

Harrison to accept credit card payment for government services

Town Clerk Joseph Acocella announced at last week's Town Board meeting the introduction of a three-phase program that will give residents the opportunity to purchase government services with their credit cards. The plan, which was a year in the making brought together the Office of the Town Clerk, the Comptroller's office, the IT Department as well as the Receiver of Taxes. Clerk Acocella made the following statement to introduce the program to residents:

"Over the past few months, Town Comptroller Maureen Mackenzie, IT Coordinator Mike Piccini and I have been working to introduce the use of credit cards within our government for the residents of Harrison. In the present day where cash is no longer king, consumers look for fast, simple and secure payment methods. Our residents demand nothing less. The task of finding a credit card company provider was by no means simple. The search for the best company that would provide quality and secure services at low rates was a daunting task. As you are aware, our court implemented the use of credit cards earlier this year as part of a statewide mandate. Their implementation was much easier because the state absorbs any fees associated with the use of the credit cards. Therefore, neither the Town of Harrison, nor the user incurs any additional charges when using a credit card to make a payment. Currently, there is no state assistance for any other department within our government to implement such a plan. Therefore, we set a goal to find a company that could provide us with assistance in implementing the use of credit cards for our various government offices while not costing us anything in the meantime. At the same time, we want to be able to provide a convenience to our residents. After looking into several companies we are confident that Official Payments is the best company to help us implement a three-phase plan within our government. Phase I will begin with residents being able to make purchases in the Town Clerk's office. Once phase I is successful and both the residents and employees are satisfied the Receiver of Taxes Nancy Masi will implement phase II in September which will consist of residents being able to pay their taxes with a credit card. Once phase II is complete, phase III will begin which will include the Recreation Department as well as the other town offices."

Acocella further explained that allowing credit card payments would open the door as early as this summer for increased services online such as purchasing a dog license and commuter parking renewals. Residents may watch the presentation from the June 4 Town Board meeting which will be played at noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily on Channel 75 (Cablevision) or online on demand at www.HarrisonClerk.com.