

Workshop/Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
March 17, 2016

Present: Robert Lagonia, Supervisor, Greg Vogler, Matthew Verenazi, Jere Wrightsman, and Nansi Friedman, Town Board Members, Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan, and Susan Haag, Town Clerk.

Workshop

Workshop called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Workshop called to work on Highway Form 284.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that at the last Town Board meeting Highway Superintendent Meehan's budget, available C.H.I.P.s money and road projects to be completed were discussed. R. Lagonia has discussed some of the proposed projects with Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski, especially the East Hill Road bridge replacement project. Engineer Jurkowski believes the Town can put this project off for this year, but there are options to spread this project out over a couple of years. The Engineering of the bridge replacement can be done this year, while the actual work completed next year. Engineering would cost about \$10,000.00. R. Jurkowski's report was discussed. Superintendent Meehan feels that the engineering may cost more. R. Meehan also noted that there is money through the State for culvert replacement, but the project must be completely planned out before any money is given.

Supervisor Lagonia asked for a history lesson on when the Town decided to turn dirt roads into paved roads and why. Highway Superintendent Meehan explained that not all the dirt roads will be paved because the cost is outside what the Town can afford. It is too expensive to pave, not to mention the upkeep. R. Meehan tries to choose the more heavily trafficked roads. Or take a road like Longview Drive. Because of the steeper grade, this road loses more than normal gravel each year, which costs more in the long run. This would be a reason to pave. It is up to the Highway Superintendent to choose which roads are paved and which are not, but R. Meehan tries to get input from the residents as to their wishes. Superintendent Meehan noted that there will be additional traffic on Stonewall Road and Tenbroeck due to the work being done in the Town of Canaan.

Supervisor Lagonia asked if the Town has ever polled the residents concerning dirt versus paved roads. Highway Superintendent Meehan replied no. Town Board Member Vogler noted that after the East Hill Road bridge replacement, there should be a ten-year plan which paving could be part of. R. Meehan listed the roads that are currently paved, noted that he would like to see the rest of School House Road paved, Dugway Road to West Hill Road and maybe someday Reed Road.

When completing the Highway Form 284, Superintendent Meehan looked at the funds he had available and tried to fit projects around this, noting that the maintenance on paved roads is also expensive. The Town Board discussed different projects that needed to be completed, funds available and time frames that work could be completed.

Superintendent Meehan noted that in addition to road work, Reed Road, Macadonia Road, and Tenbroeck need new culverts put in.

Member Vogler is looking to formulate a strategy, put a plan in place so budgeting and financing can be done. Supervisor Lagonia would like to prioritize and get a sense of what needs to be done first.

Highway Superintendent Meehan advised that his top projects are, 1.) East Hill Road bridge replacement where C.H.I.P.s money could be used, but if we split up between two years, and did engineering this year, he would budget \$20000.00 for that this year, 2.) School House Road box culvert, \$25000.00, 3.) Rigor Hill Road chip sealing, \$25000.00, 4.) Punsit, oil and stone, \$15000.00, 5.) Fog Hill culvert, \$30000.00.

R. Meehan also advised that money needs to be available for snow, there needs to be more calcium for a couple of roads, and there needs to be extra material put down on Stonewall Road because of the work being done in the Town of Canaan making this a more heavily traveled road. Supervisor Lagonia would also like to pursue the purchase of a water tanker.

A motion to close the workshop was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Workshop closed at 7:29 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order at 7:29 p.m.

Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the February 18, 2016 Public Hearing/Town Board Meeting minutes was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by N. Friedman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to pay General Fund, #81-107 in the amount of \$5617.06, Highway Fund, #43-58, in the amount of \$10750.45, and Capital Fund #18-21, in the amount of \$11664.00 was made by G. Vogler and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
M. Verenazi: yes
N. Friedman: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement for the Month of February 2016 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia noted balances in each account and what monies are available for work on the new Town Hall and Town Park. The funds available for the Town Park should be enough to finish that project this Spring. R. Lagonia noted that there has been quite a bit of personnel time booked to DA5130.1, machinery. He will look into this and if an adjustment needs to be made, it will be.

The Historian contract has been executed.

Supervisor Lagonia read a report on current Town wide projects from Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski.

A motion was made by G. Vogler and seconded by N. Friedman to authorize Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski, to put together bid specs and go out to bid for a project to complete the work at the Town Park.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
M. Verenazi: yes
N. Friedman: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

Supervisor Lagonia and Member Vogler met with Rich Nesbitt, Johnnie Walker Insurance, and went through all the Town owned buildings to determine coverage for this year. There were some minor changes in coverage.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that due to heavy rains leaves have plugged up culverts and these needed to be cleaned out. There was a new culvert put in on Rhoen Road. R. Meehan notified the Town Board of a minor accident during this culvert repair which has been turned into the insurance company. Additional washouts were fixed. R. Meehan asked the Town Board to consider purchasing a leaf picker at some point down the road. The highway crew is doing some minor grading, and almost finished with all the roads. Working on filling pot holes as well.

Town Clerk Report for the month of February 2016 submitted.

Tax Collector Report for the month of February 2016 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of February 2016 submitted.

Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of February submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of February 2016 submitted. Code Enforcement Officer Lee Heim has started his new hours.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of February 2016 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of February 2016 submitted.

Dog Report for the month of February 2016 submitted.

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

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Correspondence

NYSDEC: Possible land acquisition classified as Reforestation Area. Open Space Plan, Priority Project #40-Taconic Ridge-Harlem Valley and/or # 135, Statewide Small Projects. A State representative will come out and speak to us about how this works.

NYSDOT: Placement of Centerline Rumble Strips State Route 22.

Supervisor Lagonia was informed by the NYSDOT that there will be some ditching work done in the Hamlet of Spencertown this summer.

Town Board Member Friedman questioned the safety cones at the intersection of State Route 203 and Stever Hill Road. Superintendent Meehan advised that the cones are up because the road washed out and it is a State issue to deal with.

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall: Contractor Bob Dalaio is currently working taking down the ceiling. Architect Joe Iuviene has inspected the foundation and advised it is not worth saving due to moisture. The moisture would cause future issues and a musty smell. In addition, there is an issue with getting the height in the basement wanted. The foundation can be saved and fixed, but if the Town wants the project done in the best possible way, the building should be jacked up, drainage put in, and the foundation replaced. This will also enable the Town to achieve the height in the basement. J. Iuviene will put a plan together. Supervisor Lagonia noted that J. Iuviene is fantastic to work with and is on the Town's side, working hard to save as much money on this project as possible.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that the trees have been taken down, the ceiling is currently coming down, and the chimneys are due to be taken down next week. The Town Board discussed the overall project, the different stages of work to be completed, and the finished work.

Town Park: Discussed.

Highway Form 284: This will be completed with changes and approved next month.

New Business

2016 AUD Report: This will be discussed next month.

Town Justice Court: Supervisor Lagonia and Town Board Member Vogler met with the Town's two justices, District Court Representative and Town of Valatie Justice Dave Delahunt, and State OCA Representative Susan Bowman. Town Justices Sharon Grubin and David Cassuto are concerned how their budget is hindering them from paying their current clerk and hiring a new one. The hours currently being put in by the court clerk were discussed as well as hiring a deputy clerk to help out. Supervisor Lagonia and Member Vogler asked for a written proposal of how the court was going to function, money spent, etc. to be submitted to the Town Board for consideration in increasing the budget figures for the court.

Employee Handbook: Supervisor Lagonia thanked Town Board Member Jerre Wrightsman and Clerk Mary David for their hard work putting this handbook together. The Town Board discussed sections. Additions included no smoking in town vehicles, and sexual orientation and gender identity. There was a typo to be corrected and clarification in the hand gun section. The Town Board will submit this to Attorney for the Town Joe Catalano for review. In addition, a question was asked if this should be for all employees, or just the highway crew.

Town Board Member Wrightsman would like to have a training class explaining the sections of this handbook once it is approved. The consensus of the Town Board was to do this.

Enhanced Patrol Contract:

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the 2016 Agreement for Enhanced Police Protection for the Town of Austerlitz was made by N. Friedman and seconded by M Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Enhanced Patrol will start in April.

Norton Road Easement:

Highway Superintendent Meehan explained that the Town of Austerlitz plows the Town of Canaan's end of Norton Road through an agreement. The Town of Canaan's portion has been purchased and through the transition, the Town of Austerlitz will no longer be plowing this area.

The Town of Canaan is abandoning their section of Norton Road leaving the Town of Austerlitz without a turnaround for snowplows on the Town of Austerlitz' end of Norton Road. A property owner on Norton is willing to give the Town of Austerlitz an easement for this purpose. The following stipulations were generally agreed upon by the Town Board in order to move forward:

- All costs associated with this project are to be reimbursed by the property owner, ie: attorney fees, engineering fees, recording fees, etc.
- Proposed turnaround is to be flagged first
- Turnaround is to be fully constructed by property owner and inspected/approved by the Engineer for the Town of Austerlitz prior to acceptance
- A stamped survey certified to the Town must be received.

The general consensus of the Town Board was to authorize Attorney Catalano and Engineer Jurkowski to move forward with this project.

Justice Court Audit:

Town Accountant, Nelson Furlano, will audit the Court books. All other officers of the Town have been audited.

The Spencertown Academy:

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town Board needs to keep an eye on the physical building at the Spencertown Academy. R. Lagonia has a meeting with Academy Director Nick VanAlstyne next week and will be looking to understand how the Academy is going to maintain the buildings since they are struggling financially. There is a concern how to manage this issue if the Town were to suddenly have this building back within its umbrella. Superintendent Meehan noted that the walkways need repairs as well. Member Wrightsman noted the lighting issues.

Public Comments

Ellen Melnick questioned the Town Board on the condition of Crossroads. Highway Superintendent Meehan advised that this is a seasonal road. He is aware that there is an issue and once the road hardens up for the summer, he will fix it.

Ellen Melnick questioned whether other towns have a moment of silence and if it has always been done. Supervisor Lagonia noted yes it has always been done and is done in the County as well.

Charles Vander Weit questioned the forest reclamation notification. Supervisor Lagonia advised that he will understand this better once he meets with the State representative. C. Vander Weit noted there is a parcel on Punsit Road that is for sale and maybe could be included.

C. Vander Weit asked if the Town Board was satisfied with the company who took down the trees at the new Town Hall. Supervisor Lagonia stated yes.

Howard Reznikoff noted that the Chatham School District approved the Veteran's exemption. He questioned how veterans could find out about this opportunity for an exemption. Supervisor Lagonia advised that an article can be written for the Town's newsletter and can be put on the

Town's website. C. Vander Weit noted there was is a resident on State Route 22 who was just awarded the silver star.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for personnel issues was made by N. Friedman and seconded M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session entered at 8:20 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by N. Friedman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session exited at 8:46 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by N. Friedman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk