

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
December 15, 2016

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

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

Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the November 17, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes 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.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

Budget Amendment

Highway Fund

DA5110.1 General Repairs Payroll increase by \$16500.00

DA5142.1 Snow Removal Payroll decrease by \$16500.00

General Fund

A3510.4 Dog Control increase by \$200.00

A3620.4 Building Inspector increase by \$300.00

A3310.4 Traffic Control decrease by 500.00

A7140.1 Parks Payroll increase by \$1000.00

A7140.4 Playgrounds increase by \$50.00

A7310.4 Youth Programs increase by \$500.00

A7310.1 Youth Programs Payroll decrease by 1550.00

A motion to approve the budget amendment 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.

A motion to pay General Fund, #359-391, in the amount of \$16990.98, Highway Fund, #193-212, in the amount of \$46230.03, and the Capital Fund #49-51, in the amount of \$10161.90 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.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement for the Month of November 2016 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia advised a total in all accounts of \$1.78 million. Electric to the Town Park has been installed and the pavilion is completed except for painting. Supervisor Lagonia noted it looks great and he would like to thank contractor Wes Coons who went above and beyond for the Town. Town Board Member Friedman to follow-up and possibly secure funding for the additional concrete set to be poured in the Spring.

Supervisor Lagonia will contract the Accountant for the Town for updated financials reflecting bills paid tonight in order to ascertain where the Town will shake out for the year. This will give the Town Board a better understanding of what, if any, money is left over for possible reserve accounts. Reserve account options would be for highway equipment, capital improvements, a new salt shed, etc. Any reserve account would need to be in place before the 2016 books are closed and before the Annual AUD is completed and filed. The Town Board needs to be careful though what reserve accounts are set up because once money is tagged for a specific purpose, it has to be used for that purpose and nothing else.

Superintendent Meehan advised that salt has been ordered and payment for that will be against the 2016 budget.

2017 Organizational Meeting: Discussion on when to have the 2017 Organizational Meeting with a tentative date of January 2, 2017.

Zoning Changes: Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee has been working very hard on changes to the Zoning code and there seems to be an undercurrent that the Town Board is not working fast enough to put any changes in place. R. Lagonia advised that he spoke with Attorney for the Town Joseph Catalano who noted he was behind in some areas due to illness. The new solar law and updates to home occupations are being tackled currently. After the new year, additional changes will be handled. Attorney Catalano did pass some notes on to Town Board Member Vogler who will have Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Chairman Stalker look over before moving forward. Maybe these can be discussed at the Organizational meeting when Attorney Catalano is in attendance.

Spencertown Academy: Supervisor Lagonia alerted the Town Board to updates from Nick VanAlstine concerning progress towards getting the building in shape. The expectation is to

have architectural specs this week to put on a new roof and repair the bell tower, chimney and cornice in the Spring of 2017. Once complete, the hope is to repaint the building, repair the fence along the driveway and repave the back walkway. These renovations will depend on the cost and how much money can be raised. Some has been donated to date, with an overall goal of \$350000.00. N. VanAlstine asked if the Town could look into municipal grant funding. Town Board Member Friedman will look into this.

Supervisor Lagonia would like to work more with the Academy and N. Friedman suggested their inclusion for our bicentennial celebration.

New Town Hall Bid Package: Supervisor Lagonia advised that the project bid package should go out before Christmas even though currently there are still a couple loose ends to tie up. Bids should be back by the end of January, early February. Curbing was discussed with J. Shear who prefers for it to look more to the period and time, no granite.

On a County level, Supervisor Lagonia noted that the County budget stayed below the tax cap, increasing only by \$300000.00.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that due to heavy snow, many trees were knocked down and needed to be cleaned up. This latest snow storm really hurt the dirt roads because they were not yet frozen. Plowing took material off the top.

The new grader broke down and Caterpillar came out twice to work on it. It is fixed at this point. No charge to the Town for repair work because it is covered under warrantee, but there will be a mileage charge for the technician. This was a mechanical breakdown, not due to operator error. The rest of the fleet is in good shape.

The Highway Crew has been out trying to fix potholes and will keep working on it. They have been cleaning up brush and repairing a collapsed culvert by the Millay Colony on East Hill Road.

Superintendent Meehan has purchased the material for Ten Broeck Road, but the work will not be completed until Spring. R. Meehan advised that if there is any money left in his budget, he needs it for the box culvert for School House Road and would like to purchase a trailer and possible a water tank. Options were discussed. Superintendent Meehan will get 2 quotes for a trailer. The general consensus of the Town Board was to have this purchase made before the end of the year.

Continued discussion on monies left in the 2016 budget and how that could be utilized.

Town Clerk Report for the month of November 2016 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of November 2016 submitted.

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

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of November 2016 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia is very pleased to have G. Smith back. G. Smith is in the office and does the job. Town Board Member Wrightsman questioned the apparent abandoned house located on State Route 203, across from the end of Stonewall Road. J. Wrightsman has been appraised that it has been broken into multiple times. Advice given was to ask that the Columbia County Sherriff's Department to look into this.

Deputy Sheriff VanAlstyne is filling in for our resident deputy while he is out due to illness.

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

Justice Cassuto Court Report for the month of November 2016 submitted.

Town Board Member Friedman advised that she has heard complaints concerning how the timing is handled in our court concerning the line-up of cases. N. Friedman was told that cases without an attorney present were heard first. This means that for those who hired an attorney are paying higher attorney fees because they are being held off for last. N. Friedman asked if there was a way to rework the line-up. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town Board has no jurisdiction over the Justice Court.

Dog Report for the month of November 2016 submitted.

A motion to accept the above reports was made by G. Vogler and seconded by M. Verenazi.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Correspondence

None

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall Update: Discussed.

2017 Columbia Greene Humane Society Contract

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the 2017 Columbia Greene Humane Society Contract for shelter services was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

M. Verenazi: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0

New Business

Columbia County Youth Development Program Contract:

This contract was tabled due to legal questions.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn 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. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk