

Town Board Meeting
May 6, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Aaron, Councilor Badami, Councilor Tucker, Councilor Coville, Attorney Smith.

Absent: Councilor McCormack

Also Present: Sue Murphy, Bridgett Winkelman, Allan Wellington, Martin Dillion, Beth Batlle, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Nickie Marquis, Joe Southern, Robert Herrmann, Don Kasper, Sue Murphy, Chris Legg, Joe Calipari, Dick Eldredge, Cindy Eldredge, Charlie Wallace, Bob Eggleston, Peter Duenksbuehler, Scott Molnar, James Miller, Karen Barkdull.

Department Reports

Highway, Water, Transfer Station: Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington reported that the Highway Department repaired lawns that were damaged by the plows, installed a total of 580 feet of drainage pipe along 4 different properties, removed trees along the rights-of-way of the following roads: Masters Road, Franklin Street, Foster Road and Van Camp Road. They also made equipment repairs. In the Water Department they repaired lawns damaged due to water breaks, repaired a curb box on County Line Road, repaired a water main break on Jewett Road and West Elizabeth Street. At the Transfer Station he reported Syracuse Haulers started picking up garbage, C&D, recycles, and tires on May 1st. Supervisor Aaron stated that only Construction and Demolition material will be allowed in the C&D containers, such as sheetrock and plaster. They are setting up another compactor to handle items not allowed in the C&D containers, such as furniture and mattresses.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Allan Wellington and his crew for their work on the water break on West Elizabeth Street.

Parks: Sue Murphy thanked the Highway Department for helping with the site work at the Skaneateles Falls playground for the new picnic pavilion. Supervisor Aaron stated this completed the grant that the Town received in 2015 from Onondaga County. Sue Murphy reported opening day for Lakeshore Baseball was last Saturday and went well despite the rain. She stated they are working on the permits for the Waterfront and Playday. They had a preconstruction meeting with Nelson McGinnis construction regarding the construction of the new Sims building. They worked on the baseball fields, mowed and weeded. They had been working with the Farmers Market vendors, which will open in a couple of weeks. She stated they are still looking for Boat Launch attendants, but she will have the names of the Playday Councilors and Lifeguards for the Board to approve at the next meeting.

Supervisor Aaron stated the construction of the new Sims building is scheduled to start Friday. Sue Murphy and the Parks Department will work on the schedule with Nelson McGinnis Construction regarding the construction trucks entering the project.

Planning & Zoning: Councilor Tucker reported there were currently 6 open projects. He reviewed the status of existing projects still open; Hidden Estates, Zechman Subdivision, Skaneateles Country Club, Rosalie's Cucina, Chris Graham and Pat Gray's subdivision,

Codes: Codes Officer Bob Herrmann reported he and part time Codes Officer Ben Garrett are still working on the back log of permits that were not completed. The response from the residents has been great. They have closed out 48 more permits this month and issued 24 new project permits. Building permits are up 44% from last year at this time. He stated the Codes Department had been working on compiling a data base for fire inspections and he thanked Kim Benda for her hard work on that. He stated the crew in Codes and Planning and Zoning department are outstanding. Ben Garrett had completed his 4th class for his codes officer certification, which allows him to do fire inspections and has only 2 more classes left.

Budget: Budget Officer Winkelman reported she had been working on the paperwork associated with completing the street lighting grant and billed water group number three. She spoke to homeowners about the water break that occurred on West Elizabeth Street. She reported Insinero, our auditors had filed the Town's AUD and will be at the next Board meeting to present their report to the Board.

Historian: Town Historian Beth Battle gave a report to the Board titled "Two Eccentric Brothers"
*report attached

Resolution #19-088

Minutes April 15, 2019: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Coville, and with a (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the Minutes of April 15, 2019 were accepted as presented.

Resolution #19-089

Little Free Library Update: Nickie Marquis, Director of the Skaneateles Library reviewed with the Board the design and location of the Little Free Library for placement at the Skaneateles Conservation Area. She reviewed the design that was created by Rotary Member, Gary Ozminkowski and will also be built by him. It will be a shed design, similar to the one installed in Borodino. It will be a little wider (26 inches instead of 21 inches) and it will have a shingled roof. She reviewed the location they would like to install the Library. The proposed location is next to the tree at the edge of the parking area near the entrance to Conservation Area. Ms. Marquis also stated they are planning on painting it blue, the same color blue as Rotary's logo color. There will be a plaque on the Little Library with the Skaneateles Library's contact information and stating it was donated by the Rotary Club of Skaneateles.

Supervisor Aaron stated she did not see a problem with the location and the Board agreed. She asked when it will be installed. Ms. Marquis stated they were waiting to get the Board's approval and then it will be built and installed in about 6 weeks.

On a motion of Supervisor Aaron, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, approval was given to the Skaneateles Library to install a "Little Free Library" at the Skaneateles Conservation Area next to the large tree on the north side of the entrance, with the Rotary Club's design and color.

Resolution #19-090

Summer Programing with the Skaneateles Library: Supervisor Aaron reviewed with the Board the request from the Skaneateles Library to the Town's Parks Department to host some activities in the Park this year in cooperation with the Skaneateles Library.

Nickie Marquis, Director of the Skaneateles Library, reviewed the following ideas from Library staff member Mary Beth Schwartzwalder; having the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theater have a performance at Austin Park on Monday July 8th at 10:30 a.m. and outdoor story times around the parks. She also stated they are working with a group called Young Naturalists to lead some educational workshops this summer (like, water ecology), at their August 12th workshop at 4:00 PM and they're interested in going to the Skaneateles Conservation Area.

Sue Murphy stated she had no problems with these programs at the Park. She also stated she contacted Randy Nonnenmacher, Chairman of the Conservation Committee and he stated there are lots of good places for nature observations for the Young Naturalists group and they could contact him.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, approval was given to the Skaneateles Library to have the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theater give a performance at Austin Park on Monday July 8th at 10:30 a.m. and outdoor story times around the parks one morning a month in July and August and authorized a group called Young Naturalists to lead some educational workshops this summer on August 12th, at the Skaneateles Conservation Area.

Resolution #19-091

Finger Lakes SPCA Howl-O-Ween Walk event: Supervisor Aaron reviewed with the Board a request from the Finger Lakes SPCA to host a "Howl-O-Ween Walk" at the Austin Pavilion on October 6, 2019 from 10:00a.m-3:00p.m. Supervisor Aaron stated this event will benefit the SPCA, located in Auburn, and monies raised will go towards new dog kennels. It is their hope to provide a family and pet-friendly event that the community will welcome back for years to come. Previously, this event was held at Austin Park under the name of "Pet Festival"; it was well attended and ran for a number of years. The plan is to have participants gather at the Austin Park Pavilion and walk through the village on a predetermined route. All animals will be required to be on a leash as to adhere to the park requirements. They hope to have a few local food trucks in the parking lot for participants to visit. Craft vendors and some family events (ex. face painting) would be located within the pavilion. They will not be seeking approval for alcohol distribution.

Supervisor Aaron stated Parks Director, Sue Murphy had reached out to the Village regarding the request to have food trucks and was informed food trucks are not allowed in the village.

Kristen Lamon Marks, SPCA Board Member, stated not having food trucks should not be a problem. They can work out some other opportunities for food at the event. They are hoping to work with the Skaneateles Chamber of Commerce for marketing the event and getting merchants to participate.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, approved the Finger Lakes SPCA to hold their "Howl-O-Ween Walk" at the Austin Pavilion on October 6, 2019 from 10:00a.m-3:00p.m.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing Local Law 2019-A “A Local Law Amending the Code of the Town of Skaneateles Concerning Non-Conforming Uses”: Supervisor Aaron reviewed the notice of Public Hearing for Local Law A of 2019 “A Local Law Amending the Code of the Town of Skaneateles Concerning Non – Conforming Uses” . The public notice regarding the hearing was posted on March 5, 2019 and published in the Skaneateles Press on April 10, 2019. The Town Board completed SEQR and determined this was a type I action, it was submitted to SOCPA for their review and comments and their determination was this Local Law will have no significant adverse inter-community or county – wide implications and may consequently be acted on solely by the referring Board. Supervisor Aaron stated this Local Law effects sections 148-12 “Nonconforming uses, structures and lots” , 149-29 “Wetland and Watercourse Protection”, 148-36 “Skaneateles Lakeshore Regulations”, and 148-59 definitions.

Supervisor Aaron asked Planning and Zoning Attorney Scott Molnar to review the proposed local law with the Board before the Public Hearing is open. Attorney Molnar reviewed the proposed changes and updates stating these recommendations came from the Planning and Zoning Committee, which is a group comprised of members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Codes Enforcement Office. The proposal is to amend the referenced sections of zoning code chapter 148 to allow the Planning Board additional oversight for applications for construction, rehabilitation or expansion to structures on preexisting nonconforming lots or structures. Section 148-12 permits construction or reconstruction on nonconforming lots or structures without a variance if they meet specific criteria. The code concerning this has managed well over the years, which only required a building permit without an application to the Planning Board, however there had been a recent application that had been problematic to the Zoning and Planning Boards with the way the code is currently written. Due to this situation the Planning and Zoning Committee are recommending these changes to allow additional oversight for such applications on preexisting nonconforming lots or structures.

Attorney Molnar stated the Planning and Zoning Boards were also sensitive to protecting the quality of the Lake just as the Town Board is. With these concerns the Boards sought to recommend additional oversight for Lake protection with these proposed changes to the Town’s zoning code and the potential ability to allow the Board to utilize the “Small Scale Water Quality Standards” which had been previously adopted. These recommendations are especially intended for applications within 1000 feet of the lake or other watercourse.

Attorney Molnar reviewed the recommended changes to 148-12 “Nonconforming uses, structures and lots” Section C. He stated the existing text reads as follows:

“Alteration and restoration. A nonconforming use or structure shall not be extended, expanded or structurally altered except as provided below. (The extension of a lawful use to any portion of a nonconforming structure shall not be deemed the extension of a nonconforming structure or use.)”

The proposed text reads as follows:

“Alteration and restoration. A nonconforming use or structure shall not be extended, expanded or structurally altered except upon site plan approval for structures located within 1000 feet of Skaneateles Lake, and as provided below. (The extension of a lawful use to any portion of a nonconforming structure shall not be deemed the extension of a nonconforming structure or use.)”

Attorney Molnar reviewed the recommended changes to 148-12 “Nonconforming uses, structures and lots” Section C (3). He stated the existing text reads as follows:

“a nonconforming structure or use may be expanded by up to a total of 500 square feet of floor space and 5,000 cubic feet of interior volume without a variance or special permit, provided that such expansion does not increase the nonconformity of the structure or expand the nonconforming use. The 500 square feet of permitted expansion shall be cumulative and shall include all prior expansions since January 1, 1996. For purposes of this Subsection C(3), the floor space and interior volume of a garage and the floor space of decks and patios shall be counted toward the total floor space and interior volume. The increased floor space or volume may result in an increase in the height of the structure consistent with the height limits of this chapter, provided that no part of the structure is located within 50 feet of the lake line.”

The proposed text reads as follows:

“Notwithstanding the provisions of § 148-12G(1)(a)[7], a nonconforming structure or use may be altered, and/or renovated, and expanded by up to a total of 500 square feet of floor space and 5,000 cubic feet of interior volume without a variance or special permit, provided that: (i) such expansion does not increase the nonconformity of the structure or expand the nonconforming use; (ii) the alteration and/or renovation results in the re-use of at least fifty percent (50%) of the component materials of the existing structure; (iii) the alteration and/or renovation may not disturb the land, and (iv) the alteration and/or renovation may not include a structural change to the nonconforming structure. The 500 square feet of permitted expansion shall be cumulative and shall include all prior expansions since January 1, 1996. For purposes of this Subsection C(3), the floor space and interior volume of a garage and the floor space of decks and patios shall be counted toward the total floor space and interior volume. The increased floor space or volume may result in an increase in the height of the structure consistent with the height limits of this chapter, provided that no part of the structure is located within 50 feet of the lake line.”

Attorney Molnar stated there had been some concerns about the proposed law and the implications outside the watershed. Supervisor Aaron asked if this would pertain to all preexisting nonconforming lots and structures in the Town, even outside the watershed. Attorney Molnar stated this was the intention of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Attorney Molnar stated his observation of the Planning and Zoning Committee was that they did not think this additional oversight would be particularly burdensome to the applicants. The required site plan review would only be a one meeting process, unlike a special permit which would be at least a two-meeting process.

Attorney Molnar reviewed additions and updates to Section 148-56 “Definitions”. He reviewed the following new definitions:

Alteration-

Existing- “As applied to a structure, a change to or rearrangement of the structural parts, or any expansion thereof, including the extension of any side or by any increase in height, or the moving of such structure from one location to another.”

Proposed - Any change to a structure, including the rearrangement of structural parts, or any expansion or reduction thereof, including increases or decreases in height, and the moving of a structure from one location to another upon a parcel.

Demolish/Demolition-- The deliberate removal, tearing down, knocking down, or destruction of all or a part of a structure.

Disturbance-- Any activity that disturbs or removes soil, rock, sand, stone or other material for the purpose of placing thereon any permeable or impermeable surface or structure, including the installation of underground utilities, wires, piping or conduit, and the grading or re-grading of a parcel.

Renovation-- Any alteration to restore, renew, repair or improve all or part of any structure, or all or part of any impermeable or permeable surface located on a parcel.

Attorney Molnar stated the addition of these definitions would allow the Planning Board to review applications more effectively.

Attorney Molnar stated because of the importance of the protection of the quality the lake the Planning and Zoning Committee suggested the following addition to the Section 148-36 "Lakeshore Regulations":

Supplementary lake yard restrictions. In addition to the requirements of §§ 148-29 and 148-36A above, all structures located within 1000 (verses 200 in the existing zoning code) feet of the lake line of Skaneateles Lake shall comply with the following requirements:

- (1) Any construction or expansion of any such structure shall require site plan approval and an erosion and stormwater control plan. (See § 148-26.)

Attorney Molnar reviewed the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning group to amend Section 148-29 "Wetland and Watercourse Protection":

Site plan approval requirement in stream corridors.

(1) Within 100 feet of the bank of any watercourse or within 1000 feet of the lake line of Skaneateles Lake, site plan approval shall be required for any construction involving land disturbance of more than 200 square feet, filling or excavation in excess of 200 square feet, clear-cutting of more than 10,000 square feet of vegetation over a five-year period, or grading or other alteration of more than 5,000 square feet of the natural landscape within any one-year period. This requirement shall not apply to agricultural uses or to the repair and maintenance of existing structures.

The addition to this section is "or within 1000 feet of the lake line of Skaneateles Lake". Attorney Molnar stated the Planning Board's redundancy with requiring site plan review for applications throughout these proposed changes to Section 148 is for consistency not conflict.

Attorney Smith asked Attorney Molnar regarding 148-12, Section C(3) if the intension was, if an applicant is changing less than 500 sq. ft. it would not trigger both a site plan review and a special

permit approval by the Planning Board. Attorney Molnar answered, yes, the Board's preference is for the applicant to go through site plan review not a variance. Attorney Smith asked if it is the intention to make this in effect for all nonconforming lots and structures, even outside the watershed. Attorney Molnar stated the intention of Planning and Zoning is for all nonconforming lots and structures within the Town that fall within this category would need site plan review.

Attorney Smith stated the changes to this section seem to address construction on a small scale. Attorney Molnar stated the Board thought that even with small structural changes to a preexisting nonconforming lot or structure there could still be machinery that could be brought in and these applications should consider the "Small-Scale Water Quality Standards" to prevent erosion and protect the quality of the lake.

Attorney Smith asked if the 1000 feet of the lake requiring site plan review would apply to all categories in 148-12 Section C(3)? Planning Board Chairman Joe Southern stated, yes, the Planning Board would like the site plan review requirements to apply to all. Attorney Smith stated under the current zoning an applicant would not need a site plan or a variance for a structure on a nonconforming lot if it was demolished and rebuilt in the same footprint. With the proposed change the applicant would need to apply for a site plan review in order to build in the same footprint. Attorney Smith stated this is in subsection section C(2) and would only effect properties with 1000 feet of the lake, not the entire Town.

The Board thanked Attorney Molnar for his review of the proposed Local Law.

Supervisor Aaron stated letters had been received from Architects Bob Eggleston and Guy Donahoe regarding this proposed local law, these will be added as part of the record.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Public Hearing regarding Local Law 2019-A "A Local Law Amending the Code of the Town of Skaneateles Concerning Non-Conforming Uses" opened at 7:20 p.m.

Supervisor Aaron asked if anyone would like to speak in favor, in opposition or had any comments regarding Local Law 2019-A "A Local Law Amending the Code of the Town of Skaneateles Concerning Non-Conforming Uses".

Architect and resident, Bob Eggleston stated over the years he had worked with the Town of Skaneateles Zoning Code, it has been a good working code for the residents. He addressed his concerns regarding this proposed zoning change. He stated 148-12 sections C and G had done a good job in reducing the number of variances. The Town only had 12 variances last year. These Sections in Chapter 148-12 allowed residents to do reasonable things on their property by limiting what they can do on a nonconforming structure. The Town's zoning code is difficult and can be overwhelming to a novice. He stated we are all concerned about the lake and the lake watershed. He reviewed the worksheet the Town provides to applicants. He stated under the Lake Watershed category on the worksheet, certain things apply to applicants with 1500 ft. of the lake certain things apply, within 1000 ft of the lake certain things apply, within 200 ft of the lake other things apply and with 100 and 50 feet of the lake even more things apply. The closer to the lake the more restrictions apply, and this is why this zoning works so well as currently written.

Mr. Eggleston said he had no problem with the proposed definitions, Section 148-56. Mr. Eggleston reviewed the topics and concerns in his letter (see attached). He stated there are so many “belts and suspenders” in these proposed changes, we have overburdened the regulations. The zoning code should be kept simple and should not be changed because of one application that took advantage of the code because there were no definitions to control it.

Mr. Eggleston reviewed the proposed changes to Section 148-36(B), “Skaneateles Lakeshore regulations” he stated the proposed change stated anything within 1000 feet of the lake would require site plan review. That is in direct conflict with the Watercourse and Wetland Protection, section 148-29 which says any disturbance more than 200 square feet in the current zoning requires site plan review. He stated 148-36(B) should remain as it is and everything within 200 feet of the lake should require site plan review.

Mr. Eggleston reviewed his concerns with section 148-29 “Wetland and Watercourse Protection” . He stated 200 feet from the lake is a reasonable requirement for regulating construction and land disturbance of 200 square feet or more. Changing this requirement to 1000 feet from the lake seems extreme, 200 square feet of construction could be placing a shed or a patio on a parcel. If the Boards felt that 1000 feet from the lake is acceptable maybe the square feet of construction or land disturbance could be 500 or 1000 square feet. There are other regulations in the current code that would trigger a site plan review for these applications. There are enough regulations in the current zoning that would require site plan review to protect the quality of the lake.

Mr. Eggleston reviewed his concerns regarding Section 148-12C (3) “Nonconforming Structures, Alterations and Restorations”. He stated this section is about eliminating the need for variances. The Planning and Zoning committee is changing this to require site plan review. He stated the proposed changes are contradictory to the code. This would require site plan review for small interior renovations, such as changing the placement of a door because you are altering a nonconforming structure and all someone is doing is bringing in a couple of sawhorses and cutting a hole in a wall. Mr. Eggleston stated site plan review should be about disturbance and not changing kitchen cabinets.

Mr. Eggleston stated the Town code is also about interpretation. The current staff and Boards interpret these changes one way and the proposed changes make the code more complicated and could be interpreted differently in the future. He stated he is concerned the Town is setting itself up for a lot of variances in the future. Keep the code simple and let nonconforming structures be about nonconforming structures. He also stated every building permit in the watershed has to go the City of Syracuse for their review. The City of Syracuse is constantly looking at things to protect the lake. Keep it simple and let each part of the law do its own thing.

The Board thanked Mr. Eggleston.

Linda Roche, resident and local relator stated the Boards should reevaluate these proposed changes. She agreed with Mr. Mr. Eggleston that this is too complicated and restrictive on small applications.

Jim Miller, asked if this is applied to nonconforming structures only? The Board and Mr. Eggleston answered no, section 148-29 and section 148-36 is all properties within 1000 feet of the lake. Section 148-12 is regulating only nonconforming lots and structures.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Public Hearing regarding Local Law 2019-A “A Local Law Amending the Code of the Town of Skaneateles Concerning Non-Conforming Uses” closed at 7:37 p.m.

Supervisor thanked Mr. Eggleston and the others who spoke regarding this Local Law. She stated the Board needed time to review these comments and discuss with the Planning Board and the attorneys, the Board agreed.

Councilor Tucker stated we should review these changes along with the proposed zone changes currently being worked by Joel Russell , Karen Barkdull and planner Howard Brodsky.

Attorney Smith stated he would review the comments and changes and make some suggested updates to the proposed Local Law 2019-A.

Councilor Badami asked Attorney Molnar and Planning Board Chairman Joe Southern if they would take these comments back to the Planning and Zoning committee for their comments. Mr. Southern and Attorney Molnar stated yes; they will present the Town Board with their comments.

Resolution #19-093

Schedule Town Constable Interviews: Supervisor Aaron stated to the board the Town had advertised for a Town Constable to work at the Town and the State Boat launches. She asked Councilor Coville to coordinate interviews with the two candidates that submitted resumes. Councilor Coville said he would. He also stated there are certain certifications to be considered for a Constable. Supervisor Aaron agreed but stated according to the contract with NY State DEC for the State Boat Launch they do not have to be a certified constable. Councilor Coville stated this position would have to have a different title rather than Constable. Supervisor Aaron agreed and said we could have another title under Onondaga County Civil Service for this position.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

▪ *Shepard Settlement Hamlet Meeting May 29th , 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and the Skaneateles Falls Hamlet Meeting May 16th at 7:00 p.m. and Mandana at the Mandana Inn on May 22nd at 7:00p.m.* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town Board is holding Hamlet meetings on May 16th for Skaneateles Falls at the Skaneateles Falls Legion and, in Shepard Settlement on May 29th at Ken Scott’s barn at 7:00 p.m. and Mandana at the Mandana Inn on May 22nd at 7:00p.m.

▪ *Legislation on Authority on Lake Update:* Supervisor Aaron updated the Board on the Legislation on Authority on the Lake stating a few weeks ago the Board authorized Attorney Brody Smith to draft legislation to give the Town back its jurisdiction over projects 1500 foot into the lake. Currently it is regulated by the Office of General Services. She stated Attorney Smith referred to the Village of Skaneateles and the Village referred it to the Village Planning Board for review.

▪ *Transfer Station Solar Project:* Supervisor Aaron stated she received an email from Melissa Clark, Abundant Solar that stated they were working with the utility to find a solution to their initial interconnection evaluation. They were also looking into the possibility of adding battery storage to save some of the capacity and will get back to us with the details as soon as they complete the negotiation. They are moving forward with next stage site plan designs and phase 1 with their engineers at Labella.

▪*I-81 Viaduct Project – Electronic Copies on File at the Town Clerk’s Office:* Supervisor Aaron reported the Town Clerk had received the electronic files for the I-81 Viaduct Project. They will be available for anyone who would like to review.

Public Comment: Bob Eggleston addressed the Board regarding the Public Hearing for Local Law A of 2019 “ A Local Law Amending the Code of the Town of Skaneateles Concerning Non-Conforming Uses” that was held tonight. He asked if there are changes made to the Law will the Board advertise and possibly reopen the Public Hearing? Supervisor Aaron stated if there are significant changes the Board will hold another Public Hearing. Attorney Smith agreed and stated if there are significant changes the Board should refer it back to Onondaga County Planning for there review and comments.

Joe Calipari addressed the Board regarding the Town of Skaneateles Assessor, Michael Maxwell. He stated Mr. Maxwell is currently employed part time by the Town. He stated Assessor Mike Maxwell currently has 3 Townships he assesses for not including The Town of Skaneateles. The Town of Skaneateles is at a 91% equalization rate and this impacts the school and county taxes. This should be taken into consideration and he believed the Assessor position for the Town of Skaneateles should be a full-time position.

Supervisor Aaron and the Board thanked Mr. Calipari for his comments.

Richard Eldredge, Cemetery Superintendent asked the Board if anyone would like to speak at Mottville and Shepard Settlement Cemeteries on Memorial Day. Supervisor Aaron stated she would talk with the Board and get back to him.

Councilor Tucker commented on the Legislation for Authority on the Lake. He asked if anyone had spoken to the Village and if it was possible that the regulations in the Village could be different than the Town. This might allow the Town to continue this process in a timelier matter. Attorney Smith stated he would speak to the Village Attorney.

Resolution #19-093

Budget Amendments: On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following budget amendments were authorized for the abstract #19-09:

General Fund

\$ 1,100.00	Increase	011022.01.002.00	Justice Equip/ Cap Improve
\$ 1,100.00	Decrease	019904.01.004.00	Contingency
Cost of having office painted – JCAP funded			
\$ 2,300.00	Increase	013204.01.004.00	Auditor
\$ 2,300.00	Decrease	019904.01.004.00	Contingency
Additional costs for 2018 audit – based on contract			
\$ 50.00	Increase	019204.01.004.00	Municipal Association dues
\$ 50.00	Decrease	019904.01.004.00	Contingency
Additional participants for the planning conference			

Resolution #19-094

Abstract #19-09: On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #19- to 19-0125 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 89,624.99	Sewer:	\$ 1,601.58
Highway:	\$ 6,036.89	Water:	\$ 52,212.61
Highway PT	\$ 862.44	Part Town	\$ 862.44
Street Lgt.:	\$ 1,147.37	T & A	\$ 399.31
Total:	\$158,439.62		

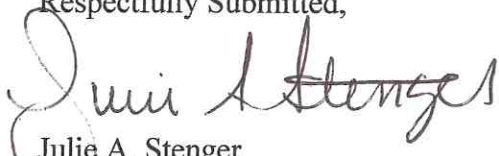
Resolution #19-095

Executive Session: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss contract negotiation and potential litigations.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Badami the meeting was returned to open session at 8:20 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk

Two Eccentric Brothers
Beth Batlle
Town Historian

Two brothers, Thomas and William Powell, lived alone a short distance south of Poverty Corners in Skaneateles in the 1860's. (Poverty Corners is formed by the crossing of Stump Road over Route 321. It is said to have received its name due to the financial situation of its residents in the early days of its formation.)

The 1865 census states that the two brothers were from England. Thomas was the oldest at age 51, while William was 48. Thomas apparently owned the title to the land.

When these two brothers, both bachelors, came into the village, each would be wearing a swallow-tail coat. One brother always took the lead. And he always carried with him, rain or shine, a blue cotton umbrella – a forerunner of Charlie Chaplin.

The two brothers owned a few acres of land on which they grew an acre of wheat along with corn, potatoes, beets, beans, and other garden vegetables. Their meticulous garden was the envy of everyone in the neighborhood.

This was because they took very particular care in tending to their garden. They spaded the ground by hand, never using a plow. Every inch of the ground was then carefully raked, smoothed over, and planted. Plants would spring up, however no weed dared to show its face as it would be quickly be removed.

Sometimes when they came into the village with their vegetables, they might appear with their wheelbarrow. The leader, always with his umbrella, would walk in front pulling the wheelbarrow along with a short rope. Meanwhile, at the rear, his brother guided the wheelbarrow with his hands on the handles.

Or, when they went to the mill to get their grain ground, they would carry it in a bag located at the center of a pole. The first brother, with umbrella in hand, would take the lead while the second handled the pole from behind.

A widow did manage to persuade Thomas to marry her. However he was unhappy with her and apparently returned to his prior life. The two brothers were not mention in the next census book and seem to have disappeared from Skaneateles.