

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
February 15, 2018

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

Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan absent due to vacation.

Town Board meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the January 18, 2018 Town Board Meeting minutes was made by N. Friedman and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

Discussed a bill from September 2017 from Morris Associates for \$996.11; voucher #36. The Town Board felt that an explanation for this bill was needed due to the product given. Supervisor Lagonia will discuss this with Ray Jurkowski. Voucher #36 will be held over for payment until the March 2018 meeting.

A motion to pay General Fund, #33-35, 37-70, in the amount of \$40266.35, Highway Fund, #23-33, in the amount of \$12541.04, and the Capital Fund #13-23, in the amount of \$85972.43 was made by N. Friedman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: 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 January 2018 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the annual AUD Financial Report is due at the end of February. It appears in the preliminary AUD that the fund balances in each the general fund and highway fund have increased by \$20000.00. The Town Board can put this money in reserve funds or can leave them as unencumbered so as to not have to use it for a specific purpose. The NYS Comptroller's

Office does not give clear direction as to the percentage of savings limit a town can have. Accountant for the Town, Nelson Furlano believes the Town is fine with what is on hand. Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano feels we have too much. The Town Board needs to have a conversation about how much to keep in savings. Town Board Member Vogler also notes that the Town Board needs to have a discussion concerning long term future needs and in doing so, the Town Board may find it will have more financial needs than it currently has in reserves/savings. Supervisor Lagonia feels that the Town needs to spend some of this money. The balances are getting to be at the point where there is too much just sitting and not being used. There are currently places the Town can use this money; new town hall, roads, equipment, new salt shed, etc. The Highway Form 284 has more projects than funding. Town Board Member Wrightsman questioned if the Town should hire additional highway personnel. Supervisor Lagonia advised not right now. Some of the bigger jobs can be subbed out. The Town Board discussed various projects.

Supervisor Lagonia met with Walden Environmental Engineering, an engineering firm out of Long Island that have a full-service branch in Albany. The rates are reasonable and they are aggressively looking for work in the area. They can look into grants available and would assign an engineer for the Town of Austerlitz. The Town of Canaan also uses an engineering firm the Town can investigate. The Town is not beholden to any firm right now so there is time to look and interview.

The salt shed RFP is waiting on Highway Superintendent Meehan to get together with Architect Joe Iuviene on the placement of the building. Where and how the building will be placed will play greatly into the cost. Once the Town gets the cost numbers for this, Attorney Catalano will begin the bonding paperwork.

Attorney Mitch Khosrova, representing residents on Longview Drive, has been calling both Supervisor Lagonia and Attorney Catalano. The Town Board has included culvert replacements on Longview Drive on the Highway Form 284 for the 2018 year. Attorney Khosrova is insisting that the Town Board make a commitment to pave Longview Drive in 2019. Supervisor Lagonia told M. Khosrova that the Town Board is not going to make a commitment for 2019 and our attorney has advised the Town Board not to make such a commitment. If Attorney Khosrova or a resident from Longview Drive approaches a member of the Town Board or other Town personnel, please refer them to Attorney Catalano.

Mr. Meininger, a resident who owns property on River Road in Austerlitz, has approached the Town asking that the Town take steps to remove his driveway running through his property, also called River Road, from tax maps and google mapping. It appears on the mapping to be a part of River Road. When the County did over the bridge on Upper Hollow Road, they signed an easement with Mr. Meininger to use this section of road as a thoroughfare for the affected residents. During this time, Highway Superintendent Meehan put down some material because the traffic traveling this section was heavy. Mr. Meininger is concerned because people are still using this section now that the bridge is completed. Many years ago, this driveway was called Grant Road and was a Town road. Supervisor Lagonia asked Mr. Meininger for proof that this is not still a Town road.

East Hill Bridge and School House Road Culvert Replacement
Supervisor Lagonia read the following update from Morris Associates:

We are scheduled to put out the culvert bid to the precast concrete companies by the February 23, and the bids would come back March 13, before the next Town Board Meeting. We will be putting out the bids for material and deliver of culverts for both the School House Road, and East Hill Road locations. Once the culvert bids have been awarded to the precast manufacturer, and we receive shop drawings of the East Hill road Culvert we will put out the bid for the installation of the culvert to contractors. It is anticipated that the East Hill Road Culvert would be delivered the 1st week of August. The stream should be relatively dry at that time and it should provide plenty of time to finish the project before the end of August. I would anticipate that the School House Road culvert could be delivered in the beginning of June and the would give the Town Highway Department enough time to install the School House Road culvert in the month of June, before they move over to the East Hill Road Culvert in July to perform Demolition of the existing bridge.

Town Board discussed these projects.

On a County level, Supervisor Lagonia detailed the current DSS housing project. The Town Board discussed.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan was absent, but left the following report:

Met with Joe Iuviene to discuss the location of the sand and salt shed. We are happy with the location and ready to move on to the next step. We have gone through more sand and salt then we did last year. Because of the ice storms we had a few people go off the roads. One of the sanders needed a new gear box that has been replaced. The highway crew has been out on the roads cutting brush. On March 7th, weather permitting, we will be going to the capital to try and get more funding through CHIPS.

Town Clerk Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

Tax Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that Code Enforcement Officer, Glenn Smith, can see the difference in income with the increased fees.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

No Dog Report for the month of January 2018 submitted.

A motion to accept the monthly reports was made by G. Vogler and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober: yes
N. Friedman: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

Correspondence

Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro: ‘ThinkDIFFERENTLY’ Campaign is an initiative to foster a welcoming and supportive environment for residents with special needs. Executive Molinaro invites other communities to get involved and make a difference.

Association of Towns of NY State: AOT has joined with NYCOM, the New York Conference of Mayors, to create the New York Municipal Energy Program, a one-of-a-kind, innovative Municipal Aggregation and Community Choice Aggregation program that allows New York municipalities and even their residents to save money on energy costs.

Unfinished Business

Appointments: Planning Board, ZBA, CPOC, BAR

A motion to appoint Lee Tilden to the Planning Board with a term to run from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022 was made by N. Friedman and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober: yes
N. Friedman: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to appoint Eric Spiegel to the Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee with a term to run from February 15, 2018 to December 31, 2018 was made by N. Friedman and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober: yes
N. Friedman: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to appoint Bruce Burnes to the Board of Assessment Review for a term to run from October 1, 2016 to September 31, 2021 if he is available to serve was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober: yes
N. Friedman: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

A motion to appoint Bridget Arnold as chair and member to the Board of Assessment Review for a term to run from October 1, 2017 to September 31, 2022 was made by N. Friedman and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that ZBA Chair, Karl Gabosh, sent him an email suggesting Gerald Seligman as a candidate for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supervisor Lagonia feels K. Gabosh's counsel is worthy.

A motion to appoint Gerald Seligman to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term of P. Rubin ending December 31, 2020 was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

New Town Hall

Architect Joseph Iuviene updated the construction budget verses costs sheet through the February 2018 abstract.

Architect Iuviene believes the new Town Hall will be walkable by the Town's Bicentennial celebration in early June. It will not be 100% complete, but residents can walk through.

Also submitted by Architect Iuviene was RFPs for the remaining items left to bid for the new town hall.

A motion to approve the RFPs and to go out to bid for Telephone Wiring, Data Wiring, Smoke Detection, Panic Alarm, Video Intercom, Security Surveillance System and Public Address and Assistive Listening System was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Salt Shed

Architect Iuviene gave an update on the new salt shed explaining that the direction the building will face and the placement will dictate the cost of the project. J. Iuviene has just met with Highway Superintendent Meehan and he believes they placed the new shed in the most advantageous spot for the lowest amount of money. The RFP will be completed shortly. Supervisor Lagonia asked that a separate bid is included for just the main shed without the two side pieces. J. Iuviene will get pre-bid pricing from contractors by the next meeting. After this, all parts of the work the Town hired Architect Iuviene to do will be complete. The Town Board discussed this project.

Highway Form 284

Table until next month. The Town Board will hold a workshop at 6:00 p.m. before March Town Board meeting.

Town Logo

Supervisor Lagonia showed the Town Board a new Town logo created by artist Jacqueline Rogers, who is a resident of Spencertown.

A motion to approve the new Town logo created by artist Jacqueline Rogers was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Bicentennial Committee Update

Town Board Member Wrightsman updated the Town Board concerning festivities for the Town Bicentennial celebration. On Saturday, there will be a parade with floats marching from the Spencertown Fire House to the Town green and Town Hall. It will include the Ghent Band and Color Guard, a float from the Historical Society and the Chatham Band. Publicity will be going out in April and May. Banner up in Spencertown and Austerlitz. Joel Dyslin will let the Town use his field for parking. The Town will need insurance for this. The Spencertown Fire Company will cook food in the park. T-shirts will be for sale. There will also be house tours of historic homes in Spencertown. The dedication of the new Town Hall will take place. The NYS Comptroller's Office may set up a table for unclaimed funds.

On Sunday, there will be additional festivities in Austerlitz with a house tour of historic homes in that area, the Historical Society will be open, and Austerlitz Fire Company will cook food Sunday.

Historian Tom Moreland's book on historic homes in the Town will be ready for sale. There will be historic markers over the Township, a cancellation stamp from the post office, displays in both the Spencertown Academy and the Historical Society. There will be police presence.

New Business

Town Engineer

Discussed.

Historical Records Temporary License and Custodial Agreement

The current two-year Historical Records Temporary License and Custodial Agreement comes due this February. Renewal for this agreement is for only one year as the new Town Hall will be completed this year and the records can be moved back into the Town.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the Historical Records Temporary License and Custodial Agreement with the Austerlitz Historical Society for one year was made by N. Friedman and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Reserve Accounts

Discussed.

Preliminary AUD Report

Discussed.

Broadband

Town Board Member Wrightsman updated the Town Board advising that Phase 3 broadband funding just came through. There is also a website where residents can go to determine when Spectrum will have fiber available to their residence. The Towns of Copake, Hillsdale and Austerlitz are working together to meet with Fairpoint and Spectrum to ensure that the agreement to deliver is followed.

Austerlitz Town Park

Town Board Member Friedman advised that there is a verbal proposal from Greenagers, an organization where youth work to build trails. They are from Housatonic. The proposal is to build trails in the Austerlitz Town Park for \$4000.00; \$1000.00 a day for 4 days. NYSDEC permitting needs to be completed. Supervisor Lagonia believes this is a good area for the Town to put some money in. One issue though is that these trails need to be maintained and the Town needs to incorporate more than just the trails. Maybe some signage, picnic tables, climbing wall for the kids, etc. Member Vogler states that the Town can do a little each year. Member Friedman also suggested benches from logs, building a community area where projects can be done. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town Board wants that side of Town to feel like there is something for them.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

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

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk#