

Town of Austerlitz  
Town Board Meeting  
August 17, 2017

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

Town Board Member Matthew Verenazi absent due to vacation.

Regular Town Board meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

A motion to accept the July 13, 2017 regular Town Board Meeting minutes was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: absent

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

**Auditing of Accounts and Claims**

A motion to pay General Fund, #217-254, in the amount of \$38027.89 , Highway Fund, #106-130, in the amount of \$117521.97, and the Capital Fund #16-24, in the amount of \$67995.33 was made by N. Friedman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: absent

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

**Reports**

**Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report**

Monthly Cash Disbursement for the Month of July 2017 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia advised there is roughly \$2.8 million total in accounts. Sales tax is up \$8000.00 from last year at this point. Whereas building permits are down about \$10000.00 and fines and forfeitures are down \$28000.00. Generally, expenditures are in line.

**Supervisor Report**

Supervisor Lagonia noted that he and Town Board Member Vogler met and started to work through the 2018 budget. Member Vogler does a great job beginning this process, sorting and organizing information. Over the last few years, the Town of Austerlitz has been the first to submit their completed budget to the County. Health insurance is up 14% and the Town is

looking for other options. The 2018 Tentative Budget will most likely be present at the September Town Board meeting.

The Bicentennial Committee has been meeting and is moving forward. The Town's logo really needs to be updated. Town resident, Jack Shear, is paying Richard Kraham to design a few logo choices for review and approval.

The Spencertown Academy is moving forward with the roof replacement.

Supervisor Lagonia would like to have a workshop before the September Town Board meeting to discuss bonding for a new salt shed and maybe new highway equipment. R. Lagonia asked Highway Superintendent Meehan to let the Town Board know what are priorities as far as new highway equipment that needs to be purchased.

#### Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that his crew has been busy with the new Town Hall: old concrete cleaned up and hauled out. Stone and gravel to be place under the building tomorrow. The pieces are falling into place. The Dugway Road repair and upgrade project is almost complete, concrete put down, motopaving done today and chip seal will be done in the Fall. Morris Associates and R. Meehan have spoken concerning the curbing around the new Town Hall because NYSDOT was questioning the direction the Town was going with the curbing. This curb cutting will have to wait until Spring. Some grading on roads has been done and the remaining part of Dugway Road needs to be fixed as well.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that Highway Superintendent Meehan and his crew did a great job next door and Dugway Road residents should be happy with the new section of their road. After the bridge replacement on East Hill Road next year, the Town can see about tackling the last part of Dugway Road.

Town Clerk Report for the month of July 2017 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of July 2017 submitted.

Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of July 2017 submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of July 2017 submitted. Building Inspector Glenn Smith is working on a fee increase which will be submitted to the Town Board for approval.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of July 2017 submitted.

Justice Cassuto Court Report for the month of July 2017 submitted.

Dog Report for the months of June and July 2017 submitted.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by N. Friedman and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes  
G. Vogler: yes  
M. Verenazi: absent  
N. Friedman: yes  
J. Wrightsman: yes  
Motion carried 4:1.

### **Correspondence**

Chatham Rural Cemetery Association: Writes to ask for monetary assistance for the Chatham Rural Cemetery. Supervisor Lagonia has not asked other local supervisors about this. The Town does not know how much our residents actually use this cemetery. Member Vogler noted that donations for cemeteries in our Town should happen as well. Supervisor Lagonia will get more information on this.

NYMIR: Performed an underwriting survey of the Town of Austerlitz and there are no recommendations at this time.

NYS Department of Ag and Markets: Municipal Shelter Inspection Report, Town of Austerlitz rated satisfactory.

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, NYSORPS: Town of Austerlitz Final State Equalization Rate for 2017 is 100%,

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Codification Update**

General Code has dropped the price of updating the Town of Austerlitz' code to \$1950.00. Town Board Member Vogler believes this is something the Town really needs to take care of. Supervisor Lagonia agrees.

A motion to authorize General Code to update the Town's Code for a price not to exceed \$1950.00 was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes  
G. Vogler: yes  
M. Verenazi: absent  
N. Friedman: yes  
J. Wrightsman: yes  
Motion carried 4:1.

#### **Town Park Camera System Bid**

The Town received a quote from CIA Security for a camera system in the Town Park. This proposal is to provide and install a video surveillance system which includes design, equipment, installation, programming, final testing and client training for \$2581.51.

Supervisor Lagonia has spoken with a couple families in Town concerning the vandalism that was happening at the Town Park. Since then, the problem seems to have stopped. Since money is tight, Supervisor Lagonia would like to hold off for a while on this. A suggestion was to use trail cams, which come at a cost of around \$50.00. Member Vogler is still concerned and would

like to see something put in place and of course signage. Member Friedman would like to have something with reality to it. Supervisor Lagonia noted a sign can be placed and a trail cam should be ordered.

A motion to order a trail cam to put up at the Town Park and to place signage as well was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by N. Friedman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: absent

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

### **Phone System Bid-New Town Hall**

The Town received a bid from S & F Technologies for phone services for the new town hall. Bids as follows:

Option 1: Voice and Data Cabling \$9488.00

Option 2: Relocation of existing NEC DSX phone system and 3 additional 22 button speaker stations (refurbished) \$2250.00

Option 3: Intercom System \$2711.61

Option 4: Digital Surveillance System \$3794.00

Option 5: Intrusion Alarm System \$3313.73

Basic Monitoring \$239.40

Option 6: Fire Alarm System \$13220.58

Standard Monitoring with Daily Test \$359.40

Supervisor Lagonia believes it would be irresponsible to not have some type of surveillance measures in place; at least on the outside doors for protection since you can't see who is coming in the building from the offices. The Town may want to think about buzzing people into the building. A camera should be mounted so workers could see who is coming in. Town Board Member Friedman agrees. Smoke detectors will be throughout the building. The Town Board discussed security system options and how to manage this with allow public use of the building during off hours. Town Board Member Vogler would like to get pricing on a card access system. Town Board Member Friedman noted there should be a deposit and fee for use of the building. Supervisor Lagonia noted that this would include extra cleaning, and certain areas would be locked off to the public. Managing public use is somewhat problematic.

Superintendent Meehan questioned slipping the park surveillance in this package. Supervisor Lagonia noted it was a possibility.

This bid was tabled.

### **IT Installation Bid-New Town Hall**

The Town received a bid from Business Automation Services Inc. for IT Installation at the new town hall for \$3180.00.

This bid was tabled.

Supervisor Lagonia asked the Town Board to look over the bids. R. Lagonia will ask these contractors to come to a Town Board meeting and all of this can be discussed and coordinated.

### **Masonry Bid-New Town Hall**

Architectural Bureau, Joseph Iuviene received the following bids for masonry work for the new Town Hall:

Creative Country Landscapes, Inc.  
204 Gilligan Road, Hudson, NY 12534  
\$54000.00

Dan Rundell  
91 Angell Hill Road, Chatham, NY 12037  
\$65000.00

Gregg Concrete and Masonry, Inc.  
1502 County Route 28, Valatie, NY 12184  
\$70000.00

A motion was made by G. Vogler and seconded by N. Friedman that since the Town has received three bids for the brick/masonry portion of the Town Hall project and since a portion of that work may have to be scheduled before the next Town Board meeting, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract for that portion of the work with the lowest responsible bidder as determined by the Project Architect after his review of the bids and determination of the lowest responsible bidder.

R. Lagonia: yes  
G. Vogler: yes  
M. Verenazi: absent  
N. Friedman: yes  
J. Wrightsman: yes  
Motion carried 4:1.

### **Climate Smart Community**

Resolution #39-2017, Climate Smart Pledge

Town Board Members Vogler and Wrightsman have been working through the details of how to make the Town of Austerlitz a Climate Smart Community. One of the first steps in accomplishing this is to adopt the Climate Smart Pledge, which has been modified to fit the needs of the Town of Austerlitz. This pledge is a symbolic gesture to move the Town towards planning future steps of climate control.

A motion to adopt Resolution #39-2017, Climate Smart Pledge was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by N. Friedman.

R. Lagonia: yes  
G. Vogler: yes  
M. Verenazi: absent

N. Friedman: yes  
J. Wrightsman: yes  
Motion carried 4:1.

WHEREAS, the Town of Austerlitz, NY (hereinafter "local government") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our town and country's infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town of Austerlitz, NY, as part of implementing its Climate Smart Communities Pledge, will develop a Town Board-approved plan, with an associated board approved budget, for climate action. Furthermore, the Town of Austerlitz, NY, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge, a symbolic gesture of our commitment to reducing greenhouse emissions and which comprises the following elements:

- Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community.
- Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action.
- Decrease community energy use.
- Increase community use of renewable energy.
- Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools.
- Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.
- Support development of a green innovation economy.
- Inform and inspire the public.
- Commit to an evolving process of climate action.

A motion was made by N. Friedman and G. Vogler to appoint G. Vogler and J. Wrightsman to function as lead coordinators for the Town of Austerlitz Climate Smart Community certifications.

R. Lagonia: yes  
 G. Vogler: yes  
 M. Verenazi: absent  
 N. Friedman: yes  
 J. Wrightsman: yes  
 Motion carried 4:1.

**Broadband**

Town Board Member J. Wrightsman advised that he has received some phone calls concerning how property may decline in value for areas without broadband. There are many who work from home.

Fiber has been installed along the main roads, but not the dirt roads to date. The State has advised that this project is set to be completed by 2018.

**New Business**

**NYS Retirement Reporting**

This resolution is to complete the remaining audit requirements.

Resolution # 38-2017, Standard Work Day and Reporting

A motion to adopt Resolution # 38-2017, Standard Work Day and Reporting was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes  
 G. Vogler: yes  
 M. Verenazi: absent  
 N. Friedman: yes  
 J. Wrightsman: yes  
 Motion carried 4:1.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Austerlitz, location code #30889, hereby establishes the following as standard work days
for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and local Employees'
Retirement System based on the time keeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by
these officials to the clerk of this body:

Title	Name	Social	Registration	Standard	Term	Participates	Days/Months
		Security	Number	Work	Begins/	In	(based on
		Number		Day	Ends	Employer's	Record of
		(Last 4		(Hrs/Days)		Time	Activities)
		Digits)				Keeping	
						System	
						(Y/N)	

Elected  
 Officials

Town Justice	Sharon Grubin	XXXX	60547064	6 hrs	1/1/14-12/31/17	N	7.07
<b>Appointed Officials</b>							
Town Assessor	Pamela Cook	XXXX	40804007	6 hrs	10/1/13-9/30/19	N	9.03
Dog Control Officer	Wes Powell	XXXX	36896223	6 hrs	1/1/17-12/31/17	N	1.11
Deputy Court Clerk	Dineen Panadis	XXXX	61817862	6 hrs	3/1/2017	N	4.92

\*\*\*Social Security numbers deliberately left blank.

### **Increase of Limits for Alternative Veterans' Exemption**

Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency Director, Suzette Booy, advised that Columbia County adopted a local law on March 8, 2017 increasing the exemption amounts for the veterans that have an alternative Veteran Exemption on the assessment roll. Director Booy asks if the Town of Austerlitz would consider the following increases:

Wartime \$36000.00

Wartime and Combat Zone \$36000.00 + \$16000.00 = \$40000.00

Disabled Veteran Up to \$120000.00 (depending on disability rating)

Supervisor Lagonia would like to pursue this. Town Board consensus is to go forward.

### **Salt Shed**

Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski, provided the Town Board with some options for a new salt shed noting the associated costs. Highway Superintendent Meehan feels the building options provided are too small. R. Meehan would like to look at the salt sheds in the Towns of Copake and Stuyvesant. Town Board Member Vogler felt that the options provided by Engineer Jurkowski seemed incomplete. Supervisor Lagonia will ask Architect J. Iuviene to provide some options.

### **Public Comments**

Charles Vander Weit is astonished that all the survey work done when he was on the Town Board concerning safety issues for the Justice Court have not been taken into account during the planning stage for the new Town Hall. C. Vander Weit hopes that the Town Board will create a safe environment for the Justice Court. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town Board will absolutely provide a secure working environment for the Justice Court.

### **Executive Session**

A motion to enter into Executive Session for a Highway personnel issue was made by N. Friedman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: no

N. Friedman: yes



J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Executive Session entered at 7:59 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: no

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Executive Session ended at 8:09 p.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: no

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk