

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
January 24, 2019

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

Town Board Member Nansi Friedman absent due to vacation. Highway Superintendent Meehan absent because of the storm and out plowing the roads.

Town Board meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Moment of silence and pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the December 20, 2018 Workshop/Regular Town Board Meeting minutes was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

A motion to accept the January 3, 2019 Organizational Town Board Meeting minutes was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: abstain

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 3:2.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to pay General Fund, #1-58, in the amount of \$36668.02, Highway Fund, #1-26, in the amount of \$28503.95, and the Capital Fund #1-28, in the amount of \$374046.90 was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

2018 Budget Amendments

Highway Fund

Increase DA5140.1 Brush and Weeds \$2580.00
Increase DA5142.4 Snow Removal \$4549.00
Decrease DA5142.1 Snow Removal \$7129.00
Increase DA9060.8 Hospitalization \$1901.00
Decrease DA9030.8 Social Security \$1901.00

General Fund

Increase A1010.4 Town Board \$2491.00
Increase A1010.1 Town Board \$1.00
Increase A1110.1 Town Justice \$404.00
Increase A1110.12 Justice Clerk \$27.00
Increase A1220.1 Supervisor \$1.00
Decrease A1110.4 \$2924.00
Increase A1220.4 Supervisor \$861.00
Increase A1320.4 Accountant \$165.00
Increase A1355.1 Assessor \$250.00
Decrease A1620.4 Building \$1277.00
Increase A1420.4 Attorney \$4140.00
Decrease A1440.4 Engineer \$4140.00
Increase A1460.4 Record Retention \$215.00
Increase A1920.2 Dues \$197.00
Decrease A1620.4 \$412.00
Increase A3120.4 Police \$4075.00
Increase A3310.4 Traffic Control 1669.00
Decrease A5132.4 Garage \$5744.00
Increase A3510.4 Dog Control \$210.00
Increase A3510.1 Dog Control \$1.00
Increase A3620.1 Building Inspector \$229.00
Increase A3620.4 Building Inspector \$211.00
Decrease A3620.11 Building Inspector Clerk \$651.00
Increase A5182.4 Street Lights \$485.00
Decrease A5132.4 Highway Garage \$485.00
Increase A6772.4 Senior Programs \$450.00
Decrease A5010.4 Highway Superintendent \$450.00
Increase A7140.1 Playgrounds \$408.00
Increase A7140.4 Playgrounds \$1711.00
Decrease A8020.11 Planning Clerk \$2119.00
Increase A7310.1 Youth Programs \$487.00
Decrease A7310.2 Playgrounds \$487.00
Increase A7550.4 Celebrations \$1820.00
Decrease A7510.4 Historian \$1820.00

A motion to adopt the 2018 budget amendments was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes
N. Friedman: absent
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 4:1.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement for the Month of December 2018 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia went over the line items noting that some of the figures include 2018 bills and some do not. There will still be 2018 bills next month. The Town's AUD is due at the end of February. Salt shed numbers will need to be increased. The C.H.I.P.s line item will be reimbursed when that money comes in from the State.

Bids for the electric for the salt shed are still coming in.

The Town Board went over the year end financials.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the highway fund will probably be very flush at the end of the year. When the highway crew worked at the Town Hall, all of that payroll was booked to the new town hall and not to the highway fund. The extra money can be used for culverts and road material. Some could also be put back into reserves.

Highway Report

No Highway Superintendent Report for the month. Highway Superintendent Meehan absent.

Town Clerk Report for the month of December 2018 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of December 2018 submitted.

Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of January 2019 submitted.

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

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

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

Dog Report for the months of November and December 2018 submitted.

Climate Smart Committee

Town Board Member Vogler reported that at the January Climate Committee, Eleanor Saunders and Karen Frishkoff, volunteers at the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), came to discuss the organization's legislation that's before Congress named the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the proposed legislation. Also discussed was the Committee's wish to stay engaged with the CCL. The Citizens' Climate

Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

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: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Correspondence

None

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall Update

Cost analysis sheet was updated by Therese Boehme, Wallace Architecture.

Supervisor Lagonia updated the Town Board as to the status of the new town hall project, noting that 95% of the work downstairs is complete. The upstairs should be done around of the end of March beginning of April. The work is progressing nicely with no major issues, just some minor bumps along the way. The new phone system has been ordered and will be in next week. Most of the subcontractors are finished. Still some heating work left to be done. The lift has issues and the technician will be out to look at it. Architect Wallace has been very helpful through the process. The outside work will be done in the Spring. The Town will need to design a landscaping plan.

Town Board Member Wrightsman asked about a dedication and celebration day. The Town Board discussed possible options. Member Vogler suggested that maybe the day could be coordinated with a Spencertown Academy or St. Peter's event.

Supervisor Lagonia discussed the key system for the new town hall advising the Town Board Members that they all will eventually be given a key to the entrance door.

Whether or not to get mailboxes for different town personnel at the new Town Hall is being discussed although the plan at this point is to go paperless.

The cinder block area of the addition to the old town hall will have something down with it to make it look more presentable.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the electric bills for the new town hall will be high for a bit until the heating system is worked out. The internet speed has been upgraded.

New Business

Berkshire Cable Corporation Franchise Agreement

Supervisor Lagonia advises that this agreement is with the Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, for review. The Town Board discussed the different cable options available to the Town.

Supervisor Lagonia notes that if the Town decides to enter into this franchise agreement with Berkshire Cable Corporation, it must hold a public hearing.

A motion to set a public hearing February 21, 2019 beginning at 6:30 p.m. concerning the franchise agreement with Berkshire Cable Corporation subject to Attorney review and on the condition that the company and Attorney Catalano can work out details was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Columbia County IT Renewal Agreement

Supervisor Lagonia noted that even though the Town has IT services with BAS, it doesn't cost the Town anything to sign this contract with Columbia County. It only cost if the Town uses this service. In addition, this is part of the shared services initiative.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the Columbia County IT Renewal Agreement was made by C. Schober and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Salt Shed

The new salt shed is complete except for the electric and blacktop in front. Bids for electric are currently being sought. There is still some material at the Braley property. Supervisor Lagonia advised that J. Braley has no problems with the length of time the Town wants to use his barn or the payment arrangements, whatever they are. Supervisor Lagonia would also like to have a landscape plan down for the highway garage area. Most of the equipment is now undercover and some of the material cleaned up.

Town Code/Air B&Bs

Town Board Member Vogler notes that different towns are discussing short term rentals, Air B&Bs. Member Wrightsman states that there has only been one issue in the Town of Austerlitz that was taken care of. Supervisor Lagonia believes the Town should continue to talk about this issue, but it is not a problem at this point. Th City of Hudson has a problem though. There is a group that feels that there are too many 'hotels' and not enough businesses. There is the other

side of the coin where some do not want to see Hudson go back to where it was before. Member Schober noted he owned a house in the Town of Chatham that he used to rent out. The Town of Chatham was trying to limit this type of use. Member Vogler does not believe that putting this in our code is something to get involved with at this point. Supervisor Lagonia noted that he has heard an additional complaint from some that notes that people are trying to run legitimate businesses and Air B&Bs are not held to the same standards. Collecting tax is one such difference.

New Harassment Policy Sign Off

Member Vogler asked if all employees have signed off on the new harassment policy. Town Clerk Haag will find out.

New Year Town Appointments

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town Board still needs to appoint a member to the planning board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supervisor Lagonia and Town Board Member Vogler will interview those who have put in a letter of interest and bring names to the Town Board at next month's meeting.

New Website

The new Town website is basically done and ready to be launched. The Town Board can look at it beforehand. Town Board Member Schober suggested that the Town should have an email sign up during the new Town Hall dedication ceremony.

Public Comments

Lisa Futner and Connie Mondel spoke with the Town Board concerning a number of issues: The public would like to see information on the website. Supervisor Lagonia noted that regardless of information put on the website, people still do not show up for meetings. R. Lagonia is always available to answer questions if anyone has any.

Is it possible to hear the public during a meeting instead of waiting until the end? Supervisor Lagonia advised that the meeting is a time to get the board and the public up to speed and if the public is allowed to interject during this portion, it breaks the flow. Town Board Member Vogler noted that the public is always allowed to speak during the public comment time concerning issues they hear during the meeting.

What is being done to take care of the roads? Roads issues need to be taken care of. Highway Superintendent Meehan has been working on the new Town Hall. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Town Board has done so much throughout the Town over the last few years and now that the new Town Hall is just about complete going forward the roads will be the focus. Highway Superintendent Meehan and his crew have saved the Town several hundred thousands of dollars by them doing the work instead of it going out to bid.

It was pointed out that some of the roads, such as Beale Road, is seeing erosion. Supervisor Lagonia pointed out that the roads do need some material. But, part of the erosion is caused by cars that travel very fast and cause dust. Dust is part of the erosion. The Town has 64 miles of

dirt roads and that takes a lot of money to maintain. Town Board Member Schober noted that narrower roads erode less.

Supervisor Lagonia spoke concerning the New York State budget proceedings and how Governor Cuomo has cut a lot of state aid across the State. The Town of Austerlitz will lose its share. This is happening after the Town budget has been set in place. If this funding is pulled, where will a town get replacement money? The Town of Austerlitz' budget is funded by less than 50% of tax money. Revenues come in from other sources; state aid is one of those sources.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that he would like to have a Q&A time for residents to just come out and ask whatever questions are on their mind. In addition, he would like to have the County Clerk, Holly Tanner, come out and speak concerning the enhanced license process.

Adjournment

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

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk