

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
October 17, 2019

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

Minute Taker Constance Mondel in attendance taking minutes.

Robert Meehan, Highway Superintendent, absent due to storm cleanup.

Public Hearing called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing called for the 2020 Preliminary Budget. Town Clerk Haag advised all that the public notice requirements were met.

No comments or questions.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by G. Vogler and seconded by N. Friedman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Public Hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

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 September 19, 2019 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: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to pay General Fund, #339-374, in the amount of \$48343.53, Highway Fund, #204-226, in the amount of \$27545.88, and the Capital Fund #114-117 in the amount of \$32422.95 was made by G. Vogler and seconded by N. Friedman.

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 September 2019 submitted.

Supervisor Lagonia explained the Planning Board Escrow Account being held for the AT&T project. AT&T has pulled their application and need to be refunded the remaining balance in the escrow account. The Town needs to reconcile this escrow and make sure that all applicable charges be paid out of this escrow has been done.

A motion to reimburse the Town for any and all AT&T expenditures out of the escrow account be done and to cut a check for the remainder to AT&T 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.

The salt shed numbers need to be reconciled as well. The Town is allowed to pay attorney and engineering fees out of the bond proceeds.

2019 voting at the new Town Hall may or may not happen. The lift operation is a stumbling block for Board of Election approval. State Law states that there needs to be an audible tone when an elevator, in our case the lift, arrives at each floor. In addition, there needs to be braille next to the floor choices. Supervisor Lagonia has spoken with the lift company and neither of these requirements can be done for the lift. Supervisor Lagonia informed the County Board of Elections that he can have a person here to run the lift if the need arises, but this was not feasible because there would have to be 2 operators at all times; a democrat and a republican. Supervisor Lagonia also checked to see if there was a way to 'lock out a floor' from use for voting day so the lift would only go between the vestibule and the voting floor. This can not be done either. Although the Spencertown Fire House would prefer not to have elections there anymore, Supervisor Lagonia advised that the County Board of Elections has the right to make use of the Fire House.

Supervisor Lagonia estimated that there were around 40-50 people who attended the Open House for the new town hall. There will be a formal dedication next summer.

Supervisor Lagonia noted a few residents have questioned the lighting in the Town Hall parking lot. It seems bright. The lights need to be at a certain brightness under code so there is not much that can be done.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan not in attendance. Supervisor Lagonia did have a few questions and concerns. It appears that R. Meehan has rented highway equipment. A roller seems to be one of those items rented. R. Lagonia is not sure why the roller the town just purchased was not used unless it is a different type of roller than what is needed for paving.

Partridge Drive was not patched before Bryarcliffe was oiled and stoned and therefore was not coated with the oil and stone. R. Lagonia understands that the Highway Crew did not get to Partridge Drive in time.

The front part of Dugway Road was not taken care of yet this year as was noted in the Highway Form 284. This part of Dugway Road is in bad shape and we might 'lose' this section over the winter.

The culvert on School House Road was not replaced this year. Supervisor Lagonia understands that Engineer Jurkowski did go out to bid for this project but no-one bid. This will be bid again over the winter when contractors are looking to line up work for Spring.

No work on Longview Drive has been done this year.

Discussion on use of C.H.I.P.s funding and the projects listed on the 2019 Highway Form 284. C.H.I.P.s funding will carry over to next year.

Town Board Member Schober noted that the Highway Crew seems to be very disgruntled.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that work is currently being done on the old town hall. This will be the office of the Town Historian, Tom Moreland. It is being painted, new ceiling lights and the cement block portion on the back outside was covered with wood siding. T. Moreland has ordered historical wall mounts depicting the history of the Town of Austerlitz and the office will feature historical items from time to time. Supervisor Lagonia noted that Historian Moreland is a big asset to the Town.

Town Clerk Report for the month of September 2019 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of September 2019 submitted

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of September 2019 submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of September 2019 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of September 2019 submitted.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of September 2019 submitted.

No Dog Report for the month of September 2019 submitted.

Climate Smart

Town Board Member Vogler reported the following:

- The Town has been awarded a \$35,000 grant to solarize the town garage and pay for LED street lighting. The grant portion for the town garage (about \$34,000) covers 100% of the cost, i.e. there is no matching funding required from the town.
- NYSEG has still not installed LED streetlights despite the town's formal request to do so in early 2018. We will follow up again with NYSEG.
- A representative from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission attended our meeting and discussed Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). A CCA, if adopted by a town, becomes the sole supplier of green sourced electricity (hydro, wind, solar), although residents have the ability to opt-out. Salient points discussed included:
 - CCA has begun to be implemented in several areas in the Capital District. The Village of Kinderhook is interested in joining.
 - Potential benefits for a town to join the CCA include lower cost of electricity (the supply portion of your electricity bill) and knowing and helping the sourcing of electricity from green sources versus carbon burning sources.
 - Potential risks include the reaction of town residents to having the town board choose who their electricity supplier is, even if it is less costly than their current supplier. A resident would need to pro-actively opt-out which could be done via phone call.
- Other subjects discussed included:
 - the charging station (50% increase in use in Q3, 2019 versus Q2, 2019)
 - how best to promote climate actions via the town website, especially as regards to government programs and grants that residents might be able to use to solarize and heat their homes
 - Benchmarking continues with the addition of the town garage, and soon the new town hall
- The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20 at 7pm.

Town Board Member Wrightsman noted that our website should contain a Climate Smart area with State programs listed as well.

A motion to accept the monthly reports 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.

Correspondence

Richard Fischer: Spencertown Park Basketball Court

Supervisor Lagonia has heard from a couple of residents concerning the choice to put in a multiuse court instead of a basketball court and a tennis court. The Town had a Community Day to discuss what residents would like to see and the decision was made partly from these discussions. There are a number of pieces that goes into the whole puzzle and unfortunately, there is not room for everything.

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall Update

Wallace Architecture submitted an updated construction budget versus cost sheet for review.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that he met with a gentleman that deals with sound issues like we have in the new town hall meeting room. R. Lagonia was advised that there needs to be fabric panels on the walls to absorb as much as possible. The information was submitted to Architect William Wallace for review. W. Wallace will submit a plan for the Town Board to consider.

Storm windows have been ordered and will be up by winter.

2020 Preliminary Town Budget

Resolution #36-2019, Adoption of the 2020 Final Budget

A motion to adoption Resolution #36-2019, Adoption of the 2020 Final Budget was made by G. Vogler and seconded by N. Friedman.

Roll Call Vote:

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

WHEREAS, the Supervisor of the Town of Austerlitz prepared a Tentative Budget for the Town's fiscal year 2020 and presented that Tentative Budget at a regular meeting of the Town Board held on September 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board reviewed the Tentative Budget and discussed and analyzed it with the Town Supervisor, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted the Tentative Budget without changes made by the Town Board during the course of discussions regarding same as the Preliminary Budget and scheduled a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget for October 17, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget has been duly noticed and held;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz hereby adopts the Preliminary Budget for 2020, without any changes made by the Town Board, as the Final Budget for the fiscal year of 2020 of the Town of Austerlitz; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby directs the Town Clerk to file the Final Budget as required by law.

Broadband

Town Board Member Wrightsman noted he went to a meeting last month and they announced that the County is going to send out a survey and maps will be updated.

New Business

Columbia County Youth Bureau Annual Contract

A motion to direct Supervisor Lagonia to sign the Columbia County Youth Bureau Annual Contract 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.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that Columbia County is utilizing shared service contracts more and more. The newest option is for audit services which the Town could use for Court Audits.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn 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. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Constance Mondel, Minute Taker