

Town of Austerlitz
Workshop/Town Board Meeting
May 21, 2015

Present: Robert Lagonia, Supervisor, Matthew Verenazi, Greg Vogler, Town Board Members, Robert Meehan, Highway Superintendent, and Constance Mondel, Minute Taker

Susan Haag, Town Clerk is away at the IIMC Conference.

Bryan Geel absent.

A motion to open the Town Board Workshop was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Workshop opened at 6:09 p.m.

Workshop called to discuss road conditions and funding options.

Austerlitz Road Conditions: Highway Superintendent, Robert Meehan, in answer to a listing of questions prepared by Town Board member Greg Vogler, identified roads that would require major attention in the next five years. The Town Board wishes to be prepared for expenditures, have knowledge of type of road repair, whether it would require inside work by highway employees or outside bids. Individual problems were cited on specific roads . Among roads mentioned were those most travelled , though several not well travelled are in very poor condition either through less than good construction initially or the presence of tree roots, poor drainage, etc.

Among roads mentioned with specific problems in sections were Dugway, Reed, Ten Broeck, Middle Road , Fog Hill, Rigor Hill, Mallory, Schoolhouse, Angell Hill, East Hill. Angell Hill and Reed require the most attention.

In some cases, soft spots need to be dug out, shaling required, hills down graded ,paving, gravel additions , drainage or full decking.

Guesstimates of costs range, depending on length of road needing repair, type of repair, from \$50 thousand to \$150 thousand or up to a million for paved roads.

The discussion on funds mentioned that some repairs can be made under existing budget. Discussion followed on possible use of CHIPs money whether for road repair, for bridges, Harvey Mt. Rd. bridge guard rails.

Brief reference to road care at present time addressed use of calcium chloride to keep down the dust. Lack of rain diminishes the usefulness of that operation. The value of having a tanker which could keep the roads wet was noted. Superintendent Meehan was asked to explore the availability and cost of that type machine. Since some of the repair work on roads, like adding gravel is becoming less effective due to fast traffic on some local roads; raised was the possibility of addressing this issue on the website, to help raise awareness of what is being done and care needed.

Decision made following the discussion was to have Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan bring actual figures to the next meeting for addressing the needs on both Angell Hill and Reed Rds.

A motion to close the Town Board Workshop was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Workshop closed at 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Moment of Silence followed by ledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the April 16, 2015 Workshop/Regular Town Board Meeting minutes was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to pay General Fund, #118-144, 146-150, in the amount of \$25022.38, and Highway Fund, #67-85, in the amount of \$17663.45, was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Supervisor Lagonia advised the following:

Supervisor's Report

A separate corporation, CEDC exists in the County whose activities have caused some supervisors to question the operation. Various members of the corporation may not have recused themselves when considering some business arrangements to which they have a connection. An ABO report from Albany has raised a red flag as well. This corporation has ability and does allocate county funds, some of which comes from county tax payers. Town Board member, Greg Vogler, requested and received permission to see this report. Some of the supervisors, as members of the Economic Development Committee, wish to hire an outside attorney to investigate if there has been any untoward collusion. This matter, of lack of oversight, has been reported in the Register Star.

Town Records

No awaited additional town records have been received from Sally Light. Town Supervisor is to meet with AHS representative on June 17th about storing Town records at the Austerlitz Historical Society site.

East Hill Bridge

Bridge was examined by engineer Ray Jurkowski who reported some undermining present. Temporarily, with an annual inspection conducted each of the next three years, with a sign immediately indicating 15 ton is the limit, bridge can be used. Future replacement of bridge is needed since it is not wide enough.

Route 203 Repair

Town Supervisor Lagonia and Highway Superintendent Meehan accompanied the chief engineer of the Rte 203 repair. It was noted that it would take 4 million dollars to do a necessary and complete job whereas only 2 million has been allocated. More of the highway funds are used in Westchester County to which we are attached in this state highway configuration. The engineer remarked he had no idea of the poor condition and extent of repair needed.

There is no money to address drainage problems in this town. In addition there will be further drainage issues since the road is to be raised 2 to 3 inches. Gutters may be added but will not solve the problems. A 4 foot wide pipe is needed across 203.

Cold in place, an in place plan to be used is less than satisfactory from a highway professional's knowledge and experience. Ground material from the road in place will be used mixed with oil, and used as cold cover of the road, subject to rutting from traffic. A hot oil pavement of 1 ½ inch will be placed over the first cover, a week later, which engenders little confidence for long term viability of good road conditions on this state route.

There is speculation that bids will exceed the required work. More reports will be forthcoming. Several residents are writing to the Governor to express their displeasure over the inadequacy of the plan and insufficient attention to state infrastructure.

Enhanced Patrol

Enhanced patrol of speed in town was initiated for the coming months.

Grievance Day for this county is slated to be on an Austerlitz court night, which does interfere with the calendar in our town and increases the work load. with cases needing to be adjourned for a new date. The question was raised about seeking a change of grievance date which Attorney Joseph Catalano estimated this would cost \$500.00. The matter of the Grievance Day date will be addressed in the new year.

New Town Hall

One tree need to come down surrounding the town hall in renovation. Bid received from Justin Donges for \$1700. More bids will be sought.

Town Park

All packets with specific information are here for review.

Project is moving forward. Work will be done mainly after Summer recreation program has ended.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that bridges have been swept. Being done consistently is grading, depositing calcium chloride to keep down dust. Lack of moisture from rain lessens effect.

Some complaints of inattention have been made and Superintendent Meehan stated this may be due to time needed and spent to get campground sites ready before their opening.

West Hill debris, from firehouse ground preparation, needs to be picked up and will be attended to this week.

Town Clerk Report for the month of April 2015 submitted.

Tax Collector Report for the month of April 2015 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of April 2015 submitted.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of April 2015 submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of April 2015 submitted.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of April 2015 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of April 2015 submitted.

Dog Report for the months of March and April 2015 submitted.

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

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Correspondence

Frances Green: Complaint of the condition of Beale Road. Supervisor Lagonia has spoken with F. Green and the repair has been addressed.

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church: Permission to Use Town Green and Close Section of County Route 7.

A motion to allow the St. Peter's Presbyterian Church to use the Town Green on Sunday, June 7, 2015 from 3 hours between 11:00 and 2:00 p.m. and to close the section of County Route 7 in front of the Church was made by M. Verenazi and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Columbia County Traffic Safety Board: Town of Austerlitz Representative. Supervisor Lagonia noted that Town Board Member Verenazi currently sits on this board and has indicated that he would like to continue to do so.

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall: Discussed.

Paving of State Route 203: Discussed.

Town Park Renovations: Discussed.

East Hill Bridge Replacement: Discussed.

New Business

Shared Services: County is looking for towns to share services. Suggestions include sharing services of an assessor, building inspector . In towns with shared services homeowners may get a small check. Some town are looking to share the services of the Highway Dep't.

Attorney Catalano noted that a resolution whereby a town agreed to participate in such an economy plan would have to have the participation of the Fire Department included. If the Fire Department does not participate we do not receive a check. Town Board members were asked by Supervisor Lagonia to submit idea for this economy plan.

A motion to Resolution 33-2015, Authorization for the Town of Austerlitz to participate in the Local Government Efficiency Plan was made by G. Vogler and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Whereas, the State of New York has required each local government unit in the State to file a Government Efficiency Plan with the New York State Division of Budget; and

Whereas, the County of Columbia is seeking to be the lead governmental unit for filing the Government Efficiency Plan on behalf of itself and the local governmental units located in the County of Columbia; and

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz desires to work with the County in developing and filing the Government Efficiency Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz as follows:

1. The Town Board hereby agrees to participate and work with the County of Columbia, including but not limited to submitting ideas to the County, for the preparation of a Government Efficiency Plan that will save at least 1% of the 2014 combined tax levy of all participants; and
2. Once the Government Efficiency Plan is in place, the Town Board agrees to make its best effort to implement those aspects of the Plan that apply to the Town of Austerlitz and is feasible for the Town of Austerlitz to implement commencing in 2017 and continuing through 2019; and
3. The Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor, as the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Town of Austerlitz, to do such things and take such action, including certifying the Government Efficiency Plan, on behalf of the Town of Austerlitz, if in his opinion doing so is in the best interests of the Town of Austerlitz; and
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall ratify any acts of the Town Supervisor in relation to the Government Efficiency Plan that took place prior to the adoption of this Resolution.

Public Comments

Judith Choate inquired whether the renovations in the Town Park would impact the parking capabilities for the very well attended book sale activity through August. Stated in response, most of the renovation will be occurring later but should equipment be in the way it will be moved elsewhere to assure adequate parking.

Chic Vander Weit pointed out that much brush which had been removed from a property on Upper Punsit was beginning to drift and needed to be removed. Supervisor Lagonia indicated he would speak to Mrs. Kern whom he felt would see that it was removed.

Executive Session

A motion to enter into Executive Session for contract purchase was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Executive Session entered at 8:10 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by G. Vogler and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Executive Session exited at 8:30 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by G. Vogler and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Constance Mondel, Minute Taker