

Town Board Meeting
April 1, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Zoom: Meeting Id: 845 7130 7904 Passcode: 172146

Present: Supervisor Legg, Councilor Dove, Councilor Milne, Attorney Smith. **Absent:** Councilor Alexander.

Present (via Zoom): Councilor Tucker.

Also, Present (In Person): Tim Dobrovosky, Miranda Robinson.

Also, Present (via Zoom): Brian Buff, Karen Barkdull, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Robert Herrmann, Miranda Robinson, Sue Murphy, Paula Powell, Chris Buff, Keri Fey.

Department Reports

Highway: Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky submitted his report to the Board for their review. He reported the Highway Department had fixed work trucks, cleaned up trees from the high winds, repaired plow damage in yards, installed the 45MPH speed limit sign on County Line Road, did 15 rounds of snow plowing, helped the Parks Department with preparation for the walking path paving and installed a motion light on the Loan Closet building.

Transfer Station: Municipal Recycling Liaison Brian Buff reported the Transfer Station had sent out 9 loads of trash, 5 open top containers and 5 loads of recycling. Shred Day is at the Transfer Station on April 13th from 9:00am – 12:00noon.

Planning and Zoning: Planning and Zoning Secretary Karen Barkdull reported there were 10 new applications (report attached)for the Planning Board. She reviewed the open projects, Josh Lagrow (Village Meadows Dubdivision), Community Meadow Solar Array and Lakelawn, Other activities included 5 pre-application meetings, and 1 hour of Coded Enforcement training, 2 Hamlet Meetings. She reported the Planning and Zoning Boards were very busy, with 5 applications for the ZBA and 12 applications for the Planning Board. *Report attached.

Codes: Planning and Zoning Secretary Karen Barkdull reported for Codes Officer Herrmann in his absence. There were 16 building permits issued, 20 certificates of completion issued, and Codes Officer Herrmann will be out of the office next week for training at the NYSBOC Conference .
*March 2024 Codes Office Report Attached.

Parks: Parks Manager Sue Murphy reported Playday registration on March 11th went well and the program was full with over 200 campers. The baseball fields and benches were ready for the spring weather. She thanked the Highway Department, Transfer Station, Water Department and the Town

Clerk's office for all their help. She stated she was working on the Health Department Waterfront Safety Plan. The Farmers Market applications are coming in and the Market starts next month. The Library and the Chamber of Commerce are holding an event for the Solar Eclipse next Monday, April 8th in Austin Park.

Water: Supervisor Legg reported the monthly coliform testing had been completed and came back from the lab with negative results and these results were submitted to the Department of Health. PRV pit maintenance will start over the next few weeks. The new GIS device had been received and they are working on getting it set up.

Water/Engineer: Town Engineer Miranda Robinson reported that the Safety Committee met last week and discussed the goals for 2024. One of the goals is to set up a train the trainer option to do in-house training for Town departments. The group also talked about the resources made available through NYMIR and Comp Alliance.

The first set of ID Badges came in and they look great. If a department head would like any of their employees to have a badge, they just need to send the name of the employee, position and a head shot over to Engineer Robinson by April 19th .

The grant was approved for the \$10,000 through Clean Energy Communities (NYSERDA), for the heating and cooling system at the Transfer Station. We should be expecting to receive the money within the next month.

Work is ongoing with the Andrews Road water tower project & the Village Meadows project.

Budget: Budget Officer Keri Fey reported the auditors were in this past week, and it went smoothly. They would be contacting her to finish up the audit, and submit their report.

Fire Department: Councilor Dove reviewed the Skaneateles Fire Department March report.
*Report attached

Councilor Dove thanked Pete Buehler for his 5 years as Chief of the Skaneateles Fire Department, he had done a great job and thanked all the volunteers that have stepped up into leadership positions.

Dog Control: Councilor Milne reviewed the March report that was submitted by David Wawro, Dog Control Officer. *Report attached.

Minutes of March 18, 2024: On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Milne, and with a (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of March 18, 2024, were accepted as presented.

Budget Amendments: No Budget Amendments

Abstract #24-06: : On a motion of Supervisor Legg, seconded by Councilor Milne and with unanimous (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers were authorized from the following funds:

General:	\$ 4,927.96	Highway:	\$ 111.54
Street Lgt:	\$ 580.83	Water:	\$ 1,684.42
Part Town:	\$ 321.84	T&A	\$ 1,693.50
Total:	\$ 9,320.09		

Skaneateles PV, LLC Decommissioning Plan: Attorney Smith stated the Board was in receipt of a Decommissioning Plan for the Skaneateles PV, LLC Solar Farm located on West Lake Road in the Town of Skaneateles. Decommissioning Plans are needed in the event that the company that is operating the project is insolvent, absent, or unable to perform for any reason, a decommissioning plan is necessary in order to return the property to its prior condition at the end of the life of the project. These projects have a life generally estimated to be between 20 and 35 years.

What this plan stated is that they retained Langen, a national engineering firm that estimated the amount of money it would take to remove all the materials and return the site to its prior condition would be approximately \$236,000, which proposed in the decommissioning plan is that the amount be escalated 2.5% over the course of the life of the project to account for inflation and changes. That number will be reassessed from time to time when the bond is removed. With that estimate from the engineering firm, it's now incumbent upon the project developer to purchase a bond. In the event that the developer is unwilling, unavailable, insolvent, the bond company, which is an insurance company, would pay the amount available in the event that it is needed to decommission the project. The insurance company is the Ascot Insurance Company of Colorado.

Attorney Smith stated if the Board approved of this arraignment, they could approve the Supervisor to sign the decommissioning plan.

Supervisor Legg asked if Town Engineer Robinson had any comments. She stated she had not seen the plan.

Councilor Milne stated she would like Engineer Robinson to review the plan and give her approval of the plan before the Board authorized the Supervisor to sign.

The Board agreed to wait till Engineer Robinson reviewed the plan.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Milne and with a (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized Town Staff Engineer Robinson to review the Decommissioning Plan for the Skaneateles PV, LLC Project and upon her approval Supervisor Legg would be authorized to sign the Decommissioning Plan for the Skaneateles PV, LLC Solar Project.

Schedule Interview for Board of Assessment Review: Supervisor Legg stated the Board of Assessment Review has an open position and the Board was in receipt of 2 candidates and would need to schedule interviews.

The Board agreed to April 11th and April 15th starting at 4:00p.m. The Board agreed to these dates' contingent on Councilor Alexanders availability.

Maple Lane Farms Letter of Support - Application for Farmland Protection Grant - Conservation Easement: Supervisor Legg stated a request had been submitted by Tim Leubner of Maple Lane Farms for the Town's support of a conservation easement. The parcel Mr. Leubner is submitting for the Farmland Protection conservation easement is in the Town of Marcellus, Spafford, and Skaneateles. He has received letters of support from Marcellus and Spafford and is now looking for support from the Town of Skaneateles.

Supervisor Legg stated the Board had recently submitted a letter of support for Gary Lockwood to have part of the Lockwood Farm to be placed in a conservation easement with the same program.

The Board agreed to the support of this program for Maple Lane Farms conservation easement.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Dove and with (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized a letter of support for the Maple Lane Farm property being put into a conservation easement with the Farmland Protection Grant Program.

Andrews Road Water District Project Update: Supervisor Legg reported they have had conversations with Senator Schumer's office and we have the initial indication of timeline within two or three months to process the \$1.85 million grant that was a part of a request by Representative Brandon Williams. Representative Williams had met with the Town and was happy to see the progress the Town as made to date on the water project.

Supervisor Legg stated the Town would continue to work with C&S Engineers through the design phase. The Town Board is hoping to go out to bid in the summer of this year and begin construction in the spring of 2025.

Engineer Robinson stated the Town would be going for a short-term BAN for \$700,000 for the engineering costs. Supervisor Legg stated the 4.4-million-dollar grant from the State is still secured.

Letter of Resignation – Rochelle Dagget, Bookkeeper: Supervisor Legg stated he was in receipt of a letter of resignation from Bookkeeper Rochelle Daggett. Rochelle had found a full-time position and her last day in the Town would be April 3, 2024.

Supervisor Legg and the Board thanked Rochelle for her work with the Town and stated she would be missed.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Dove and with (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board accepted the resignation of Rochelle Daggett with her last day being April 4, 2024.

Town Employment Opportunities: Supervisor Legg stated the Town of Skaneateles has the following employment opportunities: part-time Bookkeeper, part-time Justice Court Clerk and full-time Parks Laborer. These positions are all posted on the Town of Skaneateles website.

Supervisor Legg and the Board encouraged anyone interested in any of these positions to apply with the individual department.

Purchase of a Town EZPass for Town Vehicles: Supervisor Legg stated the Town Departments had made a request to purchase an ezpass for Town Vehicles. The passes would be assigned to the departments and to specific vehicles. The passes would have to be signed out of the Town Clerk's office when needed.

The Board agreed to allow the purchase of 2 NYS EZPasses for the Town of Skaneateles.

William J. Marquardt, PLLC Request: Supervisor Legg announced a letter was received from William Marquardt, the bonding attorney for the Town of Skaneateles. Mr. Marquardt stated he was leaving his firm of Trespasz & Marquardt and opening his own firm. The letter was requesting the approval of the Town to stay with William Marquardt as the Town's bonding attorney.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Dove and with (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board agreed to stay with William J. Marquardt, PLLC as the Town of Skaneateles Bonding attorney and authorized Supervisor Legg to sign the agreement with William J. Marquardt, PLLC.

Appointment - Cemetery Part-Time Laborer: Councilor Milne stated she had interviewed candidates for the part-time cemetery laborer with Cemetery Superintendent Dick Eldredge.

Councilor Milne recommended the appointment of Devin Eldredge to part-time cemetery laborer position to start on April 3, 2024, at a wage of \$18.04 per hour.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Dove and with (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board appointed Devin Eldredge as part-time cemetery laborer to start on April 3, 2024, at a wage of \$18.04 per hour.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

Shred Day – April 13th 9:00 am -12:00 noon: Supervisor Legg announced there would be a Shred Day at the Skaneateles Transfer Station on Saturday April 13, 2024, from 9:00am – 12:00 noon.

Swap Shop 2024 Opening – April 27th Weather Permitting: Supervisor Legg announced the Swap Shop would be reopening on April 2, 2024, weather permitting with Amy Rolleri and her volunteers. The Swap Shop would be open on Saturdays (weather permitting) and all drop offs have to be there by noon on the day of the Swap Shop.

Public Comment: Councilor Mark Tucker thanked the Board and the community for all the support during his hospitalization and illness. He appreciated all that everyone had done for him and his family.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to attorney advice at 7:15 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Milne and with unanimous (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting returned to open session at 8:00p.m.

The Town Board approved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION
OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF SKANEATELES**

Authorizing Settlement of 41 Fennell Street, LLC Case

At a Regular Meeting of the Town Board (the “Board”) of the Town of Skaneateles, Onondaga County, New York (the “Town”), held at 24 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, New York, on April 1, 2024.

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Milne, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilor Dove, to wit:

WHEREAS, in July 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Petitioner 41 Fennell Street, LLC (“Petitioner”) commenced proceedings challenging the assessment on property it owns in the Town identified as Tax Map Parcel ID No. 006.-04-12.0; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received an offer from Petitioner to settle the above-referenced proceedings,

WHEREAS, the Town's attorneys have reviewed and analyzed the settlement offer and believe that settlement in accordance with the terms is in the Town's best interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board as follows:

Section 1. The Town Board authorizes its attorneys to settle the above referenced tax assessment proceeding with Petitioner for a reduction in the assessment value as set forth in the accompanying memorandum, with refunds to Petitioner not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Section 2. The Town Clerk is authorized to audit and pay such refunds to Petitioner or Petitioner's representative without further action of the Town Board.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.


The adoption of the foregoing Resolution was moved by Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Dove, and duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Chris Legg	Voting	Aye
Courtney Alexander	Voting	Absent
Sue Dove	Voting	Aye
Lori Milne	Voting	Aye
Mark Tucker	Voting	Absent

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk