

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
December 17, 2015

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

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

Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Lagonia thanked Town Board Member Geel for his 8 years of service to the Town and Member Mesick for his 4 years. B. Geel has been an asset to the Town bringing a wealth of knowledge to the table, as has J. Mesick bringing expertise in highway issues and history of the Town. R. Lagonia has enjoyed working with both of them.

Minutes

A motion to accept the November 19, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes was made by M. Verenazi and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: abstain

J. Mesick: abstain

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 3:2.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

Budget Amendment #5-2015

General Fund

A1910.4 Insurance increase by \$300.00

A1920.2 Dues decrease by \$300.00

A9060.8 Hospitalization increase by \$1500.00

A 9010.8 Retirement decrease by \$1500.00

A motion to approve budget amendment #5-2015 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, #360-397, in the amount of \$48,766.39, Highway Fund, #200-228, in the amount of \$77,751.06, and Capital Fund #4-13, in the amount of \$101,672.13 was made by J. Mesick 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 November 2015 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia noted amounts in each fund. The figures are good through November and do not include the December bills. The Town received C.H.I.P.s funding for the year from the State. Finances are pretty much in line. The Highway Fund will see some savings because there hasn't been any snow yet this year and with this savings the Town has additional money to put into the roads themselves. The Town Salt Shed is being filled with salt and sand. The appropriations are in line as well. There is some extra money in some of the lines items which is good and Supervisor Lagonia commends Department Heads for watching their budget lines. Supervisor Lagonia has been working with Town Board Member Vogler to try and have the budget reflect real numbers.

Town Park Renovations: Highway Superintendent Meehan pointed out that when the fence posts were put into the blacktop, the blacktop has mushroomed. Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski, has investigated and noted he will have it fixed. Supervisor Lagonia noted that payment for this job will be held until corrections have been made. Topping for the multiuse court will be done in the Spring as will the new pavilion. Architect Joe Iuviene looked over the plans for the new pavilion and advised that with a few changes, the Town can save some money.

Historian: Supervisor Lagonia advised as of January 2016, the Town will have a new Historian, Tom Moreland. Jim Corsano, hired to inventory the Historian Records, has started. Moving forward into 2016, the Town will be making decisions as to where the Historical records will be stored, how, with access given to whom, and for how long, etc.

Mondel Property Closing: Supervisor Lagonia advised that the closing on the purchase of the Mondel property took place earlier today. The Town will use this area for the new town hall septic system. Supervisor Lagonia thanked the Mondels for their generosity.

2015 Tax Cap Audit: When Supervisor Lagonia took over as Supervisor, there was an excess of money in the Bryarcliffe Road District Bond Account. When Bryarcliffe residents were made aware of this, they requested the money be returned in some fashion, and the Town Board decided to use it to decrease the amount levied for taxes in this line item. A result of the tax cap audit performed last week, it was discovered that the Bryarcliffe Road District Bond line item has never been included in the tax cap. The previous accountant never included it and the present account has not either. Our current accountant advised that we apply the overage in the Bryarcliffe Road District line as we did, but in doing this, it has put the Town over the tax cap

this year. What this means is that the Town will have to take the overage and put it in a reserve account until 2017. In trying to do the right thing for the residents of Bryarcliffe, the Town got stung.

Christmas Tree Lighting: Lighting of the Christmas tree on the Green took place last Friday with roughly 60-80 people in attendance. There was singing, music, Santa Clause, gifts for the kids provided by the Ladies Auxiliary, the Spencertown Fire Company helped and the Spencertown County Store provided refreshments.

2016 Organizational Meeting: The Town Board will hold its 2016 Organizational Meeting January 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Policies, appointments and organizational issues for the new year will be taken care of at this time.

On a County level, Supervisor Lagonia noted for the 2016 year he has been asked to serve on the Public Safety Committee, the Mental Health Committee, and the Columbia Economic Development Corporation Committee.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that he replaced the light in the Green that shines on the Church, worked on the old tennis court, has been grading and rolling roads, and will put item 4 down with the paver on Reed Road tomorrow. Hopefully with the paver it will stay tighter and last longer. There are a couple of roads left to grade.

Town Board Member Vogler questioned when the guardrail for Harvey Mountain Road will be put up. Superintendent Meehan advised that the guardrail has been ordered and should be put up by Spring. He has been pushing on the roads to get them in shape.

Town Clerk Report for the month of November 2015 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of November 2015 submitted.

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

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

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

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

Dog Report for the month of November 2015 submitted.

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

Columbia Land Conservancy Doyle Property: Conservation and Agricultural Projects Director for the Columbia Land Conservancy, Marissa Codey, came before the Town Board requesting that the Town Board support a grant application submitted by the Columbia Land Conservancy to the NYS Dept of Agriculture and markets for the purchase of development rights on the Doyle Farm, including additional lands owned by neighbor, Ronald Davis, Jr., and farmed by the Doyle family.

Director Codey explained the grant program in detail noting it will not cost the Town any money and the taxpayer will still be responsible for paying taxes on this property.

Joseph Doyle spoke to the Town Board requesting their support for this grant as well. 98% of the Doyle farm will be in conservatory.

Town Board Member Geel recognized the diligence that the Doyle family has had over the years to hold onto this land and hopes this grant will ease the tax burden. B. Geel fully supports this process. Supervisor Lagonia commends the Doyles as well.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to send a letter supporting this grant was made by J. Mesick and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Columbia County Office of the Aging: 2016 Town Representatives. Doris Jean Stalker currently sits on this board and has indicated her wish to continue to do so. The Town will be looking for a second person to serve in this capacity as well.

A motion to recommend Doris Jean Stalker as the Town of Austerlitz' Representative to the Columbia County Office of the Aging for the 2016 year 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.

John and Mary Kilcer: Thanks Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan for a wonderful job in replacing the culvert on Acorn Lane.

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall: Discussed

Town Park: Discussed

New Business

Presentation: Town Historian Sally Light Retirement

After 28 years of service to the Town of Austerlitz as Town Historian, Sally Light is retiring at the end of the year. A presentation of a plaque was made by Supervisor Lagonia, as well as, a proclamation presentation by Tom Moreland.

Supervisor Lagonia commends and thanks S. Light for her passion in giving to the Town. The Town thanks her as well noting how important the job of Historian is to the Town.

Tom Moreland stated that the Town of Austerlitz has only had 3 Historian in its history. S. Light has accomplished a level of work that as seen in her superb writing and her careful research techniques. S. Light will be a tough act to follow!

A motion to adopt a proclamation honoring Sally Light was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by B. Geel.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Sally Light stated she has enjoyed being the Town of Austerlitz' Historian and working with many people in the Town.

Joe Iuviene Architectural Services

Supervisor Lagonia noted that the scope of Joe Iuviene's services as outlined in the original proposal for the "Town Hall Renovations", dated March 16, 2015, has expanded. The expanded scope includes the design, administration and coordination for the structural remediation of the of roof trusses; demolition of the plumbing, electrical and most of the interior finishes' and the bid package for the renovations and addition for the new Town Hall. In addition, reviewing the existing bid package prepared by others for improvements at the Town Park, obtaining pricing for just the new pavilion and recommendations.

Supervisor Lagonia noted how easy J. Iuviene is to work with and how professional he has been in his service given to the Town. The Town has spent a fair amount of money on architectural services because of the emergency roof issue. An updated set of plans for the new Town Hall are in and the Town Board needs to decide if these are the plans they wish to move forward with and if so, J. Iuviene will put together a bid package for the renovations.

The Town has been fortunate to this point in only using donated funds. The emergency roof work will cost roughly \$50,000.00. The demolition work, set to begin next week, will come in under \$20,000.00.

The Town will bid the entire renovation project as a whole, but with phases built in. Right now the Town can only speculate as to a total cost, but by bidding the entire project, it can ascertain real cost numbers. Supervisor Lagonia and J. Iuviene discussed what each phase could entail and decided the first phase will be the shell. The existing siding needs to be kept with new cedar siding on the addition. The current furnace will be okay to use for this winter. The current chimney needs to be replaced, but it is safe for use through the winter. There will be different heating levels throughout the building in zoned sections. The addition had to be expanded slightly due to code issues. Supervisor Lagonia met with Judge Grubin and some of her concerns have been met.

A report has been received that the building contains no asbestos.

A motion to approve the expanded scope of services by The Architectural Bureau and the terms and provisions as outlined in the original proposal, authorizing Supervisor Lagonia to sign, was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to authorize J. Iuviene to draw up a bid package for the renovation work at the new Town Hall 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.

Tax Cap Audit: Discussed

Public Comments

Tom Moreland; Questioned how much of the building for the new Town Hall would be preserved and reused. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town plans on preserving everything that can be preserved. Wainscoting, molding around the windows, and the undamaged part of the tin ceiling will be kept. The Town is looking into maybe using the undamaged part of the tin ceiling around the edges, with something new in the middle. Town Board Members M. Verenazi and B. Geel would like to see the tin ceiling kept and reused as well.

Supervisor Lagonia explained the overall design and noted that he hopes to continue the renovations without using any taxpayer dollars.

Sally Light's son, Jamie Light, thanked the Town Board for their words and gifts to his mother.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for personnel issues was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by B. Geel.

R. Lagonia: yes

B. Geel: yes

J. Mesick: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

G. Vogler: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session entered at 7:51 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session 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. Executive Session exited at 8:33 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn 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. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk