

Town of Austerlitz  
Town Board Meeting  
January 21, 2016

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

Regular meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

A motion to accept the January 4, 2016 Organizational Town Board Meeting minutes was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Wrightsman .

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

**Auditing of Accounts and Claims**

Supervisor Lagonia noted that he was unsure as to why there were increases in the payroll lines other than the possibility that due to payroll dates at the end of the year. R. Lagonia will check with the accountant.

Budget Amendment #6-2015

General Fund

A1010.1 Town Board increase by \$1.00

A1010.4 Town Board increase by \$180.00

A1110.1 Town Justice increase by \$1.00

A1110.11 Justice Clerk increase by \$40.00

A1355.1 Assessor increase by \$260.00

A1410.1 Town Clerk increase by \$290.00

A1910.4 Insurance increase by \$290.00

A3510.1 Dog Control increase by \$1.00

A3620.1 Safety Inspection increase by \$700.00

A4020.1 Registrar increase by \$1.00

A7510.1 Historian increase by \$1.00

A7510.4 Historian increase by \$40.00

A8020.1 Planning Members increase by \$1.00  
A3310.4 Traffic Control decrease by \$1806.00

Highway Fund

DA5110.4 General Repairs increase by \$45600.00  
DA5142.4 Snow Removal increase by \$15600.00  
DA5130.4 Machinery decrease by \$16000.00  
DA5142.1 Snow Removal decrease by \$26000.00  
DA9010.8 Retirement decrease by \$7000.00  
DA9060.8 Hospitalization decrease by \$7000.00  
DA9050.8 NYS Unemployment decrease by \$4000.00  
DA9030.8 Social Security decrease by \$1200.00

A motion to approve budget amendment #6-2015 with an acceptable answer from the accountant concerning the payroll line increases was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes  
G. Vogler: yes  
M. Verenazi: yes  
N. Friedman: yes  
J. Wrightsman: yes  
Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to pay General Fund, #16-49, in the amount of \$19884.10, Highway Fund, #17-29, in the amount of \$19112.15, and Capital Fund #3-9, in the amount of \$28467.60 was made by N. Friedman and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

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 December 2015 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia noted the updated figures are pretty close to where the Town will be when the books are closed for the year. The Highway Fund came in under budget by \$22000.00. The General Fund came in under budget by \$11000.00. This is good for the year and the yearly budgets are becoming much more real. The Town is sound and in good shape.

**Tax Warrant:** The 2016 warrant amount for the Town of Austerlitz has been turned over to the Town.

**Town Park:** The Town Board is still waiting for the status of the repair work to be done up at the park on the new multi-use court blacktop. The Town is holding payment back awaiting an approval from the Engineer for the Town, Morris Associates. R. Meehan noted that there is still a top coat to be applied in the Spring.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported a few small problems with a couple of trucks. One is at Funks and probably will be there about 2 weeks. R. Meehan believes the work needed will be under the warranty. This is the newest truck of the fleet. If a replacement for what is wrong needs to be done it may cost as much as \$20000.00, but the truck is worth it.

Plowing last week was not without challenges as the roads are still soft. All drivers tried to be careful to preserve the roads.

The Highway crew helped the Austerlitz Historical Society move file cabinets and records from the basement of their building to the second floor.

Town Clerk Report for the month of December 2015 submitted.

Tax Collector Report for payments thru 1/19/16 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of December 2015 submitted.

Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of January 2016 submitted.

Town Board Members Vogler and Verenazi will continue to work with Tim Stalker, chair of the Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee, concerning the Ridgeline Protection section in the Town's Zoning Law. Once a meeting takes place, recommendations will be brought back to the Town Board for approval. Members Vogler and Verenazi and Chair Stair are also working on other areas in the zoning law that need updating.

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

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

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

Dog Report for the month of December 2015 submitted.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by R. Lagonia 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 County Sheriff Office: Rates for 2016**

Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town Board has managed the Enhanced Patrol fees very well. This duty is not sitting currently, but will come back in the Spring.

### **Unfinished Business**

**New Town Hall:** Bob Daloia started the demolition work on the new town hall Monday, working fast. Joe Iuviene has been stopping by and finding some 'interesting' things in the new town hall that will need to be corrected once the renovations begin. Once the demolition is complete, J. Iuviene will put a bid package together for the rest of the project.

Supervisor Lagonia met with Architect J. Iuviene concerning the electrical service. Some electrical work will be done now and because of the cost, this does not need to be bid. The 400 amp service will be run underground run from the the pole in front of the building to the new town hall. The Highway Crew will dig the needed trench. Architect Iuviene asked for verbal quotes and the lowest one was from Robertson Electric. Materials will be bid out separately.

