

Town of Austerlitz
Regular Town Board Meeting
August 9, 2012

Roll call. Present: Jeffrey Braley, Supervisor, Jon Mesick, Carol Pinto, Bryan Geel, Matthew Verenazi
Town Board Members, Robert Meehan, Highway Superintendent, and Susan Haag, Town Clerk.

Regular Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Moment of Silence, followed by the pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the June 28, 2012 Special Town Board Meeting, July 12, 2012 Regular Town Board Meeting, July 31, 2012 Special Town Board Meeting, and the August 6, 2012 Special Town Board Meeting minutes was made by B. Geel and seconded by C. Pinto.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to approve General Fund #294-334, in the amount of \$14769.03, and Highway Fund #158-174, in the amount of \$221762.68, was made by J. Mesick and seconded M. Verenazi.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried.

Reports

Monthly cash disbursements for the month of July 2012 were presented. Supervisor Braley noted that on a Town level the big item is the Code Enforcement Officer position replacement; the Town is currently waiting for references. Supervisor Braley will speak with the Supervisors from Hillsdale and Canaan and hopefully have the replacement on board next week.

On a County Level, Supervisor Braley noted that the issue is the big fire at the TCI plant. The NYSDEC reported that Austerlitz came up clean for pcbs when testing the air quality. The County will be investigating the use of emergency robo-calling. Several Counties have this in place already in New York State. Final bids for the court house have gone out. No bids have gone out for the District Attorney's requested bathroom. Money is an issue.

Supervisor Braley advised that he has received notification that Tim Stalker's position on the Columbia County Planning Board is set to expire at the end of the year. T. Stalker is currently the Chairman representing the Towns of Austerlitz, Canaan and New Lebanon. There are eight representatives from

throughout the County. Supervisor Braley advised that he will vote to reappoint T. Stalker as the Town of Austerlitz' representative.

Supervisor Braley asked the NYSDOT about paving State Route 203 and noted that he was told that there was an over allocated amount of blacktop. This excess will be used on Route 203. The outside edges will be replaced at some point before the end of the year.

Town Clerk Report for the month of July 2012 submitted.

Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan advised work on the Upper Hollow Bridge has started. This section of the road is closed and detoured through Ralph Meininger's land. The Town will have to do some minor repair work on the road when this project is complete. The Highway Crew has already done some pre-project work. The Highway Crew has done work on culverts on Harvey Mountain Road, Dugway Road on the top and will put oil and stone on Dugway Road next week. Town of Ghent and Canaan will help with the blacktopping project. The Highway Crew has also been grading and putting calcium down. New speed limit signs will be put up.

Planning Board Report for the month of July 2012 submitted. They have not met for 3 months.

Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of July 2012 submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of July 2012 submitted.

Justice Lagonia Justice Court Report for the month of July 2012 submitted.

Justice Hogencamp Court Report for the month of July 2012 submitted.

Dog Control Report for the month of July 2012 submitted.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by C. Pinto and seconded by B. Geel.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Braley advised that the Justice Court books need to be audited and suggested that the Code Enforcement Officer accounts be looked over at the same time. Town Board Member Geel feels that the new appointee should start with a clean slate.

Correspondence

Columbia County Department of Public Works: New Recycling Protocol. Commerce Park recycling center closed.

NYS Department of Ag and Markets: Municipal Shelter Inspection Report; The Town of Austerlitz received a satisfactory rating.

Three letters from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and emergency Services: State Office of Emergency Management listing F.E.M.A. awards. The Town of Austerlitz received a total of \$46522.77 in Federal aid and \$15507.58 in State aid.

Sally Van Wagner: Letters resigning as Highway Clerk and Town Hall Custodian.

Unfinished Business

Code Enforcement Officer Appointment: Supervisor Braley noted that Susan Haag, Town Clerk, is securing references. Hillsdale Supervisor, Art Baer, has spoken to the Columbia County Comptroller, who used to work for the Town of Colonie concerning one of the applicants.

The Town Board discussed the pay scale. The Town Board would like the starting pay to be \$38000.00, with options to increase at the time of reappointment.

Town Board Member Pinto questioned Attorney for the Town, Tal Rappleyea's opinion concerning Glenn Smith working as an interim without pay. Supervisor Braley noted that Attorney Rappleyea advised that many positions in a Town are done without pay, ie; Planning Board Members, Zoning Board of Appeal Members, etc. The only issue is Workman's Comp. G. Smith must be covered. Supervisor Braley will follow-up with Attorney Rappleyea and get an opinion in writing. Supervisor Braley has called the Town's Insurance Company and made them aware of G. Smith's situation and he is covered while on duty for the Town.

New Business

Interim Highway Clerk Appointment: Supervisor Braley advised that Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan has chosen Mary Davis as his Highway Clerk effective August 10, 2012.

A motion to approve Mary Davis as interim Highway Clerk effective August 10, 2012 was made by J. Braley and seconded by J. Mesick.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried.

Town Hall Custodian Appointment: Supervisor Braley advised that the Town has only received one application for custodian. This letter of interest was received late.

A motion to appoint Tammy Page as the Town Hall Custodian keeping the same salary as approved in January of 2012 was made by M. Verenazi and seconded by J. Mesick.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried.

Columbia County Historical Society Loan Agreement: Supervisor Braley noted that the Columbia County Historical Society will continue to house the Town of Austerlitz' Proprietors Book for a yearly rate of \$50.00. The agreement will run from August 1, 2012 thru July 31, 2013.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Jeffrey Braley to sign the Columbia County Historical Society Loan Agreement for the Town of Austerlitz' Proprietor's Book was made by C. Pinto and seconded by Mesick.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried.

Public Comments

Dale Hartka questioned what happened to Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Smith. Supervisor Braley advised D. Hartka that G. Smith retired and went on to explain the shared services agreement with the Towns of Hillsdale and Canaan. Town Board Member Geel explained the interview process and that the Town has narrowed down the choice to two applicants. Town Board Member Verenazi noted that G. Smith is on call should D. Hartka need him for an inspection.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by B. Geel and seconded by C. Pinto.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk