

**Town Board Meeting**  
**February 3, 2020**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Supervisor Aaron, Councilor McCormack, Councilor Tucker, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Legg, Attorney Smith.

**Also, Present:** Sue Murphy, Bridgett Winkelman, Beth Batlle, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Martin Dillon, Allan Wellington, Miranda Robinson, Nate Schreiner, Steve Datz, Brian Buff, Christine Buff, Dick Eldredge and Cindy Eldredge.

**Highway, Water, Transfer Station:** Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington reported the plows had been out 10 times since the last Town Board meeting, making that 85 times for the season, compared to 94 times last year to this date. They had made numerous truck repairs, patched potholes and trimmed trees along the highway rights – of - way. He reported the Water Department pulled one of the pumps from the pit at sewer 6, flushed and pumped down the pit with help from the Village and installed a new replacement hydrant on Clapp Road. At the Transfer Station they finished selling hang tags at the Transfer Station, all tags after February 1<sup>st</sup> will be purchased at the Town Hall.

**Planning & Zoning:** Councilor Tucker reviewed the new Open Projects Report stating there are currently 6 open projects, an application for a subdivision at 3406 West Lake Road, Kenan 2012 Family Trust, an application for a lot line adjustment at 2833 Shamrock Road, James Tracy, Finger Lakes Luxury Homes at 2699 East lake Road and Ronald Scott for an Area Variance and a Site Plan Review at 1420 Thornton Heights. He reviewed the report of existing projects still open; Hidden Estates, Skaneateles Aerodrome, Zechman Subdivision, Chris Graham, Steve Datz, Woodbine Group, Meunier and Victory Sports He also reported the Zoning Committee had met on January 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss Joel Russell's comments on the draft Zoning Code and there will be an additional meeting in February. They also had conducted three pre-application meetings with prospective applicants and provided historical information on two properties.

**Codes:** Codes Enforcement Officer Robert Herrmann reported he and Codes Officer Ben Garrett are still working on the expired permits and have gotten the overdue permits down to 10 and the expired permits to only 24. They are still working on fire inspections, and on updating their computers and software. Kim Benda is still working on updating parcel information and forms for the Codes Office. He also reported 10 permits were issued in January.

Codes Officer Herrmann reported on May 12, 2020 the new, New York State Uniform Building Code will become effective. The state has set no transition period therefore; the Codes Office will accept new permits starting May 8<sup>th</sup> with the new Uniform Building Code requirements. Mr. Herrmann stated the Town Board will need to adopt a resolution accepting the New York State Uniform Building Code. Attorney Smith said he will work on preparing a resolution.

**Budget:** Budget Officer Winkelman reported Water District #3 had been billed, she had also prepared the 2019 W-2s and 1099s. And was preparing for the auditors that will be here to complete their 2019 audit at the end of February.

**Veterans Coordinator:** Supervisor Aaron announced the Town of Skaneateles Veterans Coordinator, Cindy Meili has been nominated for “Military Spouse of the Year”. This is a great honor and we are asking people to go online and vote for Cindy on the “Armed Forces Military Wife of the Year “ website. She stated we are all very proud of Cindy and thankful for the work she does in our community.

Veteran’s Coordinator, Cindy Meili reported to the Board on the “Blue Water Vietnam Navy Veterans Act”. She said the Blue Water Act was signed into law on June 25, 2019 and took effect January 1, 2020. The law extended a presumption of herbicide exposure to Blue Water Navy Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam and the offshore waters. Blue Water Navy survivors, and certain dependents may be entitled to benefits if the veteran was exposed. She explained under the law, certain Veterans, who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam and Cambodia, or who had service in the Korean Demilitarized zone may be entitled to disability compensation for conditions that are related to herbicide exposure. The law also provides benefits for children born with spina bifida whose parent was a Veteran with verified herbicide exposure in Thailand.

Ms. Meili reported she will have the links to this information and how to file on the Town of Skaneateles Website and also people can contact her if they have any questions.

Councilor Legg asked if this would be a benefit to a Veteran of the Army or other divisions. She stated there is a website that people can contact and see if they qualify from other divisions of the armed forces.

Supervisor Aaron and Councilor Legg thanked Cindy Meili for this important information.

**Dog Control:** Supervisor Aaron reported Dog Control Officer, Dave Wawro submitted his January 2020 Activity Report stating he had responded to 9 calls.

**Historian:** Town Historian Beth Batlle gave a report on the schoolhouse in the Town of Skaneateles Hamlets.

\*report attached

*Resolution #20-030*

**Minutes of January 23, 2020:** On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of January 23, 2020 were accepted as presented.

*Resolution #20-031*

**Talcott Water District:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Town of Skaneateles contains a non-standard water service area outside the boundary of the Town’s Consolidate water District. The Village of Skaneateles has been providing water and invoicing these customers to date. Because this water district is in the Town it is the desire to formalize this arrangement with the new infrastructure.

This infrastructure will be designed and installed by the current customers and then deeded to the Town for ownership and operation.

Supervisor Aaron asked Steve Datz, who is representing the Talcott Water District to give the history and report on the progress to the Board. Mr. Datz stated 12 residents of the town were permitted by the village to tap into and draw water from the village water system on a private line. This was the Talcott Water Association. All those years they have paid their water bills to the village while privately maintaining the line among the members. They are the only residents outside the village boundaries that pay water bills to the village. Since the creation of the Association and within its reaches north, south, east and west are twenty other properties located on Fire Lanes G, H, and I. Nineteen of those properties have dwellings and there is one buildable lot. Two have wells. Two have independent systems drawing water from the lake and the remaining dwellings draw from multi-home systems from the lake. The buildable lot has no water on site.

He stated when the Village increased the water flow with their current project, they saw the opportunity to make this non-conforming water district conforming and add the additional properties. They have hired John Camp of C&S Engineering to be their engineer on this project, who is also the Town Engineer to make this process go smoothly. All 32 members within the district are in favor of this project and they would like to make the next necessary steps for the Board to approve the formation of the district. Mr. Datz stated they would like to move this along and do what is necessary to have the Public Hearing scheduled March 16<sup>th</sup> so they can begin the project in the beginning of the summer.

Supervisor Aaron and Attorney Smith stated this request will need to be formally referred to the Village for their approval to move forward. The Village has been in favor of this, but we need to have their response in writing.

Attorney Smith stated once the response from the Village is received and they approve of the district formalization he will work with John Camp to prepare the easements that will need to be drawn up and filed. Engineer John Camp stated the intend is for the rights-of-way to be in the road, a State highway and therefore easements across private property will not be necessary. The 32 services will be pulled directly off the water main. Steve Datz stated the Town will only be maintaining the 950 feet along the road. Supervisor Aaron asked if any of the services go under the road. Mr. Datz stated yes 7 services will go under East Lake Road, 23 are on the Lake side of the road. Supervisor Aaron asked what needs to be done at this time other than referring to the Village. Mr. Camp stated from an engineering prospect he does not see anything else that will be need at this point. Mr. Camp asked Attorney Smith. Attorney Smith stated an understanding with the Village needs to be made regarding the district and their service. Supervisor Aaron stated this is a little different, the district is going to be completely established and constructed by the property owners and then turned over to the Town to maintain.

John Camp stated the Village approached the Town to initiate this project so he stated in his opinion the Village will be in favor of forming this district.

Attorney Smith stated the next steps should be; to refer to the Village and wait for their response and for the residents requesting this to pay the escrow to begin the process.

Councilor Legg asked if the main that was extended as part of the project in the Village is an 8" main. Town in-house engineer, Miranda Robinson stated yes the new water main is an 8" main. And is the meter in place? John Camp stated the meter is already there put the plan is to replace the meter with this project in the same location.

Attorney Smith stated the Town's line will be in the NYS right of way since, East Lake Road is a NY State highway. John Camp stated yes, and they will complete the permitting process with the NYS DOT.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Aaron was authorized to write a letter to the Village of Skaneateles presenting the request and Map Plan and Report of the Talcott Water District with their request to formalize the Talcott Water District.

*Resolution #20-032*

**Justice Court Security Contract with the Village of Skaneateles:** Supervisor Aaron explained to the Board that the Town of Skaneateles Justice Court has only one Constable at this time. She stated the Town had contracted with the Village in the past for security in the Town Court. She stated she had spoken to the Village of Skaneateles Police Chief, Dan Coon regarding using the Village police officers as a backup for court security on Wednesday nights during Justice Court. This would only be for backup when our current constable is unavailable.

Supervisor Aaron stated in the agreement, the Village is asking that their officers, depending on availability, will be paid at a minimum of 3 hours per Court session, with the Officer arriving 15 minutes prior to Court commencing and shall remain approximately 15 minutes after each Court session has ended. The Village shall be reimbursed at the rate of \$40.00 per hour for the hours (minimum of 3) worked by each officer and the Village will submit invoices to the Town, on a monthly basis, for the previous month.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Aaron was authorized to sign the "Inter-Municipal Agreement Regarding Justice Court Security Personnel, as authorized by Article 5G of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York".

*Resolution #20-033*

**Agreement to Spend Highway Funds for 2020:** Supervisor Aaron reviewed the agreement between the Highway Superintendent and the Town of Skaneateles pursuant to the provisions of section 284 of the Highway Law agreeing to how the moneys levied and collected in the Town for repair and improvement of highways shall be expended. Roads that will be improved in 2020 include Baptist Corner, Masters, Austin, Clap, Foster, Chapman, VanCamp and Hoyt Roads totaling \$76,077.5 for seal cost of \$236,305.28 for paving.

Supervisor Aaron stated these were all in the approved 2020 Town of Skaneateles Budget.

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker the 2020 Agreement between the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Skaneateles, Onondaga County, New York, pursuant to the provisions of section 284 of the Highway Law was approved.

*Resolution #20-034*

**Planning Board Appointment Donald Kasper:** Supervisor Aaron stated to the Board that Donald Kasper had been reappointed to the Town of Skaneateles Planning Board. When an appointment is made the appointee has 30 days to complete the Oath of Office. Mr. Kasper was in Florida and left before the first of the year therefore he was unable to complete his required Oath of Office within 30 days of being appointed. Supervisor Aaron stated she was asking the Board to reappoint Donald Kasper to the Town Planning Board for the term of February 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Alexander, Donald Kasper was reappointed to the Town of Skaneateles Planning Board for the term commencing on February 1, 2020 ending on December 31, 2020.

*Resolution #20-035*

**Route 20 Corridor Committee Appointment – Robert Eggleston:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Route 20 Corridor Committee had their first meeting today. They committee would like to add an additional member, Robert Eggleston.

Councilor McCormack stated this committee was formed to beautify the entrances to the Town of Skaneateles. He stated the meeting went well. Representatives from the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council attended as well, as Onondaga Planning Agency. They are going to help the Town with funding from the New York State Department of Transportation.

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Legg, Robert Eggleston was appointed to the Town of Skaneateles Route 20 Corridor Committee.

**Announcements/Correspondence/Updates**

- *Chris Buff Letter:* Supervisor Aaron stated a letter was received from Chris Buff of 780 Sheldon Road.
- *NYS DOT Letter regarding US Route 20 and County Line Road:* Supervisor Aaron announced a letter was received from the NYS Department of Transportation regarding a formal investigation they plan on conducting at the intersection of US Route 20 and County Line Road regarding safety concerns at this intersection. She also announced a request was also submitted to the NYS DOT to conduct a study of the intersection at County Line and Franklin.
- *February 17<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting rescheduled to February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.:* Supervisor Aaron announced the change in the February 17<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting to February 20<sup>th</sup> due to the Presidents Day holiday.
- *Legislation on the Lake update:* Supervisor Aaron announced the special Legislation that would allow Town and Village to have regulation of the manner of construction and location of boathouses, moorings and docks in waters within or bounding the respective municipality to a distance of 1500 feet from the shore line had been introduced in the NYS Senate, file #S6914. The NYS Senate is in session from January through June and hopefully this bill will be reviewed during this session. The vacancy of our Senator's seat might cause a delay. If anyone is interested in



writing letters regarding this legislation. Letters in support of this special legislation can be submitted to our State Senate Office and Gary Finch, State Assembly Office.

- *2020 Mandana Parking Passes Available now:* Supervisor Aaron announced parking passes are now available for Mandana Boat Launch parking area.

- *Seeking new members for the Conservation Committee and Community input for the Austin Pavilion:* Councilor Alexander announced The Skaneateles Town Board is seeking community input for future use of the Austin Park Pavilion. Our goal is to continue the current activities and enhance and expand the future use of this space. When considering ideas for expanded use of the pavilion please consider the activities & organizations that currently utilize this space. Please submit suggestions to the address below by March 30, 2020. She stated the Town of Skaneateles is seeking committee members for the Conservation Committee. Mail or drop off suggestions & letters of interest too: Town Board Members, 24 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152 or email suggestions & letters of interest to, [jstenger@townofskaneateles.com](mailto:jstenger@townofskaneateles.com).

- *Charlie Major Nature Trail Trees:* Supervisor Aaron stated someone had secretly wrapped trees at the Charlie Major Nature Trail with beautiful hand knitted scarfs. She thanked the secrete decorator.

**Public Comment:** Richard Eldredge, 778 Sheldon Road stated he had concerns about the parking and turning on to Railroad and Sheldon Streets during events at the Sinclair and the Frog Pond. He asked if the Board would consider a no parking and no right turn on to Sheldon and Railroad for traffic traveling south towards the Village. Supervisor Aaron stated the County and State DOT have to study the area in order for the Town to approve these regulations. She stated to Mr. Eldredge to put these requests in writing she than can contact the NYS DOT and Onondaga County DOT.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Tucker, Supervisor Aaron was authorized to contact the New York State Department of Transportation and Onondaga County Department of Transportation regarding a traffic study at the intersection of Jordan Road, Sheldon Road and Railroad Street to address the issue of parking along Railroad Street and Sheldon Roads as well as a no right turn for traffic traveling south on Jordan at either of these intersections, when a letter of request was received from Mr. Eldredge.

Chris Buff, 780 Sheldon Road, stated the noise from the Sinclair is getting worse and asked the Board what she should do regarding this. Supervisor Aaron stated the Sinclair is meeting all the requirements of the permit. Ms. Buff asked about a noise ordinance in the Town. Councilor McCormack suggested they call the police when there is problem.

Attorney Smith stated there were conditions set by the Planning Board when the Sinclair's operating permit was issued. If the Buff's believe the issues are in violation of these conditions, they should contact the Codes Officer. A noise ordinance could be considered. These are tricky to enforce and require costly equipment. Another option is a Woodstock Law, which regulates gatherings of large crowds. He stated the head count regulated by the Woodstock Law is usually very large.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Board would look into her concerns.

**Budget Amendments – No budget amendments.**

*Resolution #20-036*

**Abstract #20-03:** On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #20-0075-20-0104 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 30,618.91	Highway:	\$ 4,488.36
Water:	\$ 2,670.00	Street Lgt.:	\$ 1,549.37
Part Town	\$ 105.45		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 39,432.09</b>		

**Executive Session:** On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss Property, Contract Negotiations and Attorney Advice .

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker the meeting was returned to open session at 9:15p.m. .

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger  
Town Clerk

## Historian's Report for February 2020

Beth Batlle

### Mandana

Mandana, is located on the west shore of Skaneateles Lake, is about 6 miles south of the Village of Skaneateles ~~at the corner of 41A and Route 559~~. The first settler here was a Revolutionary War soldier, David Welch, who came in 1798. One version for the origin of the name is that it comes from Mandana, the mother of Cyrus the great, the founder of the Persian empire. Another version is that it was named after a relative's child who lived in Auburn.

William Nipper purchased a 72 acre farm here and was the first to grow teasels in this area. The Mandana Inn, the marina, and Laxton's Nursery are other businesses that flourished in the area.

Two rural schools – Hen Coop and Peach Blow were closed when the Skaneateles Central School system was established in 1950.

### Willow Glen

Willow Glen is north of the village where ~~the Seneca Turnpike meets Fennell Street~~. The first power dam was built here across the outlet by Robert Earll in 1794. On the west side of the creek he also ran a saw mill, a grist mill, and a tannery as he was a shoemaker. His first home was a log cabin also on the west side of the outlet, which was also used as a school. The famous “Red House” ( at the corner of Jordan Rd. & the turnpike) which is now green) was built for him in 1797.

~~There was once a woolen mill on the north side of the turnpike. It was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. Another industry north of the turnpike on Mill Road, was a paper mill that became the site of the True Tile industry and today is the site of the Last Shot Distillery.~~

### Mottville

Originally the settlement was called “Sodom,” maybe because of the distilleries Then the name was changed to Mottsville after Arthur Mott who built and operated a woolen factory there. He succumbed to drink and died in Ohio in 1869 at the age of 71.

However, the name continues to this day – with the s dropped.

No { Two dams, one with a double head-race, provided power for the mills. Among the mills located here were: a flouring mill, woolen mill, carding mill, sash & blind factory, chair factory, a malt house, a brewery, a harness shop, a tin shop, and a rag business. When Syracuse began taking water from Skaneateles Lake, this was the beginning of the end of all these industries in Mottville.



## Long Bridge

This area was called Long bridge because of the long span of the railroad tracks across Skaneateles Creek. A woolen factory once located there burned in 1861. George Earll built a distillery here. Then in 1865 Frank A. Sinclair, returning from the Civil War then built his chair factory here. In later years A.S. Wikstrom used the site as a repair shop for heavy road building equipment.

Located nearby was the socialist community that was called "No God," created by John A. Collins. The members, among other items, did not believe in God, marriage, military duty or taxes. After a few years the community's spirit was disillusioned and the people disbanded. The property was purchased by Hezekiah Earll and the old stone house still stands today. When Mr. Wikstrom owned it, he had a landing strip on the property.

## Skaneateles Falls

This area, with the best water privileges on the outlet was once known as Marysville. Mr. Ezekil Hoyt, along with Thomas Morten, built a woolen factory here. He named the community Marysville in memory of his late wife. The business later became the Waterbury Felt Company. The community grew and when the Post Office was built in the area the official name of the community was changed to Skaneateles Falls. Employees of the felt company were not allowed to have radios at their work sites. So when the world series was underway, Postmaster Major would listen to the games and post the scores in large letters in the Post Office window so the workers across the street could see them and keep track of the games.

## Shepard Settlement

<sup>3 h2 notes</sup>  
In 1794 John Shepard and his brother traveled here from Newton Connecticut. Once in this area, they followed an Indian trail to the northern section Skaneateles. Here they followed a small creek up to the flats, still known as Shepard Settlement. They both built their houses, married, and raised their families here. More of the Shepard family followed.

There was once a Post Office here, plus a store, a blacksmith shop, and a school which also served as a church. The only remnant of this early community is the Shepard Settlement Cemetery, where some Revolutionary War soldiers are buried. This is still an active cemetery which is on the list of National Historic Places. However, the community has lost its status as a hamlet.

And lastly, I just wanted to mention:

### Poverty Corners

This small settlement, located at the crossing of Rt. 321 and Stump Road, consists of a few houses, one of which was a former school. Former Town Supervisor Bill Pavlus once attended this school. He said "Maybe they called this Poverty Corners because we were all so poor."

When I first became historian, Bill and I had a school reunion for former students who were still living. Fifteen people attended, this first and, as far as we knew, only rural school reunion ever held in Skaneateles.

### Coon Hill

Coon Hill, I believe, was named after the Coon family that lived there. There was a rural school located at the 4 corners of Coon and Rickard Road.

**AGREEMENT FOR THE EXPENDITURES  
OF HIGHWAY MONEYS**

Agreement BETWEEN THE Highway Superintendent of the Town of Skaneateles, Onondaga County, New York, and the undersigned members of the Town Board. Pursuant to the provisions of section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for repair and improvement of highways shall be expended as follows:

1. **GENERAL REPAIRS.** The sum of **\$50,000** shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon **40.82** miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.
  
2. **PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.** The following estimated sum shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvements of Town highways:
  - a. On Baptist Corners Road, commencing at Benson Road, ending at the Cayuga County Line, a distance of **.10** miles
  
  - b. And, on Master Road commencing at Jordan Road, ending at Stump Road, a distance of **1.04** miles (CHIPS Funding)
  
  - c. And, on Austin Road, commencing at NYS Route 321, ending at the Town of Elbridge Line, a distance of **.56** miles
  
  - d. And, on Clapp Road, commencing at Franklin Street, ending at Old Seneca Turnpike a distance of **.25** miles

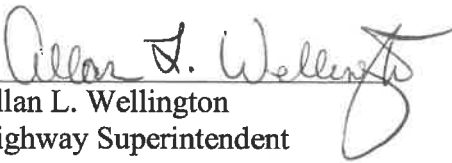
**Expending not more than \$236,305.28**

The following roads will be treated with a new seal coat of oil & stone at estimated costs as follows:

1. Foster Road 1.03 miles
2. Chapman Road 1.10 miles
3. VanCamp Road 0.87 miles
4. Hoyt Road 0.69 miles

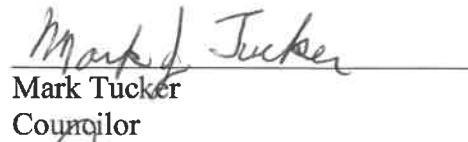
**Expending not more than \$76,077.35**

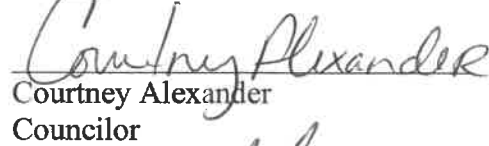
Executed in duplicate this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of February 2020.

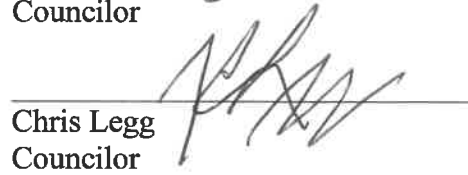
  
Allan L. Wellington  
Highway Superintendent

  
Janet L. Aaron  
Town Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McCormack  
Councilor

  
Mark Tucker  
Councilor

  
Courtney Alexander  
Councilor

  
Chris Legg  
Councilor