

Town of Austerlitz
Workshop/Town Board Meeting
July 16, 2015

Present: Robert Lagonia, Supervisor, Jon Mesick, Greg Vogler, Matthew Verenazi, Town Board Members, Robert Meehan, Highway Superintendent, and Susan Haag, Town Clerk

Matthew Verenazi arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Bryan Geel absent.

Workshop called to order at 6:10 p.m.

The Town Board workshop was called to discuss how monies were going to be spent across a number of Highway projects that needed to be completed. Highway Superintendent Meehan noted the following pending projects:

Paving of Reed Road

Paving of Angel Hill Road

Stever Hill has minor culvert repair.

East Hill Bridge replacement

School House Road minor culvert repair

Oiling and Stoning of West Hill Road

Beaver Dam Road installation of steel culvert.

Installation of steel guardrails on Harvey Mountain Road.

The Town Board discussed work to be done on Reed Road and Angel Hill Road, estimated costs of each project and which project should receive what funding. Available money from different funding sources was discussed, as were time frame and project importance.

The consensus of the Town Board and Highway Superintendent Meehan was to complete work on Angel Hill Road because if any more time passes the issues the Town is now facing will become much worse next year. Additional money will be put into Reed Road, and a small amount set aside for East Hill Road.

Supervisor Lagonia will call Morris Associates to look over the culvert on Reed Road near the Whiffen property to ascertain if a change is needed due to issues caused by flooding. The Enhanced Patrol will sit on Reed Road to help keep the speed down.

Purchase of a Skid Steer

The Town Board looked at a proposal for a Skid Steer from Milton Cat and a proposal from John Deere. The Cat machine is on State bid. Supervisor Lagonia noted that there is money in the highway equipment line and this machine can be leased.

Bonding

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the bond for the Highway Garage matures in 2017. R. Lagonia believes it is premature to discuss bonding issues especially when decisions are still being made concerning the new town hall, park renovations, and a new salt shed.

New Town Hall

Supervisor Lagonia would like to get better estimates before any more work is done at the new Town Hall.

New York State Electric and Gas

Highway Superintendent Meehan met with a representative from NYSEG, looking over the Town Park project and he intimated that NYSEG will pay for one power pole and will run wire for free if the Highway Crew does the excavation work.

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

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 7:05 p.m.

Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the June 18, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes 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.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

Supervisor Lagonia alerted the Town Board concerning a couple of errors found in the accounting procedures. Although these errors have been corrected, Supervisor Lagonia will reach out to Accountant Furlano concerning the employee responsible.

Supervisor Lagonia explained to the Town Board why the disability figures were budgeted incorrectly. The Town's last accountant was incorrectly figuring the amount to be paid for disability. The new accounting firm did the calculations correctly and in doing so, the actual figure to be paid was much higher than expected.

Budget Amendment

General Fund

Increase A1910.4 Insurance \$1769.40

Decrease 2770 Miscellaneous \$1769.40

A motion to approve the above budget amendment 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.

A motion to pay General Fund, #183-226, in the amount of \$24503.32, and Highway Fund, #105-117, \$8430.30, 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.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement for the Month of June 2015 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia went over figures and balances in each of the accounts. Supervisor Lagonia explained an accounting error. Generally speaking all the line items seem to be in order.

Supervisor Lagonia reported that the original bids for the Town Park renovations came in too high therefore the Town Board will rebid the project in three separate pieces. The new bid specs will be released tomorrow and posted in the paper. This project should still be on target to complete this fall.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that Gail Cashen, representing the Austerlitz Historical Society, hired a retired librarian from NYS, which she paid for, to look over the Town's historical records that are still being housed and locked in the basement of the Historical Society. A report will follow and an example given for a contract that can be used between the Town of Austerlitz and the Austerlitz Historical Society concerning the housing of the Town's historical records. Town Clerk Haag did talk with this gentleman when he was on site.

The Town currently has \$163,000.00 to spend on the Town Park renovations.

Architect Joe Iuviene has given the Town preliminary plans for the new town hall. The Town is currently holding tight on this project until it receives a pledge to pay for work to be done. Once received, the basement will be gutted to see what is there. Highway Superintendent Meehan did

take down the large barn on the property and did a great job. Supervisor Lagonia thanked R. Meehan for this work. Joseph and Constance Mondel are providing land next to the new town hall for a septic system. A survey of this area will need to be done and possibly a referendum. No money will be exchanging hands as the Town will exchange this land in lieu of taxes. Supervisor Lagonia thanked the Mondels.

A motion to hire a surveyor to begin surveying the Mondel's property for the land transfer was made by J. Mesick and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

The Town is waiting for the repaving work to begin on State Route 203. Although the Town has been assured that this project will be moving forward, it has yet to be awarded. Supervisor Lagonia followed up with representatives for the project and again was assured that this project will be awarded and started soon.

Highway Superintendent Meehan talked to Peckham, who it has been rumored will be awarded this project, and the foreman. All involved advised that this project will be awarded next week.

Concerning the Frank Fizzinolgia lawsuit, pursuant to the settlement agreement reached, F. Fizzinoglia was required to pay the Town \$500.00 for a new culvert. Supervisor Lagonia alerted the Town Board that this has been paid.

The construction of the new Austerlitz Fire House has begun. This project is also working its way through the Planning Board and ZBA process.

The Summer Recreation Program is in full swing and there are about 56 kids attending this year. The program is running smoothly.

The Town Board will need to renew the salt shed contract. There will be an increase in the rental cost next year.

Columbia County

On a County level, Supervisor Lagonia noted that the County is still working through contracts with Columbia Economic Development Corporation and payments from the County to CEDC are continuing to be withheld until issues sorted out.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that the Highway crew has been working on changing culverts out, and taking the barn down on the new town hall property. The Town just received the permit for work up at the Town Park which will begin next week. Stever Hill Road will be

closed next week for culvert work. Supervisor Lagonia noted a letter the Town received from Terry Conte concerning the condition of Stever Hill Road so this work is timely.

Town Clerk Report for the month of June 2015 submitted and a revised April 2015 report submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of June 2015 submitted.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of June 2015 submitted. Committee did not meet.

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

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

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

No Dog Report for the month of June 2015 submitted.

Payroll Reports for the month of June 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

Rae Gilson, Spencertown Academy: Thank You for Use of the Spencertown Green.

Columbia County Chapter Citizens' Climate Education: National Security Implications of Climate Change Presentation.

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall: Discussed

Town Park Bid Specs: Discussed

Mondel Irrevocable Offer of Land Dedication:

Supervisor Lagonia noted that an Irrevocable Offer of Dedication for the transfer of Mondel's property to the Town has been drawn, but may have to be redone, so the Town is holding tight on this for now.

New Business

August 2015 Town Board Meeting Date: Supervisor Lagonia advised that he would be out of Town on August 20, 2015 and would therefore like to change the Town Board meeting to August 27, 2015.

A motion to change the August Town Board Meeting to August 27, 2015 was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Tobacco-Free Action of Columbia and Greene Counties: Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town Board already acted on a request to make areas in the Town Tobacco-Free, and will make sure we have signs up when the park renovation project is done.

Copier Bids: Supervisor Lagonia advised that a salesman from Canon will be down for a demo and next month the Town Board can decide the direction it would like to take in securing a new copier. The Town currently has 2 bids.

Town News Letter: A new Town News Letter will be put together.

Public Comments

Eric Spiegel questioned when the work on State Route 203 was being done, would there be any widening of the road area. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the State will widen where it can, but will not take road frontage from residents in the hamlet area.

Eileen Fusco noted that seniors are an important demographic within the Town and are aging in place. There is a group of community based neighbors that are setting up to ways to help other neighbors. This group is not yet ready to become vocal, but at some point will be asking the Town Board to have a presence on the Town of Austerlitz webpage and possibly support in a nominal way. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town will help in ways it can and will discuss in more detail when this group is more formalized. There is a possibility that something can be done on a County level as well.

Highway Superintendent advised that there was a house that was broken into on Foghill Road. A dark colored Toyota seen in the vicinity.

Executive Session

A motion was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by G. Vogler to enter into Executive Session for a personnel issue.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Executive Session entered at 7:44 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session 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. Executive Session exited at 8:04 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk