

Town Board Meeting
March 5, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Sennett, Councilor Greenfield, Councilor Murray, Councilor Brace, Attorney Taylor. **Absent:** Councilor Howard.

Also Present: Sue Murphy, Allan Wellington, Beth Battle, Jonathan Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal), David Colegrove, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Michael DalPos, Jonathan DalPos, Lisa Byrne, Holly Gregg, F. Scott Molnar

Department Reports

▪*Highway/Water/Transfer Station:* Allan Wellington reported that the Highway Department plowed 18 times since the last board meeting and 144 times for the season. They are now working to push back the snowbanks. He attended an Advocacy Day in Albany to try to obtain extra funding for highway repairs. The Water Department had two water breaks and several frozen services as well as shoveling out fire hydrants. The Transfer Station is dealing with frozen garbage compactors and the cold weather.

Councilor Brace thanked Allan for plowing the driveway at the Federal Farm Conservation Area.

Supervisor Sennett asked those in attendance if they had any idea how many fire hydrants were in the Town. While the guesses ranged from 50 to 100, Supervisor Sennett said that the Town had 166 fire hydrants to keep clean and thanked Allan Wellington. She also praised Mr. Wellington for the recent article about him in the newspaper and said Allan can fix anything. She also noted that Gene LaForte in the Parks Department is right there too with fixing things.

▪*Parks:* Sue Murphy reported that this was the last day for ice rental for the season. The ice would be taken down starting Friday. She thanked Gene Laforte, Andy Legg and Joe Loperfido for doing a great job and making her look good. They have also dealt with frozen pipes and the challenges of this winter. They would be interviewing applicants for counselors on Saturdays. The PlayDay information would be going out in the mail soon. She was also working on the rules with the Farmers' Market vendors for a different market on Saturdays. She would be submitting them to the Town Board in the near future for their approval.

▪*Planning/Zoning/Codes:* Councilor Brace reported that in February the Codes office issued 5 permits, one of which is a fireworks permit at the Country Club for a March 27th event. The property valuation change is \$77,500 for the month and \$117,700 year to date. There are 4 open projects for the Planning and Zoning Boards.

▪*Budget:* Bridgett Winkelman reported that she had just completed payroll #5 and billed water district #1. Richard Ward from Cuddy & Ward would be reporting to the Town Board at the April 2nd meeting on the 2014 audit.

▪*Historian:* Beth Battle gave an interesting report to the Board on all the restaurants that have operated in the Town of Skaneateles outlining what they were called originally and the changes

over the years. She also reported that this was National Medal of Honor Month. There are three from Skaneateles that were issued the Medal of Honor in the Civil War.

Resolution #2015-40

Minutes: On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting were accepted as presented.

Resolution #2015-41

Updated Water Tower Proposal: Supervisor Sennett said at the last meeting the Board requested more comparisons with the two options and review of the benefits to the Town and Village. John Camp from C & S Engineers provided the updated proposal as follows:

- 1. Create a version of the Town's water distribution model containing a storage tank just south of Andrews Road. Based on preliminary discussions:**
 - a. It is likely that this tank would need to be supplied from a point along West Lake Street.
 - b. It is likely that the storage tank will need to be connected to the existing distribution system with a new water main along County Line Road.

- 2. Identify the change in benefits (if any) to the Village's water system that would result from changing the location/elevation of the storage tank.**

- 3. Explore alternate storage strategies that could reduce the overall cost of the project while maintaining the necessary improvement to service in the Town.**
 - a. The previous study considered an elevated storage tank because this would result in improvements to fire flow capacity in the Village. During the previous study, it was assumed that the Village would be willing to split the cost of the project, as has been the practice with past projects. During the previous study, Village officials expressed some doubt as to whether they would contribute to the project financially.

 - b. If the Town chooses to pursue the project with a focus on the benefits to the Town, rather than both the Town and the Village, a less costly option may be viable. It may be possible to utilize an at-grade storage tank, rather than an elevated storage tank. At-grade storage tanks are considerably less costly than elevated storage tanks. We will create a version of the model with an at-grade storage tank. If an at-grade storage tank is viable, we will include a discussion and cost estimate in the report.

- 4. Create preliminary sketches of the proposed tank and piping. Sketches would contain a level of detail appropriate for funding discussions and applications.**

- 5. Update report based on the results of our work.**
 - a. The report will include a comparison of the two tank sites. This comparison will focus on the differences in estimated costs, the improvements to services both in the

Town and in the Village, the changes in service areas/water districts, the potential addition of water customers, and the likely effects on development.

6. **Attend a meeting with Town officials to discuss the report.**

7. **Prepare and submit documents to place the project on the Intended Use Plan (IUP).**

We estimate that the cost for this work will not exceed \$7,250

On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Greenfield, and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the water storage tank proposal in the amount of \$7,250 submitted by C & S Companies was approved.

Interim Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector: Supervisor Sennett reported that our Deputy Tax Collector fell and was recovering. Since only one Deputy Tax Collector can be appointed she contacted the State and was told the Town would be authorized to appoint an interim Deputy to fill that position.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board June Lamon was appointed Interim Deputy Tax Collector effective February 24, 2015.

Resolution #2015-42

Annexation SEQRA: Supervisor Sennett said that the public hearing was held on February 25, 2015 at the Fire House. The next step is to decide Lead Agency and it is the intention of the Town Board to act as Lead Agency.

Councilor Brace read the following Resolution:

***WHEREAS**, on the 8th day of January, 2015, a Petition for Annexation and Request for Rezoning (the "Petition") and Part 1 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form ("EAF") were submitted by Eleroin, LLC and Niorele, LLC (the "Applicant") to the Town Board; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Applicant requested that territory currently located in the Town of Skaneateles, consisting of approximately 1.86 acres of land and identified as tax parcel numbers 047.-01-24.0 and 047.-01-25.0, be annexed to the Village of Skaneateles (the "Annexation") and the EAF disclosed the proposed development project that will occur in the event the Annexation is approved (the "Mirbeau Gateway Project," and together with the Annexation, the "Action");*

***WHEREAS**, the Action is subject to review under the NY State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") under Part 617 of Title 6 of NY's Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations, and is classified as a Type I Action under Section 617.4;*

***WHEREAS**, under SEQRA, for all Type I actions involving more than one agency, there must be established a lead agency to coordinate review with the other involved agencies and to make a determination of significance regarding the Type I action;*

***WHEREAS**, the Town Board duly held a public hearing regarding the Action on the 25th day of February, 2015 for the purpose of eliciting public comment regarding the Action, at which hearing there was public sentiment that the Town Board should declare its intent to serve*

as lead agency during the SEQRA review process, and undertake a coordinated review of the Action.

NOW, THEREFORE, upon due consideration following public notice and public hearing, it is hereby:

***RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby designates its intention to serve as Lead Agency for the SEQRA Coordinated Review of this Type 1 Action, and will circulate the Notice of Intent to Establish Lead Agency, the Petition, Part 1 of the EAF, site plans and maps and all other information regarding the Action, to all Involved Agencies, including but not limited to, the Village of Skaneateles and the New York State Department of Transportation; and be it further*

***RESOLVED**, that the Involved Agencies shall be given 30 days from the mailing of the "Notice of Intent to Establish Lead Agency" by the Town Attorney (who is hereby authorized to mail same to Involved Agencies) to challenge the Town Board's Lead Agency designation.*

Councilor Greenfield said that there are more involved agencies than just the Village of Skaneateles and the NYSDOT.

Attorney Taylor said that this resolution does not limit the Town Board to just involving those two agencies. The Town will mail a notice of intent to establish lead agency to the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency and the State Historic Preservation Office

Councilor Brace said that the Town Board is taking Lead Agency in response to the constituents commentary received at the public hearing where they said they thought the Town should be involved in the process and the Town Board felt it was appropriate. She said it was a unanimous decision.

Supervisor Sennett said that in terms of the people that are involved in this, the Town Board will absolutely have the Town Planning Board and their attorney involved in this. The Town Board will be relying on their support.

On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the resolution as presented naming the Town as Lead Agency under SEQRA for the Dower Petition for Annexation and Request for Rezoning was adopted.

Supervisor Sennett said that the Town will let the Village know of our intent to be Lead Agency. The Village will be meeting next Thursday to decide to accept or decline that intent.

Bridgett Winkelman questioned what would happen if the Village of Skaneateles also requested to be Lead Agent. Attorney Taylor said that someone has to first declare to be Lead Agent and that is what the Town Board did tonight. The Town will now send notices to all involved agencies who may want to challenge to be Lead Agent or object to the Town being Lead Agent. The involved agencies have 30 days to challenge or object to the Town being Lead Agent. If no one does, then the Town becomes Lead Agent. If there is an objection it would go to the Commissioner of the NYSDEC who would make the determination who would be Lead Agent.

Announcements:

- Jordan Road Bridge Update:* Supervisor Sennett said she has received a number of emails from Onondaga County DOT regarding the repair of the Jordan Road Bridge. She does not have a schedule to report but said that the County plans to start the repairs sometime this summer. She said that Allan Wellington is going through the permit process for his department to repair the Fennell Street bridge this summer.
- Conservation Area Advisory Committee Meeting with Cornell Cooperative Extension:* Supervisor Sennett said that Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is meeting with the Conservation Committee here at Town Hall at 7 p.m. on March 16th to discuss their plan to develop insectaries in the area for breeding insects that will act as a biological control for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). CCE will start introducing them at the southern end of Skaneateles Lake where hemlocks are already infested with the HWA but they may plan to introduce them farther north in the future. The public is invited to attend.
- Environmental Club:* Councilor Brace and Supervisor Sennett said that the Skaneateles Central School Environmental Club built and sold blue bird houses to raise money to promote the environment. They are using part of their proceeds to pay for Dr. Powell to speak on March 26th on the reintroduction of the Chestnut trees.
- Rebike:* Councilor Brace reported that Sustainable Skaneateles will be hosting the “rebike” event again this year on May 30th at Austin Pavilion.
- Comprehensive Plan:* Councilor Brace reported that the Comprehensive Plan Special Review Board held a public hearing on March 4th that was well attended by members of the Town and Village Boards and the community. The Special Board consisting of Doug Sutherland, Jeff Harrop, Bob Eggleston, Jessica Cogan Millman and Mark Tucker was established last fall to complete the Comprehensive Plan. They also held two informational sessions prior to the public hearing. She said there was not a lot of new information presented at the public hearing but there was a lot of clarification. She said that at the public hearing Dave Laxton said that the plan needs to recognize the need to connect local farmers to businesses in the community. Mr. Laxton called it “A Food Hub”. Councilor Brace thought it was an excellent suggestion.

Councilor Brace pointed out some misinformation that was presented at the public hearing regarding “Strategies for a Sustainable Skaneateles” that some of the public may be confused by. She said about five years ago, “Strategies for a Sustainable Skaneateles” was a report that was submitted to the Town Board. This report was commissioned by the Town of Skaneateles with the Notre Dame School of Architecture graduate students. They did several outreach meetings in the community. The Special Board felt that the graphics from that report were very well done and were used in the proposed joint comprehensive plan as a way to explain opportunity. However, she said that the “Strategies for a Sustainable Skaneateles” report itself is not a realistic document. It is a document of many ideas about how development proposals might be considered. The previous comprehensive plan review committee, have members who are also represented on the Special Board, learned a great deal from the graduate students and were reinvigorated. She said it opened their eyes to the sprawl conditions that can occur in our community. They went through a process of consciousness raising, which generated many ideas. There was adoption of new ideas such as sustainable buildings, green communities, and smart growth among many other ideas that came out of the sessions that were held with these graduate students. She said the graphics weren’t meant to be implemented as a plan. They are not a plan. They are not part of the draft comprehensive plan. They are not proposals for development. She

said they are just guideline opportunities. She said some people have taken them very literally and she wanted to go on record that these are not to be taken literally. They are to be a reference tool and used to guide the community in the future. She said the draft comprehensive plan will be further modified to remove those graphics and to remove further confusion. They will come up with some interesting graphics to replace them.

Councilor Brace said she wanted to take this time to also commend the Special Board and all the people before them and all the ongoing involvement in this process. There was a pretty good turnout for the two informational meetings and the public hearing especially with this cold winter. She is thankful to the community for getting involved and thankful for those that volunteered on these committees and devoted many, many hours, months and years to getting this plan done.

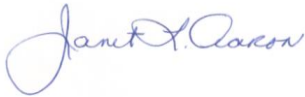
Resolution #2015-43

Abstract #15-05: On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, voucher #15-0222 to #15-0273 were audited and approved to be paid from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$14,860.73	Part Town:	\$ 135.31
Highway:	\$51,259.41	Lighting:	\$1,586.60
Water:	\$ 8,854.81	T & A:	\$1,968.89
Total:	\$78,665.75		

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet L. Aaron
Town Clerk