

Town Board Meeting
August 6, 2018
6:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: Jim Greenfield (Deputy Supervisor), Bridgett Winkelman, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Karen Barkdull, Don Kasper, Wendy Kopley, John Kopley, Sandi Mulcenry, Jean Vincent, John Vincent, Janice Woodford, Kathleen Woodford, Laura Osika-Michales, Bunny McLaud, John McLaud, Lucinda Ryan, Valerie Hanbury, Barbara Poole, Lori Alexander, William Rosbrook, Mary Giroux, Doug Smith, Brian Carvalho, Mark Domino, MaryBeth DiMarco, Bill Cummings, Peter Babbles, Steve Krebs, Sara Rosenberg, Glenn Beran, Bob Lotkowitz, Mary Ellen McQuaid, Nancy Murray, Sharon Osika-Michales.

Resolution #18-161

Minutes of July 16, 2018: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of July 16, 2017 were accepted.

Resolution #18-162

Parks General Recreation Reserve Fund Transfer not to Exceed \$15,500 – Basketball Court Resurfacing: Supervisor Aaron reported to the Board the Parks Department is resurfacing the basketball courts at Austin Park. She said this was budgeted for in the 2018 budget.

On a motion of Supervisor Aaron, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the Clerk was instructed to advertise to transfer from the Recreation General Reserve Fund not to exceed \$15,500 to resurface the Austin Park basketball courts subject to the permissive referendum requirements of Town Law and General Municipal Law.

Resolution #18-163

SEQR Old Seneca Waterline: Supervisor Aaron explained the Town of Skaneateles owns and operates water lines on Old Seneca Turnpike and Masters Road that have been replaced and the Town Board for the Town of Skaneateles desires to obtain a grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") that is commonly referred to as a State and Municipal Facilities ("SAM") grant, in the amount of \$150,000 for this project. The Project is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") if it classified as a Type II Action. This needs to be completed in order to complete the grant funding application.

Attorney Smith explained to the Board the project is considered a Type II Action because it is a reconstruction project, on the same site as the original waterlines on Old Seneca Turnpike and Masters Roads.

On a motion of Councilor McCormick, seconded by Councilor Coville the Town Board hereby classifies the Project as a Type II Action pursuant to SEQRA because it involves the replacement, rehabilitation and reconstruction, on the same site, of an existing facility pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5 (c)(2). Where an action is classified as Type II, no further review under SEQRA is required.

*Resolution attached

Resolution #18-164

Schedule September Meeting – September 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.: Supervisor Aaron explained since the Labor Day holiday falls on the first Monday of September the Board scheduled one meeting on September 17th and the Board needs to schedule a morning meeting to pay bills.

On a motion of Councilor McCormick, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board a Town Board meeting was rescheduled for September 6, 2018 at 10:00a.m.

Resolution #18-165

Plumley Engineering Landfill Post Monitoring 2018 Proposal: Supervisor Aaron explained to the Board the annual landfill monitoring is required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is due to be competed. The annual monitoring is required every other year. The estimated project cost for Plumley Engineering to complete the required monitoring is \$6,100. This is a decrease from the previous years. Plumley said this is due to the decrease in the cost of the sampling.

Councilor Tucker asked since the cost is over \$3,500 should it go out to bid. Budget Officer Winkelman stated that is not necessary since it is considered professional services.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor McCormick and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the proposal in the amount of \$6,100 for Landfill Post Closure Monitoring was authorized.

Resolution #18-166

Codes Enforcement Officer Appointment: Supervisor Aaron stated the Board and the Codes department had competed the interviews for the Codes Officer position. She thanked the Board members for their participation.

Supervisor Aaron stated after the interview process a recommendation had been made. The candidate that is being recommended is Robert Herrmann. He is currently a Codes Enforcement Officer and has been since 2007. He has worked in the construction industry and is the grandson of a life resident and local carpenter, Cecil Arthur. Mr. Herrmann is not a Town resident but lives just outside the Town line. She requested the Board to consider the recommendation of Robert Herrmann and waive the residency requirement.

On a motion of Supervisor Aaron, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Robert G. Herrmann was appointed to the Town of Skaneateles Codes Enforcement Officer position starting August 29, 2018 or sooner and waived the Town of Skaneateles residency requirement.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates:

NYS Severity Factor – Additional Funding for Snow Plowing: Supervisor Aaron stated the Town received a letter from Onondaga County regarding the NYS DOT Winter Severity Factor. She

stated due to the increase in the winter severity factor since 2016 there is additional funding available for the Town's plowing contract. In total, the Town of Skaneateles will receive a 3-season severity payment from Onondaga County in the amount of \$323,495.46.

Budget Officer Winkelman stated these additional funds will be put into Highway. They will provide additional funding for next winter and will be added to the Highway Reserve Equipment Fund.

Empire State Development Corporation 8/14/18 Public Hearing at 2:30 p.m. regarding the Welch Allyn Project: Supervisor Aaron stated there will be a public hearing on August 14th at the Town Hall with the Empire State Development Corporation for the Welch Allyn Capitol Project regarding the authorization to adopt the proposed general project plan, to apply for a grant and to determine any significant effect on the environment. This will be for a grant up to \$6,000,000 to be used for a portion of the cost of construction, renovations and design. Supervisor Aaron encouraged any Board member to attend.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Supervisor Aaron stated Joel Russel is scheduled to have the draft Zoning and Comprehensive Plan to the Board in mid- August. She sated this will allow time to schedule public information sessions by October and after the holidays hold the public hearings and hopefully adopt the plans.

Budget Amendments/Adjustments: There were no budget amendments or adjustments.

Resolution #18-167

Abstract #18-15:

On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor McCormick and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board voucher #18-0403 to 18-0461 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 44,034.02	Part Town:	\$ 1,242.92
Highway:	\$ 1,040.03	Highway P/T:	\$16,690.65
Water:	\$ 14,541.80	T & A:	\$ 390.00
Lighting District	\$ 951.90		
Total:	\$78,891.32		

Public Comment: Sharon Osika-Michales requested the Board pass a resolution and join other towns and counties to help reduce pollution from gas infrastructure facilities across New York State. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is currently in the process of modifying their air emissions regulations for oil and gas infrastructure and is seeking public stakeholder input. Supervisor Aaron stated she would look into it.

Ms. Osika-Michales spoke about the alarming housing prices in the Town and the effect on the taxes with the increased assessments. Supervisor Aaron stated the reassessment of properties is to distribute the tax amount fairly.

Attorney Smith stated changes in the assessed value of properties redistributes the taxes accurately. The Town Board sets the Budget each year and properties taxes are based on the amount of the Budget.

Councilor McCormick stated property owners should watch the school budget. That is where the large tax bills are.

Resolution #18-168

Abundant Solar – Solarize CNY Community Solar Project at the Skaneateles Transfer Station: Supervisor Aaron stated this project was started in 2014 with Mary Sennett as Supervisor and continued with Jim Lanning and now is moving forward.

Supervisor Aaron introduced Melissa Clark, Vice President of Abundant Solar, and Richard Lu, President and CEO of Abundant Solar Energy.

Mr. Lu stated Abundant Solar Energy is located in 24 municipalities based in Ontario, Canada and the United States. They were established in 2013 and their headquarters are in Toronto, Canada and Rochester, New York. They initiate, develop, construct, own and operate solar assets in Canada and the US. The company's executive team has over 50 years of combined experience in the renewable energy industry. They are a leading Canadian solar developer focused on commercial and industrial solar projects. They manage over \$50 million of development equity capital and their total developed and completed capital is a value of over \$180 million. He stated they are a company that encourages green projects and have worked in 14 states similar to New York for community solar projects.

Mr. Lu reviewed what Abundant Solar Energy does. They study renewable policies and direct investments to clean energy developments, especially on contaminated lands. They identify potential sites, gain approvals and permits from various government branches and local utilities. They find financing for the projects. Abundant Solar delivers the projects through engineering design, procurement and construction. They manage the solar array, monitor its production efficiency and oversee its operation through locally contracted maintenance teams. Then Abundant Solar sells the energy produced to local electricity customers through integrated billing and credit operations tied to the local utility.

Mr. Lu explained the Town of Skaneateles Solar Project is a Community Solar Project. Community solar is the development of a local solar energy generation facility that provides power to multiple subscribers depending on the size of the array. Anyone with an electric bill can participate in community solar. A community solar array usually has an anchor tenant, that can purchase up to 40% of the energy produced. In this case the Town will be the anchor tenant and will purchase 40 % of the energy and the remainder will be available to subscribers.

Mr. Lu reviewed the Public Service Commission and NYSERDA's regulations for community solar in New York. He stated the states goal is to be running on 50% renewables by 2030. He reviewed how Abundant Solar Energy had been selected by the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board to develop solar projects at 33 sites under 22 government authorities.

Mr. Lu explained the Town of Skaneateles Community Solar Project will be located at the Skaneateles Transfer Station on a total of 30 acres. The array will produce 5.6 MW DC of electricity which is enough to power approximately 1000 homes. The solar array will stand approximately 3feet off the ground and top out at 9 feet in height. The solar panels will cover less than 30 acres of land since there will be allowance for inter row spacing to prevent shading . The ground cover will be slow growth grass or clover mix and the facility will be secured with a chain link fence to protect both people and animals as well as the property

Mr. Lu reviewed the benefits of solar to the community. With this project the Town's buildings will be powered 100% by renewables as the anchor. He stated that only people who receive a bill from national grid would be able to participate. He gave an example of a resident's bill. The resident would receive a bill from National Grid for \$100 with a credit from Abundant Solar of \$90 on the resident's bill. The resident would then receive a bill from Abundant for \$80. The resident would pay National Grid \$10 and Abundant \$80, making their savings \$10. The savings the first year will be small but will increase over time.

Mr. Lu reviewed their development process for the Community Solar Project. He stated they hoped to have this system commissioned by April 2019 and weather permitting operating by May 2019. He stated they want to be a positive contribution to the community. They will employ local trades in the building and maintenance of the array. This project will give electricity customers a choice to use green power and to save money.

There were questions from the audience:

Would it be beneficial to Village residents to sign up?

Mr. Lu answered that Village residents would not be able to apply, you would have to get an electric bill from National Grid in order to participate. The Village residents receive their electric from the Village.

Who owns Abundant Solar Energy?

Mr. Lu stated Abundant Solar Energy is owned by investors.

What happens if the investors opt out of the company?

Mr. Lu stated the investors are solid. They are investing in stable slow growth investment. Sunlight is free so there will always be investors.

Who owns and maintains the solar panels?

Mr. Lu said the panels are owned and maintained by Abundant Solar Energy. They will do general maintenance 2 times a year and will maintain the grass and ground cover between the panels.

Will snow have to be removed from the panels?

Mr. Lu stated the panels are installed at an angle. The snow should melt from the heat and slide off.

What will the resident's and commercial time commitment be?

Mr. Lu stated the contract will be a 5-year commitment for both residential and commercial customers.

Is there a warranty on the panels?

Mr. Lu stated there is a 25-year warranty on the panels and a 10-year warranty on the transformers.

What was the first project Abundant Solar completed and what others do they have besides Skaneateles?

Mr. Lu answered the first project was installed in Toronto in 2010 and they are breaking ground for 4 other Community Solar Projects in New York State.

Community Solar only became possible in 2016, what happens to the panels after the 25-year contract the Town would have with Abundant Solar Energy?

Mr. Lu stated building the system is the biggest expense and risk, after the project is built and supplying energy to the grid the electric will always be available through National Grid.

How many subscribers will The Town of Skaneateles Community Solar Project Service?

Mr. Lu answered there will be 1000 subscribers on the Town of Skaneateles Community Solar Grid.

Is Abundant Solar Energy a public or private company?

Mr. Lu answered Abundant solar Energy is a private company.

When do you plan on the Town of Skaneateles Community Solar Grid being operational?

Mr. Lu answered the plan is for the project to be started in May of 2019.

When are they taking registrations from people who want to sign up?

Mr. Lu stated they are not taking signups today, but anyone could leave their name, address and email on the sign in sheets tonight or contact them or the Town and they would let anyone know when the registration begins.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Richard Lu and Melissa Clark for their presentation.

Mr. Lu presented the Board with the completed Part 1 of the EAF that will need to be completed. Supervisor Aaron stated this will be referred to Town Engineer, John Camp and will be on the next agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk