventory of street lighting facilities by driving streets in the Town to record data on each street lighting facility.

A comparison of this data to the inventory record used by the utility company for billing revealed discrepancies including lighting facilities assigned to incorrect street lighting districts. A review of historical data also revealed that although the utility company had performed an inventory itself several years earlier and had calculated a refund, the utility company never issued the refund check.

When all the errors were tallied including interest, a refund of \$102,056 was due. Given the Town's annual street lighting budget of \$22,000, this effort had a very meaningful impact on the Town's costs.

**Contact: Mr. Austin Warner, Supervisor
Town of Hamlin
Phone: 585-964-8981
Email: supervisor@hamlinny.org**