A motion was made by N. Friedman and seconded by M. Verenazi to award the electrical bid to Robertson Electric for \$2990.00 for labor costs and up to \$6500.00 for materials.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

#### **New Town Hall Roof Bid**

One bid was received for the replacement of the new town hall roof.

Daloia Contracting Inc.

402 Lape Road

Nassau, New York 12123

Bid: \$25,800.00

A motion to accept a bid of \$25800.00 from Daloia Contracting Inc. for roof replacement on the new town hall was made by N. Friedman and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

It was noted that the Town will pay for the dumpster.

Town Board Member Verenazi questioned the status of the dead tree removal in the back of the new town hall. Supervisor Lagonia advised that Architect Iuviene has asked multiple people for an estimate to take this down and has gotten no response. Highway Superintendent Meehan had asked Justin Donges to give us a price last year. Town Clerk Haag gave the Town Board the bid. R. Lagonia will pass this information over to J. Iuviene and follow-up.

**Town Park:** Discussed

**Board of Assessment Review Member:** Still need one if anyone knows someone who would be interested.

**Member for Office of the Aging Advisory Council:** Still need another member for this as well.

**Historical Records Report:** The Town Board discussed the report tabled from last month concerning the Town of Austerlitz' Historical Records and suitable storage for those records. Since the January 4th meeting, a contract has been drawn up concerning storage for review. Historian Tom Moreland noted some revisions he would like to see. Some of these had already been made. Supervisor Lagonia will discuss the remaining possible changes with Attorney for the Town, Joe Catalano. Once final edits are made, the contract will be given to the Austerlitz Historical Society for review.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the contract for storage of the Town of Austerlitz' Historical Records and make minor changes after discussion with the Attorney for the Town, was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

**Code Enforcement:** Changes to the Building Permit Schedule

The consensus of the Town board was not to make any changes at this time.

**New Business**

Local Law #1-2016, Increasing Exemption Amounts for Alternative Veterans Exemption

Supervisor Lagonia gave the Town Board Local Law #1-2016 to be presented for public hearing at the February 18th Town Board Meeting.

The Town Board decided the exemption values would be the same as Columbia County. For wartime service the exemption level will be \$24000.00, for combat zone service, \$16000.00, and for service-connected disability, \$80000.00.

Resolution #32-2016, Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2016

A motion to adopt Resolution #32-2016, Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2016 was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

**WHEREAS**, Section 428-a of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes the governing body of an assessing unit that have elected to establish exemptions for qualifying veterans of the armed services of the United States for purposes of real property taxation to increase the exemption amounts from time to time as the Real Property Tax Law allows; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Supervisor was recently informed by the Director of the Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency that the alternative veterans exemption amounts had not been amended by the Town of Austerlitz since 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Supervisor has accordingly informed the Town Board and it is the desire of the Town Board to correct that oversight and bring the maximum exemption amounts for alternative veterans to the level that is current with the County and the majority of municipalities within the County [alternative: to the maximum amount allowed by law]; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has authority to change the exemption amounts for qualified veterans by local law and the Town Board has reviewed the proposed local law that was prepared for such purpose and which is subject to this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

The Town Board hereby introduces and proposes for adoption introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2016 of the Town of Austerlitz which amends Local Law No. 3 of 2007 by increasing the exemption amounts originally established under said law for veterans with wartime service, combat zone service and service-related disabilities as specified in introductory Local Law No 1.

The Town Board determines that the adoption of the proposed Local Law is an action that is not subject to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

The Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing for the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2016, to be held at the Town Hall, on February 18, 2016, at 6:55 p.m.

The Town Board hereby orders that notice of the public hearing be posted at the Town Hall, on the Town website, and published at least once in the Town's official newspaper a minimum of 5 days before the scheduled hearing date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector Audit:** The audit found no exceptions.

**Town Supervisor Audit:** The audit found no exceptions.

Town Board Member Vogler explained the method he used as an auditor for the Town records. In the past he has also audited the Justice Court records, but feels someone else may be better suited to perform the audit this year. Supervisor Lagonia will ask Attorney Catalano for guidance and the Town will go from there.

**New Town Hall Roof Bid Award:** Discussed

### **Public Comments**

Tabbie Cassuto asked if the Town had any plans for a memorial service for Ellsworth Kelly. Supervisor Lagonia advised that he has been invited to attend the memorial service in New York City at the end of the month. R. Lagonia has spoken with Jack Shear concerning the Town doing something nice, but J. Shear has advised that he does not want the Town to do anything.

Town Board Member Verenazi noted that there are other ways the Town can recognize E. Kelly.

### **Executive Session**

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

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session entered at 8:20 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by G. Vogler and seconded by N. Friedman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session exited at 8:41 p.m.

### **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 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk