

Town Board Meeting

December 21, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Remote Meeting via www.zoom.com (id#: 839 5280 6830 password 087247)

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

Also, Present: Bridgett Winkelman, Sue Murphy, Allan Wellington, Kim Benda, Paula Powell, Chris Buff, Sherril Ketchum, David Lee, Denise Thurston, Keri Fey, Robert Herrmann.

Highway, Water, Transfer Station: Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington reported the Highway Department had plowed 10 times since the last Town Board meeting making it 25 times for the season, they replaced faded street signs, installed a new radar speed sign at the Transfer Station, made several truck repairs and cleaned out and re-organized the pole barn. In the Water Department they replaced two curb boxes for a water service along State Street, installed a water meter at a new home on Coach Road and completed numerous dig safe markings for replacement signs along Route 20. At the Transfer Station a new heater was installed in the guard shed, and he had a meeting with Green Renewable from Manchester, New York. Green Renewable is interested in purchasing the existing mulch pile and also grinding the brush pile in the future. Highway Superintendent Wellington stated he would have a proposal for the Board from Green Renewable at the next Town Board meeting, January 4, 2021.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Highway employee, Steve Bryant for her ride in the Snowplow and is looking forward to going out again with the other employees.

Dog Control: Supervisor Aaron reviewed the November 2020 Animal Control Activity Report. Dog Control Officer David Wawro stated in his report he had calls on feral cats, an injured dog, and a squirrel.

Minutes of December 7, 2020: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of December 7, 2020 were accepted as presented.

Parks and Recreation Website Module Contract from Edmunds GovTech: Supervisor Aaron stated Councilor Alexander and Parks Director Sue Murphy had been working on a new way to monitor and keep track of the activities and rentals in the Park. They worked with Town Clerk Julie Stenger and found a program with Edmunds GovTech. Edmunds GovTech is the company that hosts the Town Clerk software as well as Planning and Zoning and Codes. The Town started with Business Automation Systems (now known as Edmunds GovTech) with the Town Clerk software in 1999 and Planning and Zoning started working with them in 2007. The Planning and Zoning Module was \$14,000 in 2007. The Parks module under consideration would be approximately \$5,000 per year for three years.

Parks Manager Sue Murphy reviewed how the program would work and stated this program will make the rentals and calendar easier. The Parks have gotten busier over the past few years and this

will be a benefit to the public as well as herself and the Parks department. This program will interconnect with the Town Clerk program, accept credit cards for payment, update the rental calendar and keep track of all the registrations for playday, including immunization records of participants. This will be a great program for the Parks.

Councilor Alexander stated it will really bring us forward. The Playday section of the module is a bonus and the ability for reports and all documents for each participant. The calendar section will benefit the public as well as the Parks staff.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized Supervisor Aaron to sign the proposal from Edmunds GovTech for the Park Program website add-on at a charge of \$5,351 for 2021.

Zoning Board of Appeals and Board Appointments: Supervisor Aaron announced there are 2 vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Jim Condon had decided not to ask for reappointment and Michael Ciaccio had submitted his resignation. Both of these members were assets to the Board and will be missed. Supervisor Aaron thanked them for their service to our community.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Board had received two very qualified candidates and would like to approve their appointment tonight. Sherril Ketchum, she had been on the Zoning Board of Appeals previously from 2013 – 2017 and will be welcomed back. David Lee, he is a highly regarded local builder and had recently retired, he will also be a great addition to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board appointed David Lee to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term of January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2025 and Sherril Ketchum for the term of January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

Letter of Support – Karlik Farm Conservation Easement: Supervisor Aaron stated a request came to the Board to write a letter in support of the Karlik Farm's application and proposal for conservation easement rights. Councilor Tucker had been working with the Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency in support of this request from the Karlik Farm. He stated the Town recognizes the need to engage in these steps to ensure that lands are managed so they are always sustainable for agricultural purposes for years to come. Councilor Tucker stated The Town of Skaneateles fully supports any efforts of the Karlik Farm as they seek to obtain a conservation easement with the help of a qualified conservation organization.

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized Councilor Tucker to sign and submit the attached letter to the Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency in support of the Karlik Farm's proposal for a conservation easement on the property in the Town of Skaneateles.

*letter attached

Executive Order 202.83- Real Property Tax Law: Supervisor Aaron reviewed the Executive Order received from the State of New York. It stated:

The Governor of the State of New York by Executive Order No. 202 dated March 7, 2020, declared a state disaster emergency for the entire State of New York; and both travel-related and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been documented in New York State and are expected to continue; and, pursuant to Section 29-a of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo did issue Executive Order 202.83 dated December 18, 2020, 2020, which authorized, by local option, the governing body, to adopt the provisions of that Executive Order 202.83, which temporarily suspends or modifies, subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Town Board by resolution could direct the Town Assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such sections on the 2021/2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2020/2021 assessment roll, thereby dispensing with the need for renewal applications from such persons, and further dispensing with the requirement for the Assessors to mail renewal applications to such persons.

Supervisor Aaron stated letters had already been sent to seniors with their exemption applications. Attorney Smith stated by adopting the Executive Order it would have no impact on those who had received letters or submitted their applications to date. If the Assessor has knowledge that someone is entitled to an exemption, he can grant that exemption. The Executive Order extends the opportunity, and the Board can grant this by resolution if this is their desire.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board extended the Executive Order issued by the Governor of the State of New York on March 7, 2020 allowing the Assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2021 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2020 assessment roll, thereby dispensing of the need for renewal applications from such person.

*executive order attached

Supervisor Aaron stated she and Councilor Alexander are working on creating a list of all the exemptions available to property owners to share on the website and social media.

January 1, 2021 Payroll Change to December 31, 2020: Budget Officer Winkelman reported to the Board the last payroll of 2020 falls on January 1, 2021, since this is a Holiday and falls in the new year, for bookkeeping purpose she is asking the Board to approve the change in payroll date to December 31, 2020.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized the payroll of January 1, 2021 to be moved to December 31, 2020.

Reschedule Town Board Meetings – January 18, 2021 and February 15, 2021: Supervisor Aaron stated in the months of January and February two of the regularly scheduled Town Board

meetings fall on Holidays, January 18th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and February 15th is Presidents Day.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized rescheduling the January 18, 2021 Town Board meeting to January 20, 2021.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized rescheduling the February 15, 2021 Town Board meeting to February 17, 2021.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

▪ *Town Departments Holiday Closings:* Supervisor Aaron announced the following closings for Town departments:

Transfer Station	Closed December 25, 2020	Christmas
	Closed January 1, 2021	New Year's
Town Hall	Closed December 24 th & 25 th , 2020	Christmas
	Closed January 1, 2021	New Year's

▪ *Tax Payments and Town Hall Operations:* Supervisor Aaron reviewed the update on the Town Hall operations during the spike in local COVID -19 infections. She stated:

“As we have entered a period of increased COVID19 cases in our community, the Town Board implores everyone to wear masks, social distance, and wash hands often.

While the Town Hall is opened to conduct business, we urge our constituents to conduct their business by phone, mail, or online. If you plan to come to town hall for in person service, please contact the appropriate department to make an appointment. If you are unsure what department handles your needs, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 315-685-3473 or email Julie Stenger, Town Clerk at jstenger@townofskaneateles.com.

The Town Board supports our Tax Collector Lori Milne in requesting that our constituents either mail or pay your Town and County Taxes online, in order to keep everyone safe. An appointment will be required in order to make payment in person. Please contact Lori Milne, Tax Collector to answer your questions either by phone at 315-685-8148 or email lmilne@townofskaneateles.com.

The Town is doing all we can to make sure our services are not interrupted, employees are kept safe, and our constituents are not unduly exposed to an unsafe situation. We all have a responsibility to protect our families and our community to the highest degree possible. We encourage your support of our local businesses by buying locally, ordering takeout meals, and purchasing gift cards for Christmas.

Please do all you can to set the example and stop the spread by wearing your mask, keeping socially distant and washing your hands often.”

▪ *Onondaga County Agricultural District Annual Request Period January 1-30, 2021*: Supervisor Aaron announced the Onondaga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board announced that the annual request period for the addition of viable agricultural lands into Onondaga County Agricultural Districts is set for January 1, 2021 to January 30, 2021.

Agricultural districts are intended to encourage the continued use of farmland for agricultural production. Enrollment of land into a State certified agricultural district provides protection for accepted agricultural practices through New York State Agricultural Districts Law. Viable agricultural land is land highly suitable for a farm operation.

Request forms and additional information are available at www.ongov.net/planning/agdist.html, or by contacting the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency at 315-435-2611 or countyplanning@ongov.net.

Asymptomatic COVID – 19 Testing December 22 and 23: Supervisor Aaron announced Onondaga County had scheduled a testing site at the Skaneateles High School for December 22nd and 23rd. This testing will be asymptomatic COVID-19. She thanked both the School Superintendent and Onondaga County for setting up this testing sight.

Public Comment: Denise Thurston spoke to the Board regarding a property issue on Old Seneca Turnpike. This property is next to a home she owns at 932 Old Seneca Turnpike. Ms. Thurston thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak this evening. She stated to the Board she understood that they are not able to act on this complaint but wanted to bring it to their attention, and the opportunities she and other residents had that that could mitigate these problems in the future.

Ms. Thurston reviewed the slide show she had prepared. The slide show displayed the disrepair of the fence at the property next to hers that she had a complaint regarding. She said the wood stockade fence attached to the chain link fence is not installed in accordance with the manufacturer or common building standards and trees and shrubs growing through the chain link fence. She displayed photos of a tarp wedged between the stockade fence and the chain link fence along with the severely rusted chain link fence which included ill fitting joints and exposed rusted barbs throughout.

Ms. Thurston stated this issue was brought to the attention of Codes Enforcement Officer Herrmann about 6 months ago. The remedies offered by Mr., Herrmann were not satisfactory to her and she contacted other codes enforcement officers in other municipalities. After this she spoke to Supervisor Aaron and was given the appeal process in which she could appeal the Codes Officer's decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals. She stated she was not given this process by Codes Officer Herrmann. Before she had this information from Supervisor Aaron, she spoke to the State of New York Codes Enforcement and the American Fence Association and filed complaints. If she had been given the information on the appeal process prior, she would not have had to make these complaints and spend her time researching her options. In the future, please avail this information to residents.

Ms. Thurston again thanked the Board for their time. Supervisor Aaron stated we do not get many requests to appeal the decision of the Codes Enforcement Officer, but there is a process. Supervisor

Aaron stated she thought the Board would agree to waive the \$200 fee for an application for an interpretation from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

On a motion of Supervisor Aaron, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized waiving the \$200 fee for an application to the Zoning Board Appeals for an Interpretation.

Supervisor Aaron stated she was sorry this happened, and the Zoning Board would look at this application in a timely matter.

Attorney Smith stated if it is purely a property maintenance issue, her complaint to the State of New York might be good since the Town Code does not regulate all property maintenance or Building Code and New York State building code complaints would ultimately go to the State.

Budget Amendments: On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following budget amendments were approved:

General Fund

Assessor – C/E	014404.01.004.00	Increase	\$ 375.00
Assessor – C/E – Legal	014404.01.004.00	Decrease	\$ 375.00
Additional costs associated with Assessors Duties			
Building - P/S	016201.01.001.00	Increase	\$685.00
Building - Equip Reserve	016202.01.002.93	Decrease	\$685.00
Costs for Town employees to do work at Town Hall			
Garage – C/E	051324.01.004.00	Increase	\$ 55.00
Garage – C/E - Electric	051324.01.004.84	Decrease	\$ 55.00
Balance Expenses - Garage			
Winter Rec – P/S	071401.01.001.00	Increase	\$2,500.00
Summer Rec. – P/S	071101.01.001.00	Decrease	\$2,500.00
Balance Personal Service lines – Between activities			
Planning – Comp Plan	090558.01.008.00	Increase	\$5,300.00
Contingency	019904.01.004.00	Decrease	\$5,300.00
Additional costs to support final review of Comp Plan			
Refuse / Garbage – C/E	081604.01.004.00	Increase	\$48,000.00
Mortgage Tax	003005.01.000.00	Increase	\$48,000.00
Cost associated with Garbage Disposal Contract			

Part Town

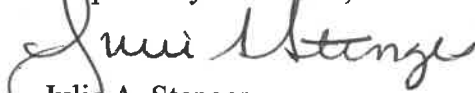
Zoning – C/E – Advertising	080104.02.004.65	Increase	\$315.00
Zoning – C/E	080104.02.004.00	Decrease	\$315.00
Balance Expenses - Zoning			

Abstract #20-24: On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #20-1520 - #20-1612 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 74,453.45	Highway:	\$ 20,200.32
Water:	\$ 12,443.76	Part Town:	\$ 4,421.51
Hwy Part Town:	\$ 2,369.65	T & A:	\$ 3,924.63
Sewer:	\$ 1,719.89	Limeledge Wtr	\$ 814.91
TOTAL:	\$ 70,954.77		

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk