

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
November 16, 2017

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

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 October 19, 2017 Public Hearings and regular 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, #314-344, in the amount of \$29238.19, Highway Fund, #165-179, in the amount of \$26769.13, and the Capital Fund #48-56, in the amount of \$33981.23 was made by M. Verenazi and seconded by G. Vogler.

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 October 2017 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the total in accounts is \$2.7 million. Sales tax numbers are up substantially due to revenue from Love's Truck Stop. How the County will distribute this across the towns is still up in the air. Town Board Member Greg Vogler notes that fines and forfeitures are coming up. By the end of the year the amount budgeted might not be met, but since the sales tax figure is up it will offset this. Supervisor Lagonia noted that Highway Clerk, Mary Davis, is looking to see what is yet available in the Highway budget so the money can be utilized by the end of the year.

Supervisor Lagonia spoke with Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, who will be here for the December meeting. Attorney Catalano will discuss merging land parcels under Planning Board jurisdiction and changing Code Enforcement fees to be in line with other towns in the County.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that he sent a letter of intent to Town of Canaan concerning the purchase of one of their highway trucks.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan advised he has been working on securing equipment purchase prices and salt shed prices. Superintendent Meehan asked the Town Board Members to take a trip to the Town of Stuyvesant and look at their salt shed. The last of the blacktopping for this year is finished, item 4 has been put down in the Austerlitz Town Park. All that is needed to be done is to put down some hay and cleaning up. R. Meehan will put up signs for the Columbia Land Conservancy that point to their recent land purchase on Bloody Hollow Road. People are getting confused as to how to find it since Bloody Hollow Road has 2 entrances and is closed in the middle. The Columbia Land Conservancy is paying for the signs. The Highway Crew has been cleaning up downed trees, filling in potholes. A downed tree on Stonewall Road was discussed.

Member Vogler questioned whether or not the 2 culverts, one on Tenbroeck Road and the other on Schoolhouse Road have been put in. Highway Superintendent Meehan advised that he is still waiting on Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski. These 2 projects were on the Highway Form 284 and may need to be carried over to next year. Putting down oil and stone on Prathill Road will also need to be carried over.

Supervisor Lagonia asked if the speed sign on Angel Hill Road was put up yet. R. Meehan noted he will get it done.

Supervisor Lagonia did some research and reached out to a company in Pennsylvania who manufacture salt sheds. Engineer Jurkowski, Attorney Catalano and Architect Iuviene have all given the Town projected cost figures for a new salt shed, all of which are different. In review, \$350000.00 seems to be a cost which is much more in line. This figure does not include some of the additional work that will accompany this project. Supervisor Lagonia is trying to get a handle on the total cost of this project for bonding purposes.

Town Clerk Report for the month of October 2017 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of October 2017 submitted.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report submitted. Chairman Tim Stalker is in attendance reporting that the Committee is working on subdivision regulation updates; boundary line adjustments is being added. Supervisor Lagonia advised that Attorney Catalano can look at this as well since he is coming to the December Town Board Meeting. Chair Stalker and Member Vogler will tweak what is necessary and get the proposed changes to Attorney Catalano. T. Stalker advises that these changes also need to go to the Columbia County Planning Board for review.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of October 2017 submitted.

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

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

Dog Report for the month of October 2017 submitted.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Correspondence

Columbia Land Conservancy: Columbia County Natural Resources Inventory. The Land Conservancy is seeking input from each municipality in the County with the goal of creating the Columbia County Natural Resources Inventory. Town Board Member Nansi Friedman will represent the Town of Austerlitz.

Columbia County Office for the Aging: Invited Supervisor Lagonia to a breakfast to get input as to the needs of local Towns and to share resource information available. Supervisor Lagonia can not attend and asked if anyone would like to go in his place. No one available.

Unfinished Business

Architect Summary

Architect Iuviene came before the Town Board to explain his estimated projected cost figures for the new Town Hall Project. Some of the figures are contracted amounts and some are not and some of the figures are estimates since RFPs have not yet gone out. Engineer Jurkowski has not yet confirmed his numbers so the ones used may change. The plan moving forward is to update this summary each month. Some of the items that need to be purchased may need to be bought outright and installed by the Town; for example, a server which is not included.

Individual numbers were discussed comparing them to the outlined budget. Currently the project may be slightly over budget. Town Board Member Verenazi noted that he believes it would be okay to have the Town put some money into this project. The Town Board as a whole agreed.

Supervisor Lagonia said he would like to see where the 2017 budget shakes out. R. Lagonia is not concerned with the perceived overage. The rest of the RFPs will be going out soon.

The Town Board discussed the different project stages with Architect Iuviene and it was noted that there is no landscape plan.

Town Board Member Vogler questioned how the new Town Hall would fit into the Climate Smart Community model. J. Iuviene gave a quick summary of energy savings; lighting,

insulation, furnace, etc. Architect Iuviene will write up a paragraph how this project fits the climate smart philosophy.

2018 Health Insurance

Steve and Betsy Acciani, Insurance Brokers for the Town of Austerlitz, came before the Town Board to discuss options for health and dental coverage for the 2018 year. There are 3 carriers to choose from. The insurance business as a whole is not in a good place currently. The Town's renewal is as of January 1st of each year. If changes will be made with carriers, applications need to be in by the first week in December for a smooth transition. S. Acciani discussed the 3 carriers and plans. If the Town chooses CDPHP, it will cost the Town less than the shared service agreement with the County.

Chris Schoeber, Town Board Member Elect, asked about health savings accounts. The Town of Austerlitz currently does not offer these.

Salt Shed/Equipment Purchase

Discussed.

Bicentennial Update

Town Board Member Jere Wrightsman updated the Town Board on current plans for the Town's Bicentennial celebration. There will be a parade of old farm equipment and floats, dedication of the new Town Hall, and letters from other town throughout the world named 'Austerlitz.' The Tower Club has pledged \$1500.00 to pay for the Ghent Band and food. It was noted that a permit will need to be secured for the parade from NYSDOT and insurance needs to be looked into. The committee would like to put up banners in Austerlitz and Spencertown announcing the celebration. The Austerlitz Historical Society, Spencertown Academy, St. Peter's Presbyterian Church and the Edna St. Vincent Millay Society will also be participating with their own events. Town Historian, Tom Moreland's, book about historic houses will be published with corresponding house tours and an old car show in Austerlitz. The Town will be getting a new logo. Brochures will be printed. There are a couple of other Towns in the area celebrating their Bicentennial as well.

Climate Smart Communities

A reminder was given by Member Vogler that there needs to be a resolution added for the Organizational meeting designating a set day and time for the Climate Smart Communities Committee. There will now be 3 Town Board Members on this committee beginning in January so meetings will need to be noticed and minutes taken.

Robin Reynolds will be at the next meeting on December 21, 2017 beginning at 7:00 pm. The committee is always looking for others who want to be involved.

New Business

Longview Drive

The residents of Cambridge Meadows, the subdivision on Longview Drive came before the Town Board to discuss the road condition of Longview Drive. Supervisor Lagonia received a letter from Attorney Mitchell Khosrova, also in attendance, outlining some of the concerns and

asking the Town Board to authorize the black topping of Longview Drive and to make this a priority.

Attorney Khosrova, representing residents from Longview Drive addressed the Town Board explaining he has spoken with both Supervisor Lagonia and Highway Superintendent Meehan. M. Khosrova believes it is cheaper to maintain a blacktopped road than a dirt road over time, and realizes that all Town roads can not be blacktopped at once, but would like top priority consideration for Longview Drive. When the subdivision was put in originally, the Town road specs were different and now 15 years later, 6 of the 8 residents of this road would like the road paved. Most of the concern is centered on the hill. Part of Longview Drive is in the Town of Chatham.

The following is an email submitted from William Hogencamp read by Attorney Khosrova: "My wife Emilia and I have lived on Longview Drive since 2000. The road is constantly washed out and when repaired by grading and gravel, rapidly "washboards" and then washes out again.

I have spoken to the Highway Superintendent on many occasions, but he is unable to correct the problems. We believe that paving the road is the most appropriate solution and support your efforts and those of our neighbors to convince the Town Board of the value of this upgrade."

Martin Silver, 70 Longview Drive: Commutes each morning and finds Longview Drive dangerous in the Winter and slippery in the wet season.

Lloyd Constantine, 91 Longview Drive: Has lived on Longview Drive for 30 years and the road has always been a problem. In recent years the quality of service has degraded. Crushed rocks are put down 3-4 times a year, but the quality of the rock has degraded because there are larger sharper rocks. These have caused at least 20 tire blowouts on his bikes.

Ira Mehlman 33 Longview Drive: The road washes out regularly and it is difficult in snow and ice because of ruts.

Highway Superintendent Meehan noted that sections are worse this year because of a situation that R. Meehan has discussed with owner of 33 Longview Drive, Lynn Rubin.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town Board is aware of the issues on Longview Drive and are working on them. The 2018 budget is complete, but the Town Board will look into projected projects for next year and work with Superintendent Meehan to see what can be done. No promises are being made. Maintenance is getting done on Longview Drive. Road projects are always a budgetary issue. R. Lagonia thanks the residents on Longview Drive for coming in to the Town Board meeting and making their concerns known. The Town Board appreciates it. Attorney Khosrova will circle back to Supervisor Lagonia.

Lot Merger Planning Board Review

Will be discussed at the December Town Board meeting.

Highway Truck Purchase

The Town of Canaan is offering a 2003 International Dump Truck with plow, wing and sander, 81,000 miles, for \$16500.00.

A motion to purchase a 2003 International Dump Truck with plow, wing and sander, 81,000 miles, for \$16500.00 from the Town of Canaan was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by N. Friedman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Columbia Greene Humane Society Contract

The Columbia Greene Human Society has submitted their annual contract for dog housing and sheltering services as outlined in Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law of NYS for 2018. There have been no changes from the 2017 contract. Joe reviewed

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to execute a contract with the Columbia Greene Human Society for the year 2018 for dog housing and shelter services 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.

Columbia County Youth Bureau Contract

Jessica Nabozny, Executive Director of the Columbia County Youth Bureau, has submitted their annual contract for the year 2018 for consideration. There have been no changes from the 2017 contract. Attorney Catalano has reviewed the contract.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to execute a contract with the Columbia County Youth Bureau 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.

Yearly Appointments: Vacancies

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town has the following vacancies to fill:

1 Planning Board Member

2 Zoning Board of Appeals Members

2 Board of Assessment Review Members

Members of the Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee are always appointed annually as well.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Verenazi 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 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk