

Town of Austerlitz  
Town Board Meeting  
August 16, 2018

Present: Robert Lagonia, Supervisor, Greg Vogler, Nansi Friedman, Chris Schober and Jere Wrightsman, Town Board Members, Robert Meehan, Highway Superintendent and Susan Haag, Town Clerk. Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano also present.

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

Moment of Silence in honor Joe Iuviene, who death was so sudden and devastating. He was a gentleman who will be missed by many.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

A motion to accept the July 19, 2018 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, #249-287 in the amount of \$29467.59, Highway Fund, #118-127, in the amount of \$7776.94, and the Capital Fund #93-103, in the amount of \$45053.50 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 July 2018 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia advised that sales tax revenue is up about \$50000.00 for the year. All other numbers are in line on the revenue side. Expenses are in line as well. Highway line items currently not showing action are those used in the fall of the year. Highway Superintendent Meehan has been very busy helping the Town with the new Town Hall project.

**Highway Report**

Highway Superintendent Meehan reported that the Highway Crew has patched areas in Bryarcliffe getting ready to put down oil and stone. This will probably happen in September. R. Meehan noted that the power is in next door at the new town hall, as is the septic water line and most of the digging for the leach field. The rest of the digging will be done in September. The charging station power is in as well. Notice has been put out to the residents of East Hill concerning the culvert work that will be starting soon. Superintendent Meehan is going to make a foot bridge for the kids if they want to go across the creek to catch the school bus. Leveling for the salt shed is done. A meeting with Contractor Wes Coons is being set up to get ready for the salt shed work.

Town Board Member Vogler thanks Highway Superintendent Meehan and the Highway Crew for all their work on the charging station. The weather the day they worked on this was not good and yet they persevered. Supervisor Lagonia thanked them as well and noted all the work they have done on the new town hall has been terrific.

There was a complaint concerning property on Elm Street that noted a number of unregistered vehicles. Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, has spoken to one of the residents who is willing to get the area cleaned up, but needs someone to do it since she and her husband are currently living out of State. J. Catalano is working out how to get this done. Attorney Catalano will also speak with Code Enforcement Officer Smith who should send out a letter to document this complaint.

Work for the salt shed is getting started. Engineer for the Town, Ray Jurkowski, will prepare an RFP for the blacktop work. Supervisor Lagonia noted that Architect Joseph Iuviene was set to be the project manager for the salt shed project. The Town Board may need to set up a special meeting to address how it wants to move forward with this, but Supervisor Lagonia feels that he and Highway Superintendent Meehan can manage this project. Although, if this happens, Supervisor Lagonia feels he and R. Meehan should be compensated monetarily.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that he met with Theresa Boehme and Phil Persinger, who work for the Architectural Bureau, to discuss how their office can and will move forward in the future. They both have great intentions, but since they don't own the business and J. Iuviene's son lives in the City, much of this is in the hands of their attorney. If T. Boehme and P. Persinger can still be involved legally, the time Supervisor Lagonia would have to put in might not add up to that many hours. It is the administration part of the project management that is heavy and this would be the part that the Architectural Bureau would hopefully continue to do.

So, although there is no plan currently in place, this is being worked out. In the meantime, Supervisor Lagonia will stay involved and keep the Town Board informed. There are a lot of small items that come up each day where decisions need to be made.

Town Board Member Wrightsman questions if this in anyway could be a conflict of interest. Attorney Catalano advised there is no conflict of interest, but current contracts that have the Architectural Bureau listed as the project manager may need to be changed. The finishing work on these projects comes with a lot of paperwork. Town Board Member Schober has experience in this area and is willing to help out as well.

Highway Superintendent Meehan noted that if this project needs an engineer, he would recommend Bill Wallace. B. Wallace used to work with J. Iuviene and was the lead on the Town's highway garage project.

Town Board Member Friedman noted that it might be in the best interest of the family to have J. Iuviene's Company, Architectural Bureau, stay involved with the new town project until completion, understanding that there are legalities involved.

Town Board Member Vogler advised that Supervisor Lagonia has already done quite a bit of extra work on this project over time and certainly deserves to be compensated.

Attorney for the Town J. Catalano will be firming up what the new roles will be for each of the parties involved and looking to see what stages are left in the new town hall project.

Supervisor Lagonia also mentioned that there doesn't seem to be a use for the old town hall once the new building is complete. The Town can still use it for extra meeting space, but there is also the possibility of turning it over to become a home for our historical items with an office for the Town Historian. There is general consensus by the Town Board. Supervisor Lagonia will get the ball rolling with Town Historian Tom Moreland.

Town Clerk Report for the month of July 2018 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of July 2018 submitted.

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

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

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

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

Dog Report for the month of July 2018 submitted.

A motion to accept the monthly reports 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.

### **Correspondence**

Thank You card from the Summer Recreation Program children.

NYS Dept of Tax and Finance: 2018 Final Equalization Rate of 93%

Shelter Point Life Insurance Company: Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits Rider of \$100,000.00.

NYS Dept of Ag and Markets: Municipal Shelter Inspection Report completed on July 18, 2018 found to be satisfactory.

**Unfinished Business**

**New Town Hall Update**

The heating system has been completed, but not tested which will happen soon in order to get an electrical inspection. Superintendent Meehan noted that the contractor will show the town how to work the system since it is quite entailed. The contractor has started the sheetrock work hoping to have that done next week. An additional person has been brought in to do the painting work. The contractor, R. Daloia, may have to hire additional people to finish up since he has quite a bit on his plate with this project.

**AV Quote**

Maxwell Lagonia put in the following quote for AV for the new Town Hall.

Suppliers:

Valiant National AV Supply

Scott Rubira

80 Little Falls Road

Fairfield, NH 07004

Sweetwater

Music Instruments and Pro Audio

5501 US HWY 30W

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Amazon.com

The Town Board discussed the quote noting that it is much less than what is projected in the cost workup sheet. This quote will be considered at the September Town Board meeting.

Services Rendered
Planning and Installation of Audio Visual System for Austerlitz Town Hall. Includes Personal Amplification System, Projector, All necessary cables and adapters

Itemized Cost	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
Sweetwater.com Quote #4929593 Josh Kattner			
JBL CBT 600w Passive Speaker	2	404	808
Crown XLS 2002 Speaker Amplifier	1	399	399
Alesis Rackmount Mixer	1	299	299
Furman Power Conditioner	1	159	159
Shure Handheld Wireless Microphone	1	399	399
Shure SM58 Microphone	6	104	624
Mogami Microphone Cable - 50'	6	59.95	359.7
Mogami Microphone Cable - 5'	4	22.95	91.8
1/8" to 1/4" Y	1	29.99	29.99
RCA to 1/4"	1	5.95	5.95
1/4" to XLR	2	16.99	33.98
1/8" to RCA	1	8.45	8.45
RCA to XLR	1	13.9	13.9
Mic Clip	6	5.4	32.4
Desktop Mic Stand	6	19.99	119.94
Wireless Mic Stand	1	24.95	24.95
Middle Atlantic 12 Space Rack	1	150.75	150.75
Gator 3 Rack Unit Drawer	1	139.99	139.99
25 Rack Screws	2	5.36	10.72

3710.52

Projectorscreenstore.com Scott Rubira			
Optoma EH500	1	1175	1175
Alltec 135" Electric Projector Screen	1	522.49	522.49
Projector Ceiling Mount	1	125.2	125.2
Ceiling Mount 18" Tail Down	1	88.2	88.2
Ceiling Plate	1	28.2	28.2

1939.09

Amazon.com			
HDMI over Cat6 Converter	1	116.99	116.99
APC 8 Outlet Surge Protector	1	24.5	24.5
HDMI Audio Extractor	1	21.95	21.95
HDMI Switcher	1	10.99	10.99
VGA To HDMI Adapter	1	15.99	15.99
Mini DisplayPort to HDMI Adapter	1	9	9
6' HDMI Cable	4	7.19	28.76
25' HDMI Cable	2	15	30
Cable Labels	1	15.98	15.98
8" Cable Ties	1	5.95	5.95
Presentation Clicker	1	14.99	14.99
25' Edison Extension Cord	2	12.99	25.98
			321.08

Design and Installation			
System Design			300
Computer Drafting			300
Installation			400

Total Quote	6970.69
-------------	---------

### **Broadband**

Town Board Member Wrightsman attended an open house. It was noted that if you are in a state where money was given to upgrade to broadband, some residents have it already, some do not and will get it next year. There are areas that thought they had broadband already, but didn't. If a resident is wondering about timing, have them contact Consolidated Communications. Member Wrightsman also went to Spectrum as well and they are still operating as if they have not been cut by the State Government. Spectrum still has a couple of months to finish up some loose ends and then they pull out of the State.

### **Highway Equipment Purchase**

Attorney Catalano presented a resolution for the bonding of highway equipment. The amount of the bond would be \$700,000.00 which would cover 2 dump trucks, a roller, an excavator and a loader. With the exception of the roller, which will need to go out to bid, the rest of the equipment is on State contract. Originally both the salt shed and the highway equipment totaled \$1.2 million, but now the bonds are up to \$1.3 million. If the Town decides it only wants to bond 1 new dump truck, it can bond a lesser amount. Supervisor Lagonia and Town Board Member Vogler will meet to go over the available money in the budget to put towards the equipment purchase so they can firm up how much the Town will actually bond.

Town Board Member Vogler questioned whether or not the bonding being done will be with callable bonds. Attorney Catalano advised that the Town Board is not locking in a bonding

figure tonight for something callable. Both bonds will be through one bank and will have good rates. By the October Town Board Meeting the Town should have money in hand.

The Town Board reviewed the bid notice for the roller and set a date for the bid to be returned.

A motion to go out to bid for a roller 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.

### **Bonding**

Resolution #34-2018, BOND RESOLUTION DATED AUGUST 16, 2018 AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF THE ACQUISITION OF TWO DUMP TRUCKS, ONE EXCAVATOR, ONE LOADER AND ONE ROLLER, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF AUSTERLITZ, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$700,000 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE SAID PURPOSE AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH BONDS TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR.

A motion to adopt Resolution #34-2018, BOND RESOLUTION DATED AUGUST 16, 2018 AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF THE ACQUISITION OF TWO DUMP TRUCKS, ONE EXCAVATOR, ONE LOADER AND ONE ROLLER, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF AUSTERLITZ, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$700,000 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE SAID PURPOSE AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH BONDS TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR, 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.

**BOND RESOLUTION DATED AUGUST 16, 2018 AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF THE ACQUISITION OF TWO DUMP TRUCKS, ONE EXCAVATOR, ONE LOADER AND ONE ROLLER, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF AUSTERLITZ, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN**

**AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$700,000  
PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE SAID  
PURPOSE AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND  
ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF  
SUCH BONDS TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR.**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York (the “Town”) (by favorable vote of not less than three-fifths of all the members of the Board) as follows:

Section 1. The Town is authorized to acquire two (2) dump trucks, one (1) excavator, one (1) loader and (1) roller , at a maximum cost of \$700,000, as more particularly described in Section 3 hereof.

Section 2. The Town is hereby authorized to issue its serial general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$700,000 pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York, in order to finance the class of objects or purposes described herein.

Section 3. The class of objects or purposes to be financed pursuant to this Resolution is the acquisition of two (2) dump trucks, one (1) excavator, one (1) loader and one (1) roller, including issuance costs of the Bonds and bonds anticipation notes hereinafter referred to (collectively, the “Purpose”).

Section 4. It is hereby determined that the Purpose is one of the class of objects or purposes described in Subdivision 28 of Paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of the Purpose is fifteen (15) years. The proposed maturity of the Bonds authorized herein will be in excess of five (5) years.

Section 5. Current funds are not required to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution or any notes issued in anticipation of such bonds by virtue of paragraph 9 of subsection d. of Section 107.00 of the Local Finance Law.



Section 6. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Supervisor of the Town, the chief fiscal officer.

Section 7. The power to further authorize the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes and to prescribe the terms, form and contents of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, including the consolidation with other issues and the use of substantially level debt service, subject to the provisions of this Resolution and the Local Finance Law, and to sell and deliver the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, is hereby delegated to the Supervisor of the Town. The Supervisor of the Town is hereby authorized to sign and the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to attest any Bonds and bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this Resolution, and the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to affix to such Bonds and bond anticipation notes the corporate seal of the Town.

Section 8. The faith and credit of the Town of Austerlitz, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such Bonds and bond anticipation notes as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall be levied annually on all taxable real property of the Town, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 9. This Resolution shall constitute the Town's "official intent", within the meaning of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations, to finance the cost of the Purpose with the Bonds and notes herein authorized. The Town shall not reimburse itself from the proceeds of the Bonds or notes for any expenditures paid more than sixty days prior to the date hereof, unless specifically authorized by Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations.

Section 10. This Resolution is adopted subject to a permissive referendum pursuant to Section 35.00 of the Local Finance Law and Section 90.00 of the Town Law. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed within ten (10) days after the adoption of said resolution, to cause to be published a notice which sets forth the date of the resolution's adoption and contains an abstract of the resolution concisely stating its purpose and effect.

Section 11. This Resolution, or a summary thereof, when effective, shall be published by the Town Clerk together with a notice in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, and such publication shall be in each official newspaper of the Town. The validity of the Bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds may be contested only if such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town is not authorized to expend money, or the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this Resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or if said obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 12. The firm Barclay Damon LLP is hereby appointed Bond Counsel to the Town in connection with the Bonds and bond anticipation notes herein authorized.

Section 13. This Resolution shall take effect upon the earlier of (a) the expiration of the time for filing a petition requesting that the issuance of the Bonds be submitted to referendum or (b) a positive vote upon the referendum authorizing the issuance of the Bonds.

### **Bicentennial Wrap-up**

Town Board Member Wrightsman is planning a wrap-up meeting of the Bicentennial Committee the second Tuesday in September. The Town is still going forward with the purchase of banners for the telephone poles. NYSEG met with Member Wrightsman to discuss placing of banners and to secure NYSEG's approval. These banners can be up for one year. The cost is minimal for each banner and Jack Shear has art work to use. J. Wrightsman will get the exact cost for 15

banners, 5 to put up in Austerlitz and 10 in Spencertown. Supervisor Lagonia will follow-up with Jack Shear for the payment of these banners. The money the Town has put out for the Bicentennial will be reimbursed as well.

### **2019 Assessment Revaluation Update**

Town Assessor, Pam Cook, submitted the following update:

Data collection in Austerlitz began in earnest a few weeks ago. Christine Jensen is our main data collector, but at times, Rip Noblin, also from CC real property is available and will also be out collecting and verifying. If we can continue and weather cooperates, this part of the project done by early to mid-September. At that point data report mailers will be sent to each property owner. The mailer shows the inventory on the file that was collected or verified by the data collector.

Hillsdale's data collection is complete and the last of their data mailers has been mailed. There was a lot of back tracking of parcel verification because of gates and no trespassing signs. Letters are sent to those owners asking permission to enter and even with that, close to 10% would not allow access, so aerial views had to be done.

Last week, 55 letters due to various reasons were sent to Austerlitz homeowners asking permission for the data collector to enter the property and heard back from 10.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that Town Assessor Pam Cook and Columbia County Real Property Director Suzette Booy will attend a Town Board Meeting when the process is further along.

### **East Hill Road Culvert Installation Bid Award**

The Town received the following bid for the installation of the precast culvert construction for the East Hill Road Culvert Replacement project:

Bervy Excavation Corp.  
61 Flints Crossing Road  
Canaan, New York 12029  
Bid: \$138900.00

A motion was made by G. Vogler and seconded by N. Friedman to accept the bid of \$138900.00 from Bervy Excavation Corp for the installation of the precast culvert construction for the East Hill Road Culvert Replacement project.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

N. Friedman: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that he has had discussions with Attorney for the Town Joseph Catalano concerning the second easement sent out that was not returned for this project. The Town Board was advised that it can go ahead with this project at this point even though the

easement paperwork has not been returned. There have been telephone conversations with the resident and he has been put on notice concerning the project.

### **New Business**

#### **2019 Budget Request: Chatham Rescue Squad**

The Board of the Chatham Rescue Squad prepared a funding request for the 2019 budget cycle for the Town of Austerlitz detailing operational, equipment and capital plans. The Chatham Rescue Squad Board proposed a 4 year transition schedule with the following payments:

2019 \$86029.00  
2020 \$106810.00  
2021 \$127592.00  
2022 \$148373.00

Supervisor Lagonia noted that funding for the Chatham Rescue Squad is going to be an ongoing issue. R. Lagonia has not spoken with other Town Supervisors yet. Member Vogler noted this is the first time a formal proposal has been given to the Town by the Rescue Squad. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town Board can have someone from the Rescue Squad come out and talk to the Board if desired. Supervisor Lagonia will get back to Town Board once he has spoken to the other Town Supervisors.

#### **2019 Justice Court Audit**

Accountant for the Town, Nelson Furlano, audited the Justice Court for the year 2017 finding that issues of concern for Justice Sharon Grubin and Justice David Cassuto from the previous audit have been corrected and no new instances were noted. Suggestions and recommendations from the previous audit are being implemented as outlined by the NYS Justice Court System.

#### **Bluestone Paving Bid Award**

The Town of Austerlitz received the following bids for Bluestone paving:

Daloia Contracting Inc.  
402 Lape Road  
Nassau, New York 12128  
Bid: \$25000.00

Creative Country Landscapes Inc.  
204 Gilligan Road  
Hudson, New York 12534  
Bid: \$29750.00

Bervy Excavation Corp.  
61 Flints Crossing Road  
Canaan, New York 12029  
Bid: \$28750.00

A motion to award the Bluestone Paving bid to Daloia Contracting Inc. for \$25000.00 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.

### **Charitable Reserve Funds**

The 2019 State Budget authorizes local governments to establish charitable gift reserve funds and to offer real property tax credits to incentivize contributions to these new local charitable funds. Under this new law which took effect April 12, 2018, such funds may receive unrestricted charitable contributions for the purposes of addressing charitable purposes. This is an optional program. Key aspects are as follows for Towns:

- \* Local governments may establish a fund to accept voluntary unrestricted charitable contributions.
- \* Donation received in these funds are to be used for charitable purposes.
- \* Local governments are authorized by local law to establish a property tax credit for those who donate to these charitable funds.
- \* The maximum value of the property tax credit is 95% of the value of the contribution. A local government may choose to further limit the amount or percentage of such credit to be allowed in any given fiscal year.
- \* To be eligible for the property tax credit, the donation must be received in the 12-month period prior to the last day prescribed by law that taxes may be paid without interest or penalties.
- \* The Department of Taxation and Finance has developed forms to be used by local governments to acknowledge receipt of the donation as well as for the property tax payer to claim the credit.

Town Board Member Vogler and Town Clerk Haag attended a training session on this hosted by the Association of Towns of New York State. G. Vogler explained how this came about by the State of New York noting it is a mess, there are plenty of risks, its complicated and the IRS is going to have to rule on this at some point. Supervisor Lagonia advised that Columbia County is working on their position as well. Member Vogler would like to get the ball rolling on the Town end and set up a Charitable Reserve Fund account. It was noted that Accountant for the Town Nelson Furlano does not recommend the Town set up this account, Business Automation Services, a company who tax program many towns use, currently has no towns who have asked for program changes, and on the County side, there isn't any traction. Member Vogler noted that some of the Town's residents may look for this and wonder why we did not set something up. Supervisor Lagonia noted that for the portion of taxes paid on a Town level, as compared to the County or School portion, it may not make a big difference in someone's income taxes.

Attorney Catalano advised that the Town has to create a Charitable Reserve Fund by local law which takes a bit of time so the Town will need to decide as to what it wants to do.

Discussion centered on the in and outs of this issue noting that this was not an easy call to make one way or another.

Town Board Member Vogler would like this issue on the agenda for the September Town Board Meeting.

### **2019 Tentative Budget**

Town Board Member Vogler noted work on the 2019 budget has begun and the hope is to have the 2019 Tentative Budget to the Town Board at the September Town Board Meeting.

### **Columbia County Coroner's Position**

Town Board Member Schober asked Supervisor Lagonia about the process used at the County to appoint an interim Coroner. Supervisor Lagonia advised that the Public Safety Committee for the County, which he is a member of, would be the committee that makes recommendations to the full County Board of Supervisors. Both the Republicans and the Democrats put forth a candidate. Supervisor Lagonia called the current coroner to discuss what the job entails, responsibilities, etc. R. Lagonia read current County law, read resumes of each candidate, called both candidates and spoke with them. Supervisor Lagonia personally knows Carmen Martino and worked with him when R. Lagonia was a judge. There is no medical examiner in Columbia County; EMTs pronounce death. There are some unattended deaths. The most important factor for Supervisor Lagonia when making his decision on who to appoint, was that each coroner is responsible for a section of the County and weekends are rotated between each coroner. Work is of an investigative nature, not medical. When R. Lagonia spoke with Bernadette Powis he noted she is articulate, smart and could explain what was involved with the position. She is aware of the commitment level, but although she can go out during the day by herself, if something came up at night, her husband would drive her. This is a problem for R. Lagonia because in this position one needs to be committed by themselves for any time a coroner is called. Carmen Martino is available any time, night or day. This position is also only good until the end of the year since there will be a vote in November by the voters to fill this position. The Public Safety Committee for the County was unanimous in its recommendation to put forward Carmen Martino. The full board of Supervisors was not 100%, but Carmen Martino got the nod. Supervisor Lagonia feels good about his decision and how he went about making that decision. R. Lagonia was diligent and thorough in his survey of the candidates.

### **Austerlitz Town Park**

Town Board Member Friedman advised that work stated on the pathways about 4 weeks ago. Highway Superintendent Meehan help out. The Greenagers are coming back next week to finish up.

### **Public Comments**

Maureen Wilson directed comments to Supervisor Lagonia concerning the county appointment of coroner. M. Wilson sent an email to the entire Town Board earlier in the week over her disappointment in the appointment of Carmen Martino as interim coroner. Dr. Andrea Coleman, who recently resigned opening up the coroner's position, is a medical professional, as is Bernadette Powis, who is a Nurse Practitioner in both family medicine and psychiatry. In M. Wilson's view, the most important part of the coroner's job is to give support, comfort and closure to the grieving families of the deceased. As a psychotherapist nurse practitioner, B. Powis has the skills and background making her well suited to serving these families. M. Wilson understands Carmen Martino has some skills, but feels his appointment was done strictly on a

political basis. The County Board of Supervisors based their vote on the fact that C. Martino was known to them through his sound police work, but very few deaths in Columbia County require a criminal investigation. M. Wilson thanks Supervisor Lagonia for his due diligence in contacting B. Powis and saying her credentials were impressive, but does not agree with his decision to vote for C. Martino. Ten thousand people in this County voted to put in a woman and a professional when they elected Andrea Coleman.

Erlyn Madonia appreciates the due diligence put in by Supervisor Lagonia as well, but supports M. Wilson's comments and feels B. Powis' professional qualifications are what should have been taken into consideration.

Erlyn Madonia noted that her property on Fiddlehead Lane is not on a County broadband map. E. Madonia was told that she is out of luck getting broadband. This certainly is not the spirit of what the State's intentions were and property values will be lowered for those properties where there is no broadband access available. All of Columbia County needs to address this. Supervisor Lagonia asked that E. Madonia reach out to John Reilly because he is the head of the Broadband Committee for Columbia County. Town Board Member Wrightsman is the Town's liaison.

Discussion concerning the broadband issue and the problems that have risen because of them.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn 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. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk