

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
October 15, 2015

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

Public Hearing called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing called to present the 2016 Preliminary Budget. Town Clerk Haag advised that the Public Hearing was properly noticed.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that he worked on this budget with Town Board Member Greg Vogler's help. Accountant for the Town, Nelson Furlano came out and was very helpful as well. The Town financially is in a better place this year. The 2016 tax cap requirement is .73 and the Town will be coming in at .7. Appropriations were lowered this year, only raising roughly \$4000.00 which results in the millage rate decreasing. Supervisor Lagonia reiterated the raises given and not given, noting that the highway payroll budgeted figures included the Town paying 100% of health and dental coverage for the highway employees. Retirement savings lined up this year, last year there was a demolition project, Zancanato's, that is not in the budget this year, and being down a highway crew member saved enough money this year for the Town to buy a skid steer.

Highway Superintendent Meehan advised that the skid steer will be here Tuesday or Wednesday of next week and will be used on the Town Park Project saving the Town money. Supervisor Lagonia noted that there are now two court clerks instead of one splitting the budgeted salary. Outstanding still is the Austerlitz Fire District budget numbers. On the Highway Fund side an additional \$25,000.00 was added to general road repairs to boost available monies allotted for road repairs. The Town received an extra \$15,000.00 this year from C.H.I.P.s. The Town has lain out quite of bit of money for project expenditures that will be recouped through C.H.I.P.s funding and a grant from the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation.

There will be a meeting on Monday involving contractors who will be scheduled to do work at the Town Park. Most of the work will be done before winter. The Town hopes to have some tangible work done on the new Town Hall as well.

Supervisor Lagonia feels the 2016 budget is solid and is happy with the numbers.

Supervisor Lagonia opened up the floor for questions and comments. There were none.

A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Public Hearing closed at 6:36 p.m.

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

Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the September 17, 2015 Workshop/Regular Town Board Meeting minutes was made by J. Mesick and seconded by M. Verenazi .

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: abstain due to absent

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

Budget Amendment #3-2015

General Fund

A1740.4 Playgrounds increase by \$265.00

A7310.1 Youth Programs decrease by \$265.00

A1910.4 Insurance increase by \$791.00

A2770 Miscellaneous increase by \$791.00

A motion to approve budget amendment #3-2015 was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to pay General Fund, #305-330, in the amount of \$22,705.82, and Highway Fund, #151-169, in the amount of \$199,881.22, was made by B. Geel and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement for the Month of September 2015 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia noted amounts in different funds with totals given. Under budget in some line items, but most

are in line. The Town should realize the revenue numbers so overall the Town is in good shape. The intent last year was to construct a budget with real numbers and currently the Town is definitely in line with that.

Historian: Supervisor Lagonia spoke with Jane McGee, current interim president of the Austerlitz Historical Society, concerning an agreement between the Town and the AHS for storing of the Town's Historical records. Currently the Town's records are still in the basement of the AHS. There is money in the 2015 budget to organize these records, but Supervisor Lagonia feels that there needs to be a couple more conversations with Jane McGee before the Town moves forward. There are still records at Town Historian, Sally Light's house, but not sure to what extent. It has been difficult to get anywhere with this. The Town Board will have to make some decisions for the future of our Town Historical records and personal in this department. Pressure is being put on Historian Light for retrieval of Town records.

NYS Route 203: NY State Route 203 is finished.

Skid Steer: The new skid steer has been ordered.

Mondel Property Purchase: Although the Town is an exempt entity, the Town Board has decided to bring the purchase of the Mondel property before the Planning Board for a boundary line adjustment approval.

A motion to bring the Mondel property before the Planning Board for a boundary line adjustment approval, with Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, representing the Town, was made by J. Mesick and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Town of Austerlitz Code: Supervisor Lagonia advised that in processing recent Planning Board and building project, it has become evident that there are some wording issues in our current Zoning Code. Attorney for the Town Catalano has sent a report addressing these issues. Supervisor Lagonia feels that instead of spending money on our Attorney at this time, he would like to turn this project over the Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee to vet and return to the Town Board with recommendations. These are just places in the code that need to be cleaned-up and specified.

Town Board Member Bryan Geel would like to see the Planning Board involved in this process because they work with the code and understand what works and does not work. Supervisor Lagonia believes a collaborative effort is good. Town Board Member Matthew Verenazi advises that the Ridgeline Protection section in the code needs to come back to the Town Board as well because the revisions are mostly complete. Supervisor Lagonia recommended including this section as well and getting everything done at once.

The consensus of the Town Board was to hand off all these issues to the Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee for revisions and recommendations.

Court Expenses: Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town Board approved Court Clerk Loren Brink to attend training in Buffalo, but clerk Carol Wilber was unable to attend. In lieu of that training, Court Clerks in the County have assisted C. Wilber in training. The Town of Canaan's Court Clerk, Darcy Fredrick, has been putting in a great deal of time here at our Town. Supervisor Lagonia approved up to 20 hours of time at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for D. Fredrick and asked the Town Board for approval.

A motion to pay Canaan's Court Clerk, Darcy Fredrick, for up to 20 hours of work at \$15.00 per hour by voucher was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Enhanced Patrol: The Columbia County Sheriff are still coming out and sitting on our Town roads through the Enhanced Patrol Program. Supervisor Lagonia suggests that the Town continues to pay for this program through December then hold off until the weather is better in the Spring. When budgeting for this program for 2016, January, February and March were not included. The consensus of the Town Board was to discontinue this program during the winter months of January, February and March and pick back up when the weather breaks.

Columbia County Charge Back Agreement: The Columbia County Treasurer's Office has sent the Town a Charge Back Agreement for the Town of Austerlitz' contribution to the Chatham Rescue Squad. Currently there is no formula used to determine each Town's portion it should be paying based on services rendered, therefore each Town pays what it deems appropriate. The Town Board feels it is paying a sufficient amount for rescue services.

A motion to appropriate \$60,900.00 for a charge back to the Town of Austerlitz through Columbia County was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that the Angel Hill Road repair project is almost done and will be paid for by C.H.I.P.s. The Highway Crew will also be starting the Town Park Project in the next couple of weeks.

A question arose as to an area on NY State Route 203 where there is a drop on the side of the road without guardrails. Highway Superintendent Meehan advised that the NYSDOT will be fixing this area because it was not included in the project specs for the entire paving project.

Town Clerk Report for the month of September 2015 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of September 2015 submitted.

Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of September 2015 submitted.

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

No Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of September 2015 submitted.

No Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of September 2015 submitted.

Dog Report for the month of September 2015 submitted.

Attorney Report submitted.

2015 Summer Recreation Program Report submitted. Summer Recreation Director Deborah Oleynek gave a quick overview of the program discussing the number of participants and fees charged. The Town Board thanked Director Oleynek for her hard work. The Town Board will review fees for next year in the Spring noting that the Town park project construction should be done before the start of the summer program.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by B. Geel and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Correspondence

George Sheanshang: Speed limit on County Route 7. G. Sheanshang is requesting the speed limit be lowered on a section of County Route 7 believing the current limit is too high and is dangerous. It was noted that the speed limit on County Route 7 was just lowered a couple of years ago. The Town Board will put forth a resolution at the next Town Board meeting to request the speed limit on County Route 7 be lowered to 45 miles per hour from Punsit Road to Rigor Hill Road.

Unfinished Business

Town Park Bid: Supervisor Lagonia explained that the Town bid the Town Park Renovation Project as a complete package, but the bids came in too high. The Town rebid the project in

pieces and received no bids. Therefore the Town was able to solicit bids and the following bids were received for the multipurpose court:

Asphalt Paving

HMA Contracting Corp., Mechanicville, NY Base Bid: \$37,360.00

Fencing

Berkshire Fencing, Pittsfield, Ma. Base Bid: \$18,850.00

Siena Fencing, Clifton Park, NY Base Bid: \$19,230.00

Athletic Surfacing

Copeland Coating Company, Inc. Nassau, NY Base Bid: \$7,800.00

Engineer for the Town, Morris Associates, has recommended the Town Board approve the bid for Siena Fencing, even though it is higher, because Siena Fencing is available to move ahead with the project once the demolition work has been completed, and has worked successfully with both HMA Contracting and Copeland Coating Company.

A motion to award the bid for furnishing of all materials, labor and related equipment necessary for installation of asphalt to HMA Contracting Corp was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to award the bid for providing necessary labor, equipment, tools, materials and supplies required for Town Park Chain Link Fence installation to Siena Fence Co., Inc. based on recommendations and reasoning provided by Morris Associates, was made by B. Geel and seconded by R. Lagonia.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to award the bid for furnishing all the materials and services for the Town Park Athletic Surfacing installation to Copeland Coating Company, Inc. was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by J. Mesick.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

2016 Town Budget:

A motion to adopt Resolution 46-2014, Adoption of the 2016 Final Budget was made by G. Vogler and seconded by R. Lagonia.

Town Clerk took the following poll vote:

R. Lagonia: yes
B. Geel: yes
J. Mesick: yes
M. Verenazi: yes
G. Vogler: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

WHEREAS, the Supervisor of the Town of Austerlitz prepared a Tentative Budget for the Town's fiscal year 2016 and presented that Tentative Budget at a regular meeting of the Town Board held on September 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board reviewed the Tentative Budget and discussed and analyzed it with the Town Supervisor, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted the Tentative Budget without changes made by the Town Board during the course of discussions regarding same as the Preliminary Budget and scheduled a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget for October 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget has been duly noticed and held;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz hereby adopts the Preliminary Budget for 2016, without any changes made by the Town Board, as the Final Budget for the fiscal year of 2016 of the Town of Austerlitz; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby directs the Town Clerk to file the Final Budget as required by law.

New Town Hall: Joe Iuviene, Architectural Bureau, came before the Town Board to discuss the next steps in the new Town Hall Renovation Project. J. Iuviene provided an in-depth report concerning how the Town Board may want to move forward, what to consider and preliminary cost estimates. Discussion centered on when bids would be put out for renovation work. If the Town wished to have preliminary decisions made before the basement is completely gutted, there are procedures that can take place while the Town waits on contributions in order to move this project forward. The Town Board anticipates a contribution toward the renovations shortly allowing a bid project to be put together and posted. The Architectural Bureau will put this bid package together asking for bids to be submitted before the next Town Board meeting. If possible, the Town Board would like to award the project at the November Town Board meeting.

New Business

Columbia County Charge Back Agreement: Discussed

Columbia County Enhanced Patrol: Discussed

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

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

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk