

Town Board Meeting

October 3, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Lanning, Councilor Brace, Councilor Howard, Councilor Badami, Councilor Coville, Attorney Smith.

Also Present: Bridgett Winkelman, Sue Murphy, Rob Howard, Beth Battle, Julie Stenger, Karen Barkdull, Jonathan Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal), Marcia Williams, Eva Brewer, Karen Armstrong.

Department Report

•*Highway, Water, Transfer Station:* In Allan Wellington's absence Supervisor Lanning read the report. The Highway finished assisting the NYSDOT with the milling on Rt. 41A, paved four roads in Manor Heights and helped the Town of Marcellus with their chip seal project. In Water they repaired curb boxes, replaced a water service and reinstalled the repeater antenna on the old Welch Allyn Plant for the water meters. At the Transfer Station two new employees started working and the paper shred day on September 17th and the household hazardous waste day on September 24th were very successful. Clifton Recycling ground the remaining brush pile.

•*Parks:* Sue Murphy reported that they were storing benches and bleachers for the winter, mowing and working on the budget.

•*Codes:* Councilor Badami reported that 10 permits had been issued in September and there is one open application before the Zoning Board and 8 before the Planning Board.

•*Budget:* Bridgett Winkelman said that she has been preparing for the budget meetings with the Town Board. She sent out the October 1st water billing. All outstanding water bills as of November 1st will be levied on the 2017 Town and County tax bills.

•*Historian:* Beth Battle said she attended a State Historian Conference in Syracuse and toured the new Canal Museum in Port Byron. She also received a \$1,000 grant from the Pomeroy Foundation in order to put up a plaque in Mottville recognizing Benjamin Cook who has been credited with putting flags on veteran's graves for Memorial Day. She gave a presentation on the Erie Canal and Lock 52 (attached).

Public Comment: Rob Howard commented that the Household Hazardous Waste disposal day at the Transfer Station was a wonderful event that it was very well attended and is a very positive thing for the Town to be doing.

Tentative Budget Submitted to Town Board: Bridgett Winkelman said that the Town Board has been meeting with Department Heads to discuss their budgets for 2017. She said there is a .68% tax cap that the Town Board has to consider along with a union contract and a number of outside groups requesting support. The Board will continue to work on the budget during the month of October. A public hearing will be held in November.

Clift Park Waterfront Repair Bids: Supervisor Lanning reported that 8 bids were received. Engineer, John Camp is discussing the performance and payment securities, with the low bidder as they do not have the ability to bond for these requirements. Legal precedent has been set that allows for bank securities or other financial instruments to be used for these guarantees.

Councilor Brace said she is more comfortable with the bidder having a performance bond.

Councilor Howard questioned if the Town was obligated to take the low bid. Attorney Smith said that under Municipal Law the Town must choose the lowest responsible bid unless another bid is a better value for the Town.

The Town Board agreed to table their decision until Engineer Camp can determine if the low bidder is qualified and can make a recommendation to the Town Board.

Resolution #16-231

Parkitects Presentation: Karen Armstrong, Project Manager with Parkitects said she has worked with the Town and School District previously to build the playground at Austin Park and at Waterman School. She toured the Skaneateles Fall Park with Supervisor Lanning and has been in discussion with him regarding adding play equipment there. She presented a slide show with three options. The three options ranged in price from \$12,823.30 to \$15,251.20 which included engineered wood fiber and Duraliner fabric. She noted that the equipment is available under NYS Contract PC66734 and the wood fiber is under Onondaga County contract. Most of the options include the ability to add-on equipment at a later date. She said if the Town Board makes a decision to go with one of the options then she would do prebuild meetings with the community build project. The Town would be responsible for the concrete and drain stone. The area would need to be excavated by the Town. The options presented would be for the 5 to 12 age group. There is a 10 year warranty on the posts and aluminum and 15 years on the plastics. She believes about 8 volunteers would be needed to install the playground. It is a one day install.

Sue Murphy was asked the Parks Department availability to do the work required for this project. She said that Gene was out and was not scheduled to come back for at least a week.

Councilor Brace said that the original grant that the Town applied for and for which we eventually received \$20,000 from the County Legislature was for a natural playscape. She said that was the premise behind the grant. Karen Armstrong said that they had these options available as well and said they are awesome but they do require an added element of maintenance. She said that a piece of the natural playscape could be added later in the park. Councilor Brace also said that grubbing needs to be done along the perimeter of the park as one of the items that the residents wanted was a walking path and we need to remove the poison ivy and make the boundary safe. Since this was the first time the Board has even heard about this option for the playground she asked to have time to review and consider it.

Supervisor Lanning questioned Marcia Williams and Eva Brewer from Skaneateles Falls who were in attendance if they would be happy with this proposal and which one they would pick. Eva Brewer said that she had a day care at her house and she liked Option 1. They both agreed that it would be nice in the park.

Supervisor Lanning said he has had several meetings with Skaneateles Fall residents and he believes this would be the best option.

Supervisor Lanning made a motion to select Option #1 with Parkitects in the amount of \$12,823.30 for the playground equipment to be added to Skaneateles Falls Park. Seconded by Councilor Badami.

Councilor Brace	No	Stating that she only is voting no because it was not put on the agenda until this afternoon and she was not even aware this was being considered and would have liked more time to further explore options.
Councilor Howard	Yes	
Councilor Badami	Yes	
Councilor Coville	Yes	
Supervisor Lanning	Yes	

The Town Board agreed that Sue Murphy should work with Karen Armstrong for color options.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Lanning was authorized to sign the contract with Parkitects in the amount of \$12,823.30.

Resolution #16-232

Lead Agency Request – Major Permit Application – Fingerlakes Luxury Homes, Inc./Moscarito: On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board accepted the designation of the Skaneateles Planning Board a Lead Agency for the Skaneateles Springs Project with Rick Moscarito and Finger Lakes Luxury Homes, Inc.

Resolution #16-233

Farmers Market Fall Hours: Councilor Brace said that last week the Village Board approved allowing the Farmers Market to move to the bays next to the Village Offices for the Thursday farmers market from October 13th to November 17th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. She said Tops has been contacted and they are fine with people using their parking lot, but people will be encouraged to park behind the Village Office building. She is hoping this brings them more visibility. The police have agreed to lock the building at the close of the market. The vendors will be able to drive their trucks into the bays. She said vendor, October Rose submitted a letter concerned about parking and whether they could drive into the bays instead of having to haul their product in. Councilor Brace believes these issues have been addressed. She also heard from six other vendors who do not want to continue at the Village location. She stated that this move will only be for the last six weeks of the season.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, it was agreed to move the Farmers Market to the Village Office building bays for the period from October 13th to November 17th.

Resolution #16-234

License Agreement with St. Pauly: On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Lanning was

authorized to sign the License Agreement with St. Pauly Textile, Inc. granting them the non-exclusive license to access the Town's property in order to place clothing into the "shed" located at the Transfer Station.

Declare Two Trucks As Surplus: On a motion of Councilor Brace seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the 2001 For 1-ton dump truck with snow plow from the Transfer Station and a 2004 Chevy ¾ ton pickup truck with snow plow from the Highway Department were declared surplus.

Resolution #16-235

Update on Comprehensive Plan: Supervisor Lanning said that on September 13th the updated Comprehensive Plan the comments that Joel Russell incorporated from the Village and Town Planning Boards was submitted to the Town Board for their review and approval. He said that this will be on the October 20th agenda for the Town Board to consider approving so that it can be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Boards and then to the public.

Status of the Austin Park Transfer: Brody Smith reported that he met with the Village Attorney, Jordan Pavlus and they went through the Cy Pres document. There is one issue in that there is a small Trust associated with Austin Park of around \$10-\$12,000. The Trust should be transferred with Austin Park. If there is something that the Park needs or maintenance needs to be done, the money in the Trust money could be spent before the transfer. The Cy Pres needs to be amended to include the Trust. The Town would need to establish a new Reserve Fund for this money. He said that all the Park Reserve Funds should be reviewed. The last thing to be done is to file the petition with the Onondaga County Supreme Court.

Resolution #16-236

Schedule Special Meetings: On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following special meetings were scheduled to review the budget and other matters that may be necessary:

October 5 th	5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Upstairs Conference Room – Town Hall
October 12 th	5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Upstairs Conference Room – Town Hall
October 17 th	To be Determined	
October 19 th	To be Determined	

Resolution #16-237

Minutes: Councilor Brace noted that the date of the minutes needed to be corrected and that her email comments regarding Janice Miller's proposal to the September 1st meeting.

On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of the September 15th minutes were accepted with the change in the date of the meeting.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

- Mottville Fire Company – FREE Citizens Preparedness & Hands-only training 7 p.m. October 12, 2016
- NYSDOT I-81 Viaduct Project Open House – October 6th at OnCenter

- *Lea Whaley Bench Request – Update:* Sue Murphy reported that a metal bench has been pick out and will include a plaque. The bench will be ordered.
- *Rt. 81 Information Meeting – 7 p.m. October 19th at Skaneateles High School auditorium*
- *LED Lights:* Supervisor Lanning reported that the LED lights will be installed at Austin Park basketball courts on Wednesday.

Resolution #16-238

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

General Fund

\$ 500.00	Increase	013304.01.004.00	Tax Collector – C/E
\$ 500.00	Decrease	013302.01.002.00	Tax Collector - Equip

Monies spent on Computer support

\$ 25.00	Increase	085101.01.001.00	Community Beautification – P/S
\$ 25.00	Decrease	085104.01.004.00	Community Beautification – C/E

Parks personal service expense at the Conservation area

Water Consolidated

\$ 4,423.00	Increase	097107.07.007.00	Debt Service Interest – UV Light
\$ 4,423.00	Decrease	097106.08.006.00	Debt Service Principal – UV Light

Budget was reflected under principal – should be shared with interest

Resolution #16-239

Abstract #16-19: On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board voucher #16-300 to 16-1362 were approved from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$76,742.44	Part Town:	\$ 1,229.52
Highway:	\$ 696.26	Highway P/T:	\$14,475.44
Water:	\$ 1,715.27	Sewer #6:	\$ 2.97
Limeledge Water:	\$11,475.75	T & A:	\$ 2,804.33
SF Fire Dist:	\$52,525.00		

Total: \$161,666.98

Public Comment:

Councilor Howard said that Anne Saltman incorporated the public and Joel Russel’s comments into the Draft Open Space Plan. She said there has been a request from Kenneth Karlik to preserve his farmland and the Open Space Committee would like to review this. She is requesting that the Town Board allow the committee to review the request in a carefully prepared way so that they can assess the property and open the door for discussion. The Town Board agreed.

Supervisor Lanning said that currently the Town has \$169,000 in the Development Rights Acquisition Fund to purchase development rights. This DRA Fund receives funding when applicants are allowed to make a monetary contribution equal to the cost to protect 10 square feet of land with a conservation easement for each square foot of impermeable surface coverage greater than the area permitted to bring the lot into compliance with applicable coverage limitations for conforming lots.


Councilor Howard asked about the next step for the Draft Open Space Plan. Attorney Smith said that the next step would be to do SEQR. The Town Board agreed to have this on the October 20th meeting.

Resolution #16-240

Executive Session: On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

Adjourn: The meeting returned to an open session and immediately adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet L. Aaron". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Janet L. Aaron
Town Clerk

A Look At A Lock
Beth Battle, Town of Skaneateles Historian

The first Erie Canal, completed in 1825, followed the contour of the land as it snaked its way across New York State from Albany to Buffalo. Lock 52 in Port Bryan was built in 1851 as part of an effort to straighten the canal route to make it more efficient. Today the abandoned lock sits parallel to the New York State Thruway where cars go whizzing past at 65 miles per hour or more.

Lock 52 was been taken over by the Canal Society of New York and with funding from New York State has constructed a visitors building and refurbished the three adjacent structures. One of these buildings was a combination store, tavern and boarding house, while the second was a blacksmith shop which probably serviced the mules or horses that towed the canal boats.

According to the 1827 "Laws of the State of New York," the canal commissioner was granted the power to take possession of and use of streams and waters for use of the canal. Lake Erie, 565 feet higher than the Hudson River in Albany, supplied most of the canal water west of Lock 52.

One of the sources of water for use east of the lock was Skaneateles Creek. In the Village of Jordan an underground feeder was built, upstream from the canal and passing under the driveway behind the Bank on Main Street. When opened, water would pass through this feeder and empty directly into the canal.

When the canal opened, Skaneateles farmers could now taken their produce to the canal in Jordan for shipment to markets, as well as those goods manufactured by the mills along Skaneateles Creek. (Hence the name Jordan Road which at one time was a plank road.) This was a great savings as the cost to ship a ton of freight from Buffalo to Albany was reduced from \$95 - \$125 per ton to \$4 - \$12 per ton.

No boat was permitted to use the canal without a name printed in a conspicuous place in letters at least 4 inches high. The canal was four feet deep and 40 feet wide at the top, slopping to 28 feet at the bottom. Therefore the speed limit was four miles per hour. Violators were fined \$10, a lot of money in those days.

Another interesting fact was that toll collectors, lock tenders, boat inspectors, weigh masters and clerks were exempted from military duty or jury duty while the canal was navigable. The canal was of course closed in the winter.

Lock 52, one of 83 locks on the canal, had wooden gates positioned at each end to allow boats to enter and depart. Still evident are the grooves, worn into the limestone by ropes used by the boats. There were also 18 aqueducts that carried the canal over rivers. When railroads came along, they cut deeply into the business of the canals.

This Erie Canal Park opened in late summer of 2016. It will close in October and reopen in the spring of 2017. After a long session of negotiations with the Thruway Authority a special off ramp was created to allow those traveling east on the Thruway to exit to visit the Park, then return to the Thruway. This is the only site that can be visited from the Thruway. The Park Street entrance is also located off Route 31 in Port Byron.