

Town of Austerlitz
Town Board Meeting
November 21, 2019

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

Town Board Member Nansi Friedman absent due to illness.

Town Board Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the October 17, 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: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to pay General Fund, #375-412, in the amount of \$27280.40, Highway Fund, #227-245, in the amount of \$25922.05, and the Capital Fund #118-122, in the amount of \$16926.54 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 October 2019 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the numbers on the front sheet have been updated and are correct at the present time. Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan noted that Contractor Wes Coons worked on the salt shed this past week so some additional money will be coming out of the salt shed fund. Supervisor Lagonia questioned if there were any additional items that needed to be taken out of this fund. There is left over money in the highway equipment bond line because the new highway trucks came in less than expected.

Supervisor Lagonia questioned Superintendent Meehan on how often the pavement roller is rented. R. Meehan advised that one is rented enough to warrant the Town purchasing one. Price would come in around \$35000.00. R. Meehan will get a good figure so the Town can purchase one before the end of the year. This will need to be bid.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that money left in the bond line can be used for this, or can use money from the highway fund or the highway reserve.

A motion to authorize R. Lagonia to get bid specs and put out a bid for a blacktop roller, and to purchase a blacktop roller using money from the highway capital project bond proceeds and/or highway funds 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.

Supervisor Lagonia will discuss with Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, how the extra funds in the salt shed bond can be used and will advise the Town Board.

It was noted that the sales tax revenues for the 2019 are up.

The Town Board discussed road issues and the 2019 Highway Form 284 projects with Highway Superintendent Meehan.

Highway Superintendent Meehan noted that only half of Partridge Drive was patched with year because the Highway Crew ran out of time. There is only ¼ mile left to be oiled and stoned. Dugway Road was patched, but still needs to be redone. Supervisor Lagonia noted that C.H.I.P.s money will be used for this, but since this project was not done this year, C.H.I.P.s money can be held over until next year. R. Meehan noted that the Schoolhouse Road culvert project was not done. Engineer for the Town Ray Jurkowski put this project out to bid, but no bids came in. R. Jurkowski will put this project back out to bid in the winter when the bidding will be better as contractors will be looking for work at that time.

R. Meehan continued that some culvert work has been done on Longview Drive and he would like to motopave this road. Supervisor Lagonia advised that he believes there are other roads that are a higher priority for motopaving; Beale Road and Reed Road for a start.

Town Board Member Greg Vogler asked if the following projects can be prioritized since they were on this year's Highway Form 284: Partridge Dr., Dugway Road, Schoolhouse Road and Longview Drive.

More discussion was heard on the timing of projects and roads that should be motopaved, noting that Prathill Road, West Hill Road and Bryarcliffe projects were done this year.

Supervisor Lagonia advised Highway Superintendent Meehan that the Town Board needs a list of what projects are next. The Town has just completed the new salt shed project, the new town hall project and a more serious look at the roads in Town is where some concentration should be.

Superintendent Meehan advised that Middle Road needs some work because of the heavy campground traffic. This commercial business really puts some wear and tear on this road.

Further discussion on types of road materials used currently, possible types to use in the future, places to purchase them and cost difference.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that some minor odds and ends were finished on the salt shed. The little storms that have been happening has played havoc on the Town roads. The highway crew has been using the small trucks to plow to save the roads as best as they can since they are still so soft.

Supervisor Lagonia and Highway Superintendent Meehan will meet with Chatham Central School District Dispatch Steve Oleynek to discuss school closures, plow times and coordination procedures.

The Town Board discussed how to take care of the Town Hall during snow storms. There is now a much bigger space to think about, especially for meeting nights and court. Highway Superintendent Meehan and his crew will be out on the roads and can not be expected to stop plowing and clean up around the Town Hall. This takes a lot of extra time. Supervisor Lagonia believes the Town should hire someone to take this on. Dan Howes, who takes care of the spring, summer and fall clean-up, could be hired for this. Supervisor Lagonia will reach out to D. Howes.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town really needs a shed to house the outside tools, equipment and material for the winter.

Supervisor Lagonia advised the Town Board that there is a new bail law going into effect as of January that will limit the amount of arraignments done by Town Justices. These will decrease drastically.

The Christmas tree lighting is set for the first Friday in December, which for this year will be December 6th at 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Storm windows were supposed to be put on the new Town Hall, but haven't yet. This will be done in the Spring.

Supervisor Lagonia continued discussing the mess surrounding this year's election process in Columbia County. Election results were late, hardly no notice ahead of time for the change of voting venue, machines were delivered to the wrong polling place, tallying out at the end of the night was difficult because the voting machines were programmed incorrectly. There was an issue at the County level because of a flea infestation. The offices had to be moved and the

ballot printer was put out of calibration during the move. Neither of the Election Commissioners realized this. Since the ballots were printed off calibration, the voting machines could not read them. There was new staff at the County level and ballots had to be hand counted. There is the possibility that some may lose their jobs over this.

Highway Superintendent Meehan advised that the Town needs to purchase tables to be used for the election day process since the Spencertown Firehouse's tables were used this year. Supervisor Lagonia made note. Not sure where they can currently be stored, but will figure it out.

Town Clerk Report for the month of October 2019 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of October 2019 submitted

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

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

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

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

Dog Report for the months of August, September and October 2019 submitted.

Climate Smart

Town Board Member Vogler, advised that the Town could take advantage of grant money and put solar panels on the Highway Garage. Data has been shipped out to get a quote to see if this is feasible. Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski will see if the Highway Garage roof can support the weight of the solar panels. R. Meehan gave R. Jurkowski the steel structure plans.

The Town website pages for the Climate Smart section need to include more information.

Supervisor Lagonia signed a letter that was sent out concerning the LED street lights. Town Board Member Chris Schober noted a representative, Carol Humphrey, who could come out to the Town and make recommendations. This is through NYSEG with percentages off. Member Schober will research and get back to the Town Board.

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

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Correspondence

NYS Dept of Ag and Markets Municipal Shelter Inspection Report 10/25/19: Town of Austerlitz rated 'satisfactory.'

Unfinished Business

New Town Hall Update

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

Supervisor Lagonia noted the following that still needs to be completed: rail in vestibule and on sides of dais; storm windows; small drainage across Meyers property; sound proofing for upstairs meeting area; fresh air intake for offices. Old town hall is finished.

The Town Board will need to put together a maintenance plan for the new town hall in the coming year.

Contractor Da Loia is building kiosks for upstairs and downstairs. Town Board Member Schober questioned a sign outside by the road. The Town Board discussed options for this.

New Business

Columbia Greene Humane Society/SPCA Dog Shelter Agreement

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the Columbia Greene Human Society Dog Shelter Contract for the 2020 year 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.

Association of Towns 2020 Annual Meeting Voting Designation

A motion to designate Town Board Member Greg Vogler to be the Town's voting delegate for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns to be held in February in New York City and for Town Clerk Susan Haag to be the alternate was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: absent

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Public Comments

Erlyn Madonia stated that the Town needs signage for correct doors to use to get into offices, etc. Maybe the Town could ask the Fire Companies in Town to put the Christmas Tree Lighting notice on their sign boards. Supervisor Lagonia will ask the Spencertown Fire Company and Member Wrightsman will ask the Austerlitz Fire Company.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn 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. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk