Public Health Director Penny Ingham

Penny distributed the attached information flier about various ticks. Lyme disease is the most prevalent disease for Lewis County residents. She reiterated the best defense is to shower as soon as possible after a tick bite, because they don’t immediately embed into the skin. Tick checks should be done whenever you have been outside. Blood tests are conducted for respective tick species if illness or symptoms occur.

The 2018 and 2019 Public Health budget will be impacted by Pre-School Special Education Programs for 3 and 4 year olds. Their goal is to prepare children for school by providing identified therapy services based on evaluation criteria, either at a certified center or in the home. The Program expenses are financed approximately 50-50 by the State and County.

Pre-K Program costs are reimbursable by Medicaid for eligible children and are billed to optimize reimbursements. The State Medicaid Department recently notified of increased Medicaid rates.

The Pre-K Program provider rate of $59/hr. (for example) has remained static for 10 years. Penny is configuring a provider rate increase, subject to State approval due in part to the increase in Medicaid reimbursement. Total reimbursement cannot exceed the amount of program expenditures that are documented by the annual cost reports submitted to the State. The prediction for 2019 is a $225,000 increase above current appropriations.

Legislator Chartrand asked Penny to review the Lewis County General Hospital emergency room protocols for ticks and treatment.

Penny concluded that Lewis County has one of the lowest tick densities in the State of New York.