BROOKHAVEN, NY - Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner has announced the successful privatization of a service that will keep Town roadways free of obstructions and protect public health, while saving taxpayers over $90,000. The Town Board has awarded a contract to Dave's Tree Service, Inc. for the removal and lawful disposal of deer carcasses.

"Brookhaven Town Animal Shelter personnel requested that deer removal responsibilities be transferred out of their department and be handled by either the Town Highway Department or a private firm," explained Councilwoman Bonner, the Town Board's liaison to the animal shelter. "Animal shelter workers are trained and equipped for working with animals at the shelter in Yaphank, or for responding to calls involving small animals, not large wildlife."

Prior to these duties being delegated to the animal shelter, the removal of dead deer from Town roads was performed by the Brookhaven Highway Department. Throughout Long Island in deer populated areas, Highway Departments traditionally handle removal of deer carcasses from roadways, including the Towns of Riverhead, Southampton, and the County of Suffolk. Highway Departments traditionally have multiple crews working on roads throughout the town, with numerous highway yards in different locations that have the heavy equipment needed to safely lift large animals.

Bonner spearheaded the initiative to seek the best way to perform this service for Town residents in a manner that would both save taxpayer dollars and protect the health of Town employees.

In order to perform this duty, the Brookhaven Highway Department submitted an estimated cost of $400 per deer. The private company submitting the successful bid for this work, Dave's Tree Service, will perform the service for $65 each. With an average of 265 calls per year to remove deer from Town roadways, using the private firm will result in a savings of $94,470.

"This change will reduce workplace injuries, make conditions safer for our employees, and hopefully increase response time for calls from the public to our shelter," said Councilwoman Bonner. "By implementing this privatization will result in a savings to Town taxpayers estimated at over $90,000 per year."

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