

Town of Austerlitz
Regular Town Board Meeting
June 14, 2012

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

Absent: Robert Meehan, Highway Superintendent

Regular Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence, followed by the pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the May 10, 2012 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes was made by C. Pinto and seconded by M. Verenazi.

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 #203-246 in the amount of \$10861.81, and Highway Fund #117-137 in the amount of \$31331.76, was made by J. Mesick and seconded by B. Geel.

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 May 2012 were presented. Supervisor Braley noted that the amount budgeted in the police line is dwindling due to the Enhanced Patrol cost. A budget amendment will have to be done next month, as well as, one in celebrations.

Town Board Member Geel questioned when the NYS Troopers are going to come and speak to the Town Board. Supervisor Braley advised that he keeps asking. Member Geel would like to see less money being spent on the Enhanced Patrol program. Supervisor Braley advised that there is enough money in reserves to cover the overages caused by the Enhanced Patrol program. Discussion was heard concerning the difference between patrols by the Columbia County Sheriff's Enhanced Patrol Program and the NYS Troopers.

Supervisor Braley continued noting that things are quiet in Town besides the speeding issue on County Rte 7.

On a County Level, Supervisor Braley noted that he voted to dissolve the Columbia County Home Health Nurse Program. This was a controversial vote. The County Board of Supervisors also accepted Long Oil

as the provider for the year and the County will purchase the current Social Services Building on Railroad Ave. in Hudson.

Town Clerk Report for the month of May 2012 submitted.

Tax Collector Report for the month of May 2012 submitted.

Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan absent and Supervisor Braley reported that there has been some tree removal due to the latest storm.

Planning Board Report for the month of May 2012 submitted.

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

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

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

Justice Hogencamp Court Report for the months of April and May 2012 submitted.

Dog Control Report for the month of May 2012 submitted. Of note is that there are two court cases for dog related issues.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by J. Mesick and seconded by M. Verenazi.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried.

Correspondence

Welcome to Summer in Spencertown, Mary Anne Davis thank you note for use of the Spencertown Greene.

NYSORPS notification that the Town of Austerlitz has a tentative equalization rate of 100% for 2012.

Residents of County Rte 7 letter to Town Board concerning the speed limit on County Rte 7. Supervisor Braley advised that this is a procedural letter starting the process of speed reduction. The Town will refer this matter to the County Highway Department, to the Columbia County Traffic Advisory Board and ask our Resident Deputy to sit and ticket speeders.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

New Dog Law: Supervisor Braley advised that he had a discussion with Dog Control Officer, Wes Powell, who pointed out that as our current dog law is written, it is difficult to write tickets for dangerous dogs when there is no leash law. Supervisor Braley asked W. Powell to provide him with dog laws from other municipalities for comparison. The Town Board looked over the current dog law and discussed

changing it to include a leash requirement, but felt they did not want to proceed in that fashion. Supervisor Braley will discuss this with the Attorney for the Town, Tal Rappleyea.

Purchase of new Highway Equipment: Supervisor Braley presented two resolutions to the Town Board concerning purchasing of highway equipment: Resolution 27-2012, Grader Purchase and Resolution 28-2012, Authorization to Purchase Highway Equipment Without Pre-approval. The general consensus of the Town Board was to table these two resolutions as they were not in favor of purchasing old highway equipment, but would rather consider the purchase of slightly used or new equipment. Town Board Member Mesick will provide paperwork on different options the Highway Superintendent can use to locate used highway equipment that is in good shape at a good price. Town Board Member Geel appreciates that Highway Superintendent Meehan is trying to save the Town money.

Supervisor Braley announced that Jimapco is finished with the road map and has supplied the Town with a number of copies. Each of the Fire Companies in the Town will receive a copy. The electronic version will be forthcoming.

Supervisor Braley noted the Special Town Board Meeting convened to discuss a new town hall. Location options discussed were the Fire Hill Inn building which was ruled out, Martin Parker's property next to the current Town Hall, the land with the old highway garage, Mary Ann Lee's property and Joel Dyslin's property, all of which are still options. Adding on to the current Town Hall is also an option. Supervisor Braley would like the Town Board to put all its ducks in a row before getting back to Jack Shear concerning grant opportunities which are given in October of each year. Choices of architects were discussed for a feasibility study. Town Board Member Geel would like to see the Town Hall stay in the Hamlet of Spencertown and does not want to build a new structure, but rather use a current building, maybe even the Spencertown Academy. Cost will be a factor in the overall decision. The general consensus of the Town Board is this is not a project that will be rushed, but rather thought out and considered understanding the current debt of the Town and the budget constraints placed by New York State. The Town Board will move forward with a feasibility study.

Town Board Member Pinto has spoken with Paul McCreary of Morris Associates noting that a complete report on the playground area renovation will be done and forwarded by June 21, 2012. P. McCreary would like to discussed this with the entire Town Board.

A special meeting for the Town Board to discuss this project with Engineer P. McCreary, has been set for June 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by B. Geel and seconded by M. Verenazi.

J. Braley: yes

B. Geel: yes

C. Pinto: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

J. Mesick: yes

Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk