

Town Of Austerlitz
Regular Town Board Meeting
November 19, 2020

The November 19, 2020 regular Town Board Meeting was held via Zoom in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 202.1. Meeting instructions were on the Town website.

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

Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan absent.

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 15, 2020 Public Hearing/Town Board Meeting minutes was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

Supervisor Lagonia noted that the November abstracts were sent to the Town Board Members for review. If any of the Town Board Members would like to see and sign the actual vouchers, please make arrangements with Town Clerk Haag.

A motion to authorize payment of the November General Fund, #290-322, in the amount of \$49068.82 and Highway Fund, #216-244, in the amount of \$59221.63 was made by G. Vogler and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement Report for the Month of October 2020 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia advised that he spoke with Accountant for the Town, Nelson Furlano, concerning the 2020 AUD to be filed early next year and the 2020 Audits that are still outstanding. Accountant

Furlano will be reaching out to get materials forwarded for these audits so they will be completed by the end of the month.

Supervisor Lagonia continued noting that sales tax has surpassed the figure that was budgeted for the 2020 year, cash is up to \$100,000.00, court fees are down roughly \$50,000.00, but otherwise the expenses are on track. R. Lagonia thanks everyone for watching the spending. Next year will be telling, but Supervisor Lagonia feels that the Town Board has positioned the Town well going into next year in good shape. Other Towns in the County are not in that great of shape.

There will be no holiday event in the beginning of December this year due to mass gathering limitations. Contractor Bob Dalao has put up railings in the new town hall meeting room in the vestibule and up on the dais. A dropbox has also been put up outside the side door.

The Harvey Mountain drainage issue is still outstanding. Much of the lag time is due to not being able to touch base with Engineer Ray Jurkowski. Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, will get back on this project so it can move forward while we have the resident on board and engaged.

The Town Board does need to discuss engineering services for next year. The Town did not get the attention it needed this year once R. Jurkowski moved the business to the new owners. R. Lagonia would like to keep Engineer Jurkowski on the projects he is currently working on and only use someone new for new projects. This will save in time and money.

Town Board Member Greg Vogler questioned if engineering was done for the Strawberry Hill Bridge Replacement Project. Supervisor Lagonia had hoped to use some of this year's C.H.I.P.s money for the purchasing of the material for this replacement project. Schoolhouse Road and Bryarcliffe culverts could have also been purchased this way.

The Town Board discussed highway projects that are complete and others that still need to be done per the 2020 Highway 284 form. Supervisor Lagonia has had a hard time connecting with Highway Superintendent Robert Meehan. The Town Board and Highway Superintendent will regroup over the winter and make sure that the 2021 Highway Form 284 is done early. C.H.I.P.s money left over from this year can be used next year and used for a number of projects.

Supervisor Lagonia updated the Town Board on COVID from a County perspective. The numbers are really high. Governor Cuomo changed the rules concerning who can be taken to a nursing home if they have had COVID. People are testing positive even after 14 days and even if the virus is dead so unfortunately these people can not go back to nursing homes and are staying in the hospital. This drives up the numbers hospitalized even though some of these cases are just in limbo.

The County is trying out different types of rapid tests. The County has asked if any Towns are interested in having the County set up a testing site. Supervisor Lagonia noted that so far there has only been one case of COVID in our Town so he sees no need to have a testing site, but will certainly use this option if the need is there. The testing would be done at the Town Hall. There is no need to expose a public area if the need is not present. Member Vogel noted that maybe in a

month or two the Town may see the need, but not right now. R. Lagonia noted that the County is constantly ramping up test supplies and this was an olive branch to Towns that felt their residents should not have to go to the County seat for testing. The Town Board consensus was to hold off on this option knowing it can revisit in the future.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Meehan was not in attendance. Supervisor Lagonia advised that R. Meehan has been ordering and receiving sand and salt for the winter.

Town Clerk Report for the month of October 2020 submitted.

No Planning Board Report for the month of October 2020 submitted.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of October 2020 submitted.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of October 2020 submitted.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of October 2020 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the months of September and October 2020 submitted.

Dog Control Report for the months of September and October submitted.

Climate Smart Report

Town Board Member Vogler submitted the following report:

- a. Garage Solar. The solar panels have been installed. Next steps for PlugPV to work with NYSEG to install the appropriate meter.
- b. LED Street Lighting. No word from NYSEG. Town Board Member Schober will ask them again about their status.
- c. Benchmarking/Inventory for CSC. Town Board Member Wrightsman continuing to work with Jill Falchi on electricity usage.
- d. EMC. Cara Humphrey reported that the Columbia County Board of Supervisors has voted for the county to become a Climate Smart Community.
- e. Website. Paige Ruane reported that the town volunteer is actively working on our new climate website.
- f. Facebook. Postings and followers continue to grow.
- g. Lifeboat/CSC Coordinator and grant opportunity. Interviewing for the position has begun. The position has been posted to the town website as well as the town's climate Facebook page. Deadline to submit a resume is November 26. Person selected will need to apply at Lifeboat for funding. If they are selected by Lifeboat, the candidate will need to sign a contract with the town (there will be a 1099) and the candidate and contract will need to be approved by the Town Board.
- h. CPOC. CPOC is looking for new members. Goal for 2021 is to update the Comprehensive Plan for various considerations including with respect to climate.

The Town Board briefly discussed committee appointments for January noting that maybe some of the members could be shifted to different committees to help keep them engaged.

Town Board Member Maureen Wilson questioned the updating of the Comprehensive Plan. Member Vogler noted that Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Chair Tim Stalker has wanted to update this plan for a while. The Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee should review what is in place first and make recommendations. The Town Board should task them with this project. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town Board has so much on its plate the last couple of years that some of this was put on the back burner. Now is a good time to pick it back up. Member Wilson stated that there is growth happening in the Town so the plan should be updated. Member Vogler noted that the Town's Zoning should flow out of this plan as well. Attorney Catalano has been working on updating the subdivision regs.

A motion to accept the monthly reports was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Correspondence

Columbia Land Conservancy: Municipal Mini-Grant Program.

Supervisor Lagonia is not sure what the Town can use this grant for, but maybe to complete the trail system in Austerlitz. This project not only needs to be completed, but a good site plan needs to be designed. Supervisor Lagonia asked if any Town Board Member wanted to take this on. Member Vogler would be happy to do some work on this project. Town Board Member Schober questioned if there could be a workshop for this project planning like there was for ridgeline protection.

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church: Request to Use the Green and Close County Rte 7.

St. Peter's included a detailed COVID 19 Safety Protocol Plan and an email that noted an expected attendance of 50-65 people scattered throughout the day.

Supervisor Lagonia is concerned with the amount of people that could attend and how this could lead to spreading of the virus. Town Board Member Jere Wrightsman noted that St. Peters was planning this before the spike in numbers. Supervisor Lagonia advised that this request would go through different departments on a County level now due to COVID and it might be squashed before it happens. Member Wrightsman does not believe it is a good idea at this point to hold this event. Member Vogler does not see the need for this event as he is not in favor of mingling etc. Member Wilson is not in favor and either is Member Schober.

Supervisor Lagonia will speak with Reverend Horan. Member Wrightsman will reach out to her as well.

NYS Dept of Ag and Markets: 11/10/2020 Municipal Shelter Inspection Report rated satisfactory.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Association of Towns of New York State Annual Meeting Delegate

A motion to appoint G. Vogler as the voting delegate and J. Wrightsman as the alternate delegate for the Association of Towns of New York State Annual Meeting was made by C. Schober and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

2021 Columbia Greene Humane Society/SPCA Dog Housing Contract

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the 2021 Columbia Greene Humane Society/SPCA Dog Housing Contract after it has been reviewed by Attorney Catalano was made by G. Vogler and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

AED Equipment

Robin Vogt, Business Development Territory Manager for Cardiac Life reached out via email noting that every day thousands of people die from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. More and more towns and villages are taking a good look at the quality of life their constituents enjoy. Sudden Cardiac Arrest can be a preventable death. An effective AED/Public Access defibrillation program increases the chance of survival. Because typical EMS arrival times exceed 8 minutes, the chance of survival is less than 5% without a defibrillator present. When a defibrillator is present, the chance of survival can reach 70%. R. Vogt is asking that the Town of Austerlitz partner with Cardiac Life in the development and success of a AED Public Access Defibrillation program.

Cardiac Life has CPR educators located across New York State to help meet needs for CPR training. They are authorized partners for all AED manufacturers and are listed on NYS OGS contract, to provide the best negotiated pricing on training and AED supplies and defibrillators.

Town Board Member Vogler noted that he has been trained to use an AED and people should be trained to use them even though they can be used by someone without training. G. Vogler likes

the idea of having an AED at the Town Hall and noted there was still money left in the Ellsworth Kelly Fund for the new Town Hall that could be used to purchase one. Member Schober noted there is a service contract with Cardiac Life. Member Wrightsman noted that St. Peters Presbyterian Church also has an AED. Member Vogler will look into this purchase a little more noting the cost was roughly \$1200.00 plus training. Supervisor Lagonia thinks this is a great idea and would like more information.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for a personal matter was made by C. Schober and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session entered at 7:51 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by C. Schober and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session exited at 7:59 p.m.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Wilson and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan A. Haag, Town Clerk