



**When asked about the ice arena,
Paul Andreassen had these comments:**

“There’s a ploy on the part of some to discredit whoever does not agree with them. As for the ice arena criticism aimed at my candidacy for supervisor because I abstained from the vote, it’s all they seem to have. If you don’t want questions, only rubber stamping, then what are we doing here?

“A response will only keep it alive and it does not deserve a response. When asked I’ll give my reasons for why the lack of budgeting for these things such as the infrastructure needs and the lack of planning puts the town in fiscal jeopardy. The current supervisor and another sitting councilwoman have had 15-years each on the board to plan for infrastructure and capital improvement projects and it appears that there was no plan in place or little budgeting for the ice arena. You cannot rely on grants.

“As an example of what it takes to really develop a project in the town of Saugerties, Tony Montano spent a year going through the Planning Board to get an approval. No one seemed to care how many thousands it cost him in design and re-design or meeting after meeting to get through the process. The Zoning Board of Appeals, of which good people such as Patti Kelly and Henry Rua are members, grilled the cell tower consultants, requesting a variance with regard to a proposed siting in the Mt. Marion area. Nobody gets through these boards without questions, discussion, debate, revisions and SEQRA compliance. Yet the Town Board, responsible for the Town’s taxpayer

money, is supposed to approve a large reconstruction project, over one million dollars, at one night's meeting and expedite the approval without hearings, without debate, without discussion, without the consultants or the representatives of the project and the town accountant spending one minute in front of the board, in public, providing the details of the project, explaining drawings and specifications, a timeline for construction, weather restrictions, staging, selective demolition, contract language for the responsibility of the contractor and penalties for lack of performance, incentives, oversight (clerk of the works or separate engineering company), special inspections (concrete, steel, materials, fasteners, etc), insurance, bonding, warranties (limited or otherwise), etc?

“If that is how the public wants the town to operate and allows a department head to dictate the terms, without discussion, then you certainly don't want me as your town supervisor.

Incidentally, I requested one thing: a clerk of the works be assigned to this project. Some members of the recreation committee and members of the town board seemed to think it would be an added expense to an already expensive project and should have been brought up earlier. I rest my case. The project is approved, I remain skeptical of the process, and only hope now that the town did not make a mistake in approving this so hastily. Watch for the overruns, added and hidden expenses. I live and pay taxes here too.”

Paul Andreassen