



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY MARKS COMPLETION OF \$3.2 MILLION NEW AMBULANCE BUILDING AND SHELTER IN TOWN OF MIDDLEBURGH

The Nearly 8,000-Square Foot Facility Is Located Outside of Floodplain and Amplifies the Overall Preparedness of the Schoharie County Community

(October 17, 2020) - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery today joined the town of Middleburgh to announce completion of a new \$3.2 million ambulance building and emergency shelter for the community. The new facility, constructed outside the 100-year and 500-year flood plains, is in response to the back-to-back impacts of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. The storms unleashed severe flooding over Schoharie County, making local roads impassable, stranding residents in their homes, and preventing them from reaching the community's original shelter at the Middleburgh Elementary School.

The nearly 8,000 square-foot site, constructed next to an existing Town of Middleburgh Department of Public Works property at 143 Cotton Hill Road, offers enhanced space for EMS operations with an emergency shelter equipped to temporarily house up to 100 people. The facility is equipped with a generator and three propane tanks to ensure a reliable flow of electricity to the building, which will allow a continuity of services during future storms.

The project also created new access roads to reduce vehicle congestion and shorten emergency response times. The project was developed and through GOSR's bottom-up NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program and is being implemented in conjunction with the Town of Middleburgh.

"The town of Middleburgh's response to the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee were impeded by numerous factors, including extreme flooding and insufficient access routes for both ordinary New Yorkers and emergency personnel," **said Alana Agosto, Executive Director of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs at GOSR.** "With the completion of this \$3.2 million facility, we can increase the town's overall preparedness and support the heroic efforts of local EMS when they are called on to help their neighbors in need. We are thrilled to join the town in marking the start of a new chapter for Middleburgh."

"This is a facility that will serve the people of Middleburgh well for the next 50 years," **said Town of Middleburgh Supervisor, Wes Laraway.**

"Schoharie County is enormously proud of our friends in Middleburgh who have worked very hard to make the new ambulance facility and shelter a reality," **Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Schoharie County, Bill Federice.** "The benefit of this accomplishment goes beyond Middleburgh and extends to all our communities in Schoharie County."

“It has been nine years since Irene and Lee ravaged Schoharie County, but for many people, it still feels like yesterday,” **said Sen. James Seward**. “Every new building project is another step forward and proof of our resilience. It is also vital that we build back smarter. The new facility in Middleburgh, constructed above the floodplain, will help our first responders protect the public and has the capability of serving as an emergency shelter – addressing a demonstrated need and assuring the community is well-prepared for future disasters. The efforts of the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, along with countless local officials, to complete this project are truly appreciated.”

“I am happy to see this important project for the Middleburgh and broader Schoharie County community has been completed,” **said Assembly Member Chris Tague**. “I’m certain this ambulance building and shelter will be used to save many lives in the future, and am glad that when people are in dire need this building will be there. I want to thank Middleburgh town supervisors past and present including Jim Buzon, Pete Coppolo and Wes Laraway and the Committee for working with the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery to secure this important funding following Hurricane Irene, and am grateful to all parties involved for making this important project a reality. I also want to give a special thanks to Governor Cuomo for his attentive leadership during and after hurricanes Irene and Lee.”

Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committees across the state, and have together proposed hundreds of projects inspired by the unique needs and assets of their regions. Collectively, NYRCR committees have held 650 planning meetings and 250 large-scale public engagement events as they have worked to rebuild more sustainable communities, reinforce infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and spur revitalization. Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county and non-profit partners to bring locally-devised proposals to fruition.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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