



# Town, CSEA reach agreement on new health insurance package

*New plan to save taxpayers at least \$250K annually*

**August 6, 2011**

**Office of the Supervisor**

The Town of Clifton Park and the CSEA units representing town employees have agreed to make a change in the health insurance package offered to employees that will save the town at least \$250,000 annually and reduce premiums for all employees. The change is effective September 1, 2011.

“This agreement will maintain the same level of benefits for all town employees and will save the taxpayers a significant amount of money,” Town Supervisor Phil Barrett said. “We worked with CSEA representatives, insurance brokers and experts over the last several months to reach an agreement that benefits all parties involved.”

The agreement will shift the type of plan that is currently offered to employees, reducing the number of companies offered from three to one. All employees will be enrolled in the same high deductible insurance plan, which reduces costs by giving the town stronger buying power.

“Soaring health care costs continue to confront government budgets at all levels. In Clifton Park, health care costs have been the greatest cost driver, increasing from six percent of the overall budget to 11 percent in just seven years,” Barrett said. “As the current economic climate remains challenging for government, we are committed to looking for innovative ways to safeguard the town’s fiscal health.”

The new insurance plan saves money by altering the mix of premiums and insurance deductibles funded by the town. The plan provides a comparable health plan to employees at a lower overall cost to the town and employees.

“As a Town Board we always look for proactive ways to save money and protect taxpayers while offering our employees a competitive benefits package,” Councilman Scott Hughes said. “This agreement achieves both objectives and will ensure that Clifton Park’s finances remain rock solid.”

“Town Supervisor Phil Barrett contacted me and fellow CSEA General Unit President Margy Kasky re-



**Above:** Town Supervisor Phil Barrett, second from right, announces the agreement on Monday, August 1. Barrett is joined by (R-L) Councilman Scott Hughes, CSEA Highway Unit President Stan Rusinovich, employee Tim Harris, CSEA General Unit President Margy Kasky and employee Lori Miller.

questing a reopener of the contract set to expire on Dec. 31, 2014 to discuss health insurance,” CSEA Highway Unit President Stan Rusinovich said.

“This successful labor management initiative was aided by assistance from CSEA’s Health Benefits Department and the addition of a Health Reimbursement Account administered by CSEA’s Strategic Benefit Trust. CSEA is happy to partner with progressive communities who want to achieve cost savings while still maintaining benefit levels for workers,” said CSEA Capital Region President Kathy Garrison. “This is an example of what can be done when both parties work together,” Garrison added.

“By consolidating health insurance options and moving to a high deductible plan in conjunction with a fully funded Health Reimbursement Account, both taxpayers and employees save money,” Kasky said. “CSEA members supported this change overwhelming through a ratification vote held on July 28th.”