

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
July 21, 2016

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

Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan arrived at 7:40 p.m.

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 16, 2016 Town Board Meeting minutes was made by N. Friedman and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: abstain due to meeting absence.

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to pay General Fund, #202-237, in the amount of \$40703.05, Highway Fund, #115-125, in the amount of \$9168.35, and Capital Fund #34-35, in the amount of \$18877.43 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.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement for the Month of June 2016 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town received a sales tax check in July, noting that Columbia County is the only County in the State where sales tax revenue is up. The Highway Fund numbers are slightly eschewed, percentages off kilter. Supervisor Lagonia will question this although he understands that large equipment purchases have come out of these accounts.

The Highway Department needs to move along with the projects listed on the 284 form. Guardrails have been put up on Harvey Mountain, although some grading and seeding still needs to be completed.

A good amount of money has been used for the new Town Hall. The bill being paid tonight is quite high, but Architect Joe Iuviene advised that once these bills are paid, the bulk of it upfront, most of the rest of the bills will be much lower. The Town Board will hold J. Iuviene to his estimates.

The Town Park multiuse court is completed, left over minor issues have been corrected by the Highway Department. A resident bought a mat to whip feet on before going into the court because gravel was being tracked in. This same resident asked if he could buy a bench for the area as well. The consensus of the Town Board was to allow this. A path will need to be put in from the parking area to the court once the pavilion is completed.

Town Board Member Vogler was concerned about the brick dust that was placed in the ball field area. Not enough was put down and it does not look very attractive. In addition, there is grass growing where the sand and dust should be. Discussion on solutions. Tom Newton, resident that asked for this to be done was contacted and he is in the process of purchasing addition brick dust to complete the job.

Supervisor Lagonia is not sure whether or not the court audit has been completed yet. Discussion did take place between the Court Clerk and the Accountant as to timing.

Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski, advised that the Norton Road project is in the hands of the property owner. They requested the turn around to be in a different place. A site visit will happen sometime in August with a meeting of all parties involved.

The Summer Recreation Program is going well. Roughly 40 participants.

2017 Budget requests are due August 1st and the process will begin at that point.

Supervisor Lagonia received a call complaining about the dust on the back roads. This is really a serious issue and some type of a fix next year needs to happen. It is budget time and maybe something can be figured into the budget. Ten Broeck Road is very thick with dust especially since many are using this road because of the detour and speeding. Highway Superintendent Meehan did place calcium down to help.

There is speeding on Angell Hill as well. Supervisor Lagonia will mention to the Enhanced Patrol to cover both these areas and write tickets where needed.

Richard Nesbitt Sr. asked Supervisor Lagonia if one of the election districts can be moved from the Spencertown Firehouse to the Austerlitz Firehouse. Supervisor Lagonia looked into this with the County Board of Elections. Both the Democratic and the Republican heads agreed that no changes would be made due to increased costs for a new machine, payroll and rent for the building. In addition, it is extremely difficult to find poll workers.

There are openings for election inspectors if anyone is interested contact the Columbia County Board of Elections.

Steve Acciani has been contacted and asked to look into whether or not sick time can be passed to another worker to use for serious illnesses. There are options a town can explore along these lines. These will be looked into during the budgeting process.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that the Highway Crew has been working on Ten Broeck Road in the creek bed area. The traffic on Ten Broeck has gotten quite heavy with the detour and Highway Superintendent Meehan would like to see the Enhanced Patrol sit in this area. The Town's digital speed sign is now on Stonewall Road. The Highway Crew has also been working on the seasonal section of Fire Hill Road. This section of the road really needs some extra land on the sides for ditching. Robert Pinto owns one side of the area and Lee Madsen owns the other side. Land can be used from either side for the ditching. Fire Hill Road is a user road, what is used is owned. Highway Superintendent Meehan advised that he has tried to work something out in the past with the landowners, but has been unsuccessful. Supervisor Lagonia advised that Attorney for the Town, Joe Catalano be consulted as to what the Town can do and cannot do. Highway Superintendent Meehan also noted that the seasonal section of Macedonia needs some work as well.

The Highway Crew has also been doing some brush work and a small roller will be rented next week to do some patching on the blacktopped roads. Harvey Mountain road should be finished up next week.

Town Clerk Report for the month of June 2016 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of June 2016 submitted.

Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of June submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of June 2016 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of June 2016 submitted.

Justice Cassuto Court Report for the months of May and June 2016 submitted.

Dog Report for the month of June 2016 submitted.

A motion to accept the above reports 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.

Correspondence

Richard Madonia: Request to be a member of the Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee. Supervisor Lagonia will check to see if it is appropriate to have one person sit on multiple town boards since R. Madonia currently is a Planning Board Member.

Matthew Walsh: Writes to Supervisor Lagonia wishing him the best as he continues to go about the business in some communities.

NYS Ag and Markets: Municipal Shelter Inspection Report indicated a satisfactory rating.

NYS DOT: The 45 mph speed limit zone on County Route 7 has been extended and is now from Rigor Hill Road to the Punsit Creek Bridge/beginning of 35 mph zone (Pratt Hill Road).

Unfinished Business

Ray Jurkowski, Engineer for the Town, discussed the status of several Town projects.

The Town Park: The Town Board received one bid within budget for the construction of the pavilion at the Town Park which it awarded. Because of the timing of the summer recreation program and another job that the contractor needs to finish, this project will begin mid-September. There is a month in-between the time the summer recreation program finishes and mid-September in which the Highway Crew can take down the existing building and do site work.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that any money left over will be used for the electric work: lighting in the pavilion and down the path to the Spencertown Academy. Costs for this need to be kept down and because both cannot be done, the Town Board needs to decide which to do first. Town Board Member Vogler is willing to have a discussion concerning using some of the funds in savings so this project can be completed and done correctly. Supervisor Lagonia would prefer to have all parts of this project down now so additional site work does not need to be done in the future. The Town could lay conduit now in preparation for future work. A suggestion was made for motion lighting around the multi-use court.

Engineer Jurkowski noted that the preconstruction and contract signing can be done in August, pavilion work starts mid-September and will finish in 2-3 weeks. Supervisor Lagonia noted that there should be a path from the parking area to the court area and when the slab is poured for the pavilion, maybe additional can be poured for a pathway. R. Jurkowski will get change paperwork from the contractor for this.

East Hill Bridge: The condition of the bridge on East Hill Road has deteriorated to the point where last year a weight limit had to be placed on the bridge. Using pictures, Engineer Jurkowski showed areas of concern, and wear. When replacing this bridge, a permit from the NYSDEC is required for any stream work. Because this is in a 100-year flood zone, this needs a larger box culvert replacement which is an increase to handle the flood waters.

The Town Board discussed cost and budgeting. C.H.I.P.s money can be used for this project, splitting it over a two-year period. This year the engineering can be done. Engineer Jurkowski spoke about a grant that is new for 2017-2018 from the State of New York, under the title of

“Bridge New York.” Grants will be given for bridge and culvert work across the State and an application needs to be submitted. The Town of Austerlitz and this project fit into the specs for being allocated this grant money. This is a competitive process, but worth the time and energy. Engineer Jurkowski can complete the application and application process.

A motion was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Verenazi to have Engineer Jurkowski complete and submit an application for grant money to replace the bridge on East Hill Road.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Engineer Jurkowski continued advising that money can be saved if there was a collaborated effort between the Contractor hired and the Highway Department. The project can be staggered in such a way that time is optimized and money saved. This helps to distribute the costs over time.

R. Jurkowski proposes that during the fall of 2016 the design work can be done, NYSDEC permits can be secured by the end of February 2017 so the final work can begin in the Spring of 2017. Town Board Member G. Vogler asked if C.H.I.P.s money can be leveraged from this year and the following year. R. Jurkowski noted in response to Town Board Member N. Friedman’s question, that the work must be done first and then will be reimbursed.

Highway Superintendent Meehan requested that the Town Board give the approval for Engineer Jurkowski to begin the process so work can start in the Spring. Also noted was that easements would be needed from property owners.

Engineer Jurkowski explained that ‘design work’ entailed a survey, easements, design of the project, permits and contract work. All of this would be done in the 2016 and 2017 winter months’ time frame. Initial cost estimate for this work is \$20000.00.

A motion to authorize R. Jurkowski to begin the design work to move forward with the construction of the East Hill Road bridge replacement when funding is available was made by N. Friedman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Schoolhouse Road Culvert Repair: Repairs to this culvert have been done in the past, but now a replacement needs to take place. Engineer Jurkowski has taken time to really look over this area and make some calculations advising that this culvert needs to be increased to a 4 x 5. The cost for this would run around \$40000.00 if the Highway Crew worked alongside. Highway

Superintendent Meehan noted that this project is on the 284 form and is set to be paid for out of C.H.I.P.s funding. This project was discussed in depth.

A motion was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Verenazi to authorize R. Jurkowski to complete the design work and bid specs for the culvert replacement on Schoolhouse Road.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Middle Road and Fog Hill Road: An existing culvert needs to be replaced. NYSDEC has looked at this area and project. The inspector that reviewed this project has moved on requiring NYSDEC to send a new inspector out to review the project again. Once the DEC permits are issued, work can commence. Silt is built up in the stream forcing water into a different direction than the stream.

Planning Board Project, Bervy: The Town Board discussed this Planning Board Project noting that because Mr. Bervy did not send the requested paperwork to the Town's Engineer, he has agreed to extend the 62-day time frame. A meeting is set up for next week between all interested parties to resolve outstanding issues.

New Business

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan: Tabled.

Public Comments

Kathy Vander Weit asked R. Meehan when the Highway Department will be on Punsit Road. Late August.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Verenazi and seconded by N. Friedman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk