

**Town Board Meeting
September 11, 2023**

5:00 p.m.

Zoom: Meeting Id: 825 8767 1368 Passcode: 051785

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

5:00 p.m. Attorney Advice: On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to attorney advice at 5:00 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting returned to open session at 6:30 p.m.

Also, Present (via Zoom): Brian Buff, Karen Barkdull, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Robert Herrmann, Sue Murphy, Miranda Robinson, Sheri Dove, Scott Brothers, Lori Milne.

Also, Present (In Person): Dana Pickering.

Supervisor Aaron stated we would never forget the almost 3,000 lives that were lost on this day, September 11, 2001. She read the following statement:

“We remember that today marks 22 years since the terrorist attack on the United States. We remember the loss of our own Todd Pitman, John Lozowsky and Joseph Coppo. We remember and we will never forget the nearly 3,000 lives that were taken that day. We honor the courage and sacrifices of our first responders and recovery workers who put themselves in harm’s way to save people they never knew. We will never forget. Let us take a moment of silence to honor and remember all those who lost their lives that day.”

She also thanked the Skaneateles American Legion Robert J. Hydon Post #239 for holding a 911 ceremony to remember the lives lost and sacrifices made that day.

Department Reports

Highway & Water: Dana Pickering, Highway Department employee, submitted Highway Superintendent Tim Dobrovosky’s report to the Board for their review. He reported the Highway Department had done brush cleanup and roadside mowing, ditching, prepared Heifer Road and Albring Road for chip sealing, chipped sealed Albring and Heifer Roads with assistance from Elbridge, Sennett and Marcellus, tree clean up, cross culvert replacement, fixed and replaced signs and repaired a brake line on the Parks F-150 pickup.

Councilor Dove thanked the Highway Department for their help with the clean-up after the Labor Day field days.

Transfer Station: Municipal Recycling Liaison Brian Buff reported they had sent out 16 loads of trash, 10 open top containers and 6 loads of recycling.

Councilor Legg announced the Swap Shop would try to stay open till the end of October, weather permitting. He reviewed the amount of use the Transfer Station has on an average day. There can be over 600 vehicles during the week and on a Saturday, there can be as many as 800 vehicles through the gate. The trash and recyclables have stayed steady even with more residents using the Transfer Station. He attributed this to the streamlining of the recyclables and keeping items out of the trash. What the residents are doing is making a significant difference.

Councilor Alexander thanked Brian for his and the Transfer Station employees help with the Conservation Areas.

Planning and Zoning: Planning and Zoning Clerk Karen Barkdull reported there were 4 open projects at this time. Skaneateles Park East, Travis Bradley and 2 for Dennis McCarthy. Ms. Barkdull reviewed the status of existing projects still open; Community Solar Array TJA Solar, Lakelawn – proposed brick and stone masonry wall to replace wood fence along West Lake Road, this project is on hold. Victory Sports – The application is pending as the applicant is considering the potential for smaller scale development on the property, and Haba Toys-Expansion application is on hold as they re-evaluate the entire property. Other activities included four pre-application meetings, Shoreline Committee meeting, two Hamlet meetings, two hours of CEO training, update to the Shoreline draft and have worked with both Planning and Zoning Boards with their new tablets and emails. Karen Barkdull also reported the Planning Board had received an application from Mr. LaGrow for a subdivision on Franklin Street.

Supervisor Aaron stated she is an adjoining property owner to the LaGrow subdivision and had received a letter from the applicant announcing he was having a meeting with the neighbors on Sunday regarding the plan.

Codes: Codes Officer Robert Herrmann reviewed the August codes office report. He stated there were 20 building permits issued and 11 Certificates of Completion. He has been working with his new tablet and using it in the field. He had also worked with Town Engineer John Camp and the Woodbine Group on the Hilltop project.

*Codes Office July 2023 report attached.

Parks: Supervisor Aaron announced the Parks Department had received a grant from the Onondaga Department of Adult & Long-Term Care Services in the amount of \$100,000 for the walking path at Austin Park. Parks Manager Sue Murphy had submitted an application and proposal and the Town was selected as one of 3 recipients in Onondaga County. She stated she is so proud of Sue Murphy for taking the initiative to write a wonderful heartfelt letter asking for this funding. Parks Manager Sue Murphy thanked Supervisor Aaron and the Board and is extremely excited to have this opportunity to fix the walking path at Austin Park. This path is

used by seniors every day, and during COVID it became a safe meeting place that everyone enjoyed.

Councilor Alexander stated Sue Murphy wrote an amazing letter and she was so proud of her and the Parks Department.

* Grant letter attached

Sue Murphy thanked the Highway Department for cleaning out the ditches at Austin Park. She reported Playday was over for 2023 and it was a success for over 200 campers this summer. She thanked all the councilors for a great season. The waterfront closed on August 23rd, and she thanked all the lifeguards for all their work keeping the waterfront going this summer. She thanked Gene Laforte and Matt Sheppard for all their work to help with the Labor set up at the Austin Pavilion. She thanked Eric Sell of the Fire Department for working with her as well. They all worked together as a team, and it worked out really well. The cleanup was great, everyone jumped in and helped. She reported the Farmers Market is going really well and the boat launch is slowing down, they plan on being there only as needed. The Seniors of the Skaneateles are starting their program next week at the pavilion with a potluck lunch.

Councilor Legg stated he and Sue Murphy had received a letter from Ed Connan with the Skaneateles Pickleball group thanking her for all the work she and the parks department had done to make their Labor Day tournament a success.

Councilor Dove also thanked Sue and the Parks Department for finding and installing the curtains in the pavilion before Labor Day.

Water: Councilor Legg reported he had received the Water System Operation Report from Forman Shane Christman for the month of August and the testing for the Town water was all negative, within normal range.

Engineer: Town Engineer Miranda Robinson reported they had interviewed 9 candidates for the Water Department position. They had finished the budget for water and sewers for 2024 and had submitted it to the Budget Officer. They had worked on costs for the replacement of the water line on route 321. The water department will be at a conference in Buffalo, NY for NYS water operators next week.

Appoint – Water Department Motor Equipment Operator: Supervisor Aaron stated Miranda Robinson and Shane Christman had interviewed 9 candidates for the Water Department position and narrowed it down to Wesley Hill. Councilors Legg and Alexander had interviewed him as well and agreed he would be the recommended candidate.

Councilor Legg stated Wesley Hill had experience working with municipal highway departments and the public. Councilor Legg and Councilor Alexander stated he would be a team player and seemed to have a great work ethic. He would be a good addition to the Town of Skaneateles Water Department.

Engineer Robinson stated that Wesley Hill he had his CDL license , he does not have his grade C license but has had the training and will need to complete the grade D water certificate. She stated they would like Wesley Hill to start on September 20, 2023.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, appointment of Wesley Hill was authorized as a Motor Equipment Operator for the Skaneateles Water Department Teamsters Union position at a starting pay of \$ 23.52/hr effective September 20, 2023.

Veterans Coordinator: Sheri Dove, Town of Skaneateles Veterans Outreach Coordinator stated she had not reported at a Town Board meeting in a few months and thanked the Board for their support of the Memorial Day Luncheon at the Skaneateles American Legion. She reported she had been working at the Skaneateles and the Skaneateles Falls Legion Posts. She had worked one on one with two World War II veterans' families that had passed away. Cindy Meili, Onondaga County Veterans Coordinator had started scheduling County quarterly meetings for all the Veterans Coordinators in Onondaga County that she had been attending.

Sheri Dove reviewed the SHAPE Up Program for veterans in Onondaga County. This is for veterans in need of home repairs. If any veteran needed any help, they could contact her for information, and it is on the Town's website.

Sheri Dove stated she got her new phone and email set up with the Town Clerk, she reviewed "The Wall that Heals" at Casey Park in Auburn. Operation Christmas Hope at Post 239 has helped connect with Veterans that need help. She is working with the Vet Center in Syracuse to give out turkeys during the holidays. She thanked the Board for all their support.

Animal Control: Councilor Dove reviewed the Dog Control report for June-July. She stated Dog Control Officer, Dave Wawro had been patrolling Austin Park and enforcing the leash law.

*Report attached

Fire Department: Dana Pickering, Assistant Chief of the Skaneateles Fire Department reviewed the August 2023 Skaneateles Fire Department report.

Councilor Dove thanked Dana, the Fire Department and the community for all the support for the Labor Day field days event.

*Report Attached

Recognition of Randy Nonenmacher – Conservation Committee Chair: Supervisor Aaron stated Randy Nonenmacher had decided to step down from the Town of Skaneateles Conservation Committee.

Councilor Alexander stated Mr. Nonenmacher had been on the Conservation Committee and had been chair of the committee since 2011. She read the following proclamation:

**TOWN OF SKANEATELES RESOLUTION
IN RECOGNITION OF RANDY NONENMACHER
September 11, 2023**

This Proclamation is made by the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles in appreciation and recognition of Randy Nonenmacher, for over 12 years of volunteer service with the Town of Skaneateles Conservation Committee.

WHEREAS, On February 20, 2003, the Town Board created the Skaneateles Conservation Area Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Town's earliest record of Randy Nonenmacher's work on the Conservation Committee was in 2011 when he was listed as a volunteer; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 Randy Nonenmacher had the foresight to look at options with the Committee to try to control the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid threat; and

WHEREAS, Randy Nonenmacher worked to find many Eagles Scout Project for the Marcellus Boy Scout Troop 66 and provided guidance where needed; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Randy Nonenmacher wrote a grant to provided treatment in the eradication of over one acre of the invasive Phragmites and though the Town was not successful in obtaining funding, Randy personally spent countless hours personally pulling out the Phragmites by hand; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 Randy Nonenmacher worked to identify infected Ash Trees and to purchase saplings to replace these trees with a community tree planting event once removed; and

WHEREAS, Randy Nonenmacher worked continuously through the years to do repairs, remove invasive species, and keep trails clear for our patrons at the Conservation Areas; and

WHEREAS, Randy Nonenmacher serves as Secretary and Chairman of the Conservation Committee; and

WHEREAS, Randy Nonenmacher along with Chair Matt Leveroni, worked to update trail maps and markers throughout the conservation area; and

WHEREAS, Randy Nonenmacher has submitted his letter of resignation due to other interests and responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that on this 11th Day of September 2023, the Town Board recognizes and appreciates Randy Nonenmacher for over 12 years of volunteer service in the preservation of the Conservation Lands of the Town of Skaneateles and extends their best wishes for all future endeavors.

The Board thanked Randy Nonenmacher for all his work on the Conservation Committee.

Minutes of August 21, 2023: On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of August 21, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Budget Amendments: No Budget Amendments

Abstract #23-16: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #23-1066 - #23-1140 were authorized from the following funds:

General:	\$ 58,037.52	Highway:	\$ 4,227.54
Street Lgt:	\$ 471.32	Part Town:	\$ 579.24
Water:	\$ 42,114.74	Hwy Part Twn	\$ 29,022.56
T&A	\$ 3,837.99	Sewer:	\$ 1,802.14
Total:	\$140,093.053		

Public Hearing Local Law 5 of 2023 “A Local Law to Strike and Replace Section 134-1 of the Town Code of the Town of Skaneateles – Increase in Income Limits for Senior Tax Exemptions”: Supervisor Aaron stated the senior exemption was last updated 14 years ago and the income levels have changed over that time. The Town usually follows the lead of Onondaga County and they have increased the income levels for senior exemptions this past month as well. This public hearing is being held to establish the updated income levels for the Town of Skaneateles senior tax exemptions.

Supervisor Aaron reviewed the following proposed income levels for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption:

The provisions of New York State Real Property Tax Law § 467(3)(a), as recently amended by Chapter 488 of the Laws of 2022, in relation to the partial exemption from real property taxes for persons 65 years of age and over are adopted as follows:

Exemption	Income Limits Beginning 7/1/2009	Income Limits Beginning 7/1/2024
50%	\$26,300	\$50,000.00
45%	\$27,300	\$50,999.99
40%	\$28,300	\$51,999.99
35%	\$29,300	\$52,999.99
30%	\$30,200	\$53,899.99
25%	\$31,100	\$54,799.99
20%	\$32,000	\$55,699.99

15%	\$32,900	\$56,599.99
10%	\$33,800	\$57,499.99
5%	\$34,700	\$58,399.99

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the public hearing was opened.

Supervisor Aaron asked if anyone would like to comment either for, against or have any comment at all.

No comments

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the public hearing was closed.

The following resolution was passed as presented:

**Proposed Local Law to Strike and Replace
Section 134-1 of the Town Code of the Town of Skaneateles**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 20(4), Board Member Dove has introduced for consideration Local Law No. 5 of 2023 entitled “A Local Law to Strike and Replace Section 134-1 of the Town Code of the Town of Skaneateles” (the “Proposed Local Law”); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Proposed Local Law is to strike and replace Section 134-1 of the Town Code of the Town of Skaneateles (the “Town Code”), to increase the maximum income eligibility levels for persons sixty-five years of age and over in relation to the partial exemption from real property taxes under Section 467 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law, as authorized by Resolution No. 108 of 2023 of the County Legislature of Onondaga County and Chapter 488 of the Laws of 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations set forth at 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”), with respect to the adoption of the Proposed Local Law; and

WHEREAS, by resolution dated August 21, 2023, the Town Board classified the Proposed Local Law as a Type II Action under SEQRA involving the “adoption of regulations, policies, procedures and local legislative decisions” as set forth in Section 617.5(c)(33) of the Regulations; and

WHEREAS, following publication of notice in accordance with all legal requirements, the Town held a public hearing concerning the Proposed Local Law on September 11, 2023, in satisfaction of the requirements of the New York Town Law and the New York Public Officers Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby adopts the Proposed Local Law, and that henceforth it will be designated as Local Law No. __ of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file the Local Law with the Secretary of State pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 27 and to make all publications required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The adoption of the foregoing Resolution was moved by Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Janet Aaron	Voting	Aye
Courtney Alexander	Voting	Aye
Sue Dove	Voting	Aye
Chris Legg	Voting	Aye
Mark Tucker	Voting	Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

*Local Law 5 of 2023 attached

Introductory Local Law G of 2023 – Abolish Tax Collector Position: Supervisor Aaron stated Lori Milne, Town of Skaneateles Tax Collector is running for Town Board this year and is running unopposed. Lori has been the Town Tax Collector for many years and her mother Marion Lear had been Tax Collector before her. The Town Board agreed this is the time to consolidate the position with the Town Clerk’s office. This consolidation would add hours that property owners could pay and also be a cost savings to the Town. Lori Milne was in favor of this consolidation of offices and was looking forward to working together with the Town Clerk’s office for the transition.

To abolish the Tax Collector position and move it into the Town Clerk position it requires a public hearing for the local law and then a mandatory referendum. This means there would have to be a special Town election held for the public to decide if the position should be abolished.

The board approved the following resolution:

Abolition of the Office of Tax Collector

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Town Law Section 26, Board Member Alexander has introduced for consideration Local Law No. G of 2023 entitled “A Local Law to Abolish the Position of Tax Collector” (the “Proposed Local Law”); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Proposed Local Law is intended to abolish the elected position of Tax Collector created by New York State Town Law Section 35, and is further intended that the duties of the Tax Collector will be assumed by the Town Clerk pursuant to Town Law Section 36; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector shall surrender and deliver to the Town Clerk all assessment rolls, books, papers, writings and all other documents and property in her possession as such officer; and

WHEREAS, it shall thereafter be the duty of the Town Clerk to collect and receive all state, county and town taxes and assessments that may be levied and the Town Clerk shall have all the powers and be subject to all the duties of a collector with respect to the collection of such taxes, the deposit of receipts and the return of unpaid taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has elected to abolish this office by using the procedure set forth in General Municipal Law Section 23, and thus, shall require a mandatory referendum by the voters to effect this change to the law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations set forth at 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”), with respect to the adoption of the Proposed Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to comply with the requirements of the New York Town Law and the New York Public Officers Law and shall schedule a public hearing to allow the public to comment on the Proposed Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board will hold a public hearing on September 25, 2023, at 6:45 p.m. to hear all persons interested in the Proposed Local Law and to consider the adoption of the Proposed Local Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby classifies the Proposed Local Law as a Type II Action under SEQRA involving the “adoption of regulations, policies, procedures and local legislative decisions” as set forth in Section 617.5(c)(33) of the Regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk shall cause notice of such a public hearing to be published in the official Town newspaper in accordance with all legal requirements.

The adoption of the foregoing Resolution was moved by Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Janet Aaron	Voting	Aye
Courtney Alexander	Voting	Aye
Sue Dove	Voting	Aye
Chris Legg	Voting	Aye
Mark Tucker	Voting	Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

James Rusin – Retirement: Supervisor Aaron announced the Town Board was in receipt of a letter of retirement from Jim Rusin. Jim Rusin is a motor equipment operator at the Transfer Station. He stated in his letter his last day would be December 2, 2023. His last day of work would be November 8, 2023, and he would use his vacation time and submit his retirement on December 2, 2023.

Jim Rusin started at the Transfer Station in 2016. Supervisor Aaron and the Town Board thanked Jim for his many years of service.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board accepted the letter of retirement from James Rusin effective December 2, 2023.

Appoint Colleen Parks Interim Justice Court Clerk: Supervisor Aaron stated Court Clerk Colleen Parks had been working full time as the only court clerk since the previous court clerk resigned in July. The Justice Court Office had some changes this past year, Judge Major resigned in August and the full-time court clerk resigned in July. Judge Dell took on the responsibility of both courts and Colleen Parks has taken over as the full-time court clerk.

Justice Dell had submitted a request to the Board to appoint Colleen Parks as interim full time court clerk. There would be an election for the Judge position in November and Judge Dell stated she would like the newly elected Justice to have some input on the Justice Clerk position at that time.

Councilor Dove reviewed Judge Dell's request. Judge Dell stated Colleen Parks is a loyal and dedicated employee. She exhibits a great work ethic in the office and is a joy to work with. She asked the Board for their support in the appointment of Colleen Parks as interim full time court clerk.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Board was in favor of this appointment and would like to make it retroactive to the July date that the previous court clerk resigned. The Board agreed and thanked Colleen Parks for taking on this position with no notice when the previous clerk left.

On a motion of Councilor Dove seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board supported the appointment of Colleen Parks as interim full time court clerk and approved a \$20.00/hour wage retroactive to July 7, 2023.

Drainage Easement – 3754 Fisher Road Bradley Subdivision: Supervisor Aaron announced a request had been received from Planning and Zoning Attorney Scott Molnar asking for a drainage easement across the three lot Bradley Subdivision on Fisher Road. The Planning Board approved the Travis Bradley and Alexander Liu three residential lot subdivision at its meeting of August 15, 2023, conditioned upon the applicants granting an access easement to the Town to allow the Town- but not obligating it, to maintain stormwater drainage facilities on site in the event the owners fail to do so.

Councilor Tucker stated this is a wet area on Fisher Road and the previous owner, Russ Zechman, also had drainage issues. He would recommend the Town Board authorize this easement.

Councilor Legg asked if there would be any escrow account set up for this property. Supervisor Aaron stated no, the Town would be a pass through if there were any event that would cause the Town to use this easement. If the property owners did not pay for the maintenance done by the Town, it would be added to their town taxes.

Planning Board Secretary Karen Barkdull stated this is a three-lot subdivision, the property owner(s) are responsible for the drainage, but the Planning Board wanted the Town to be able to go in to do the required maintenance if necessary. There are two tax forms that the Supervisor would need to sign, a TP585 and a RP5217.

Councilor Alexander asked since this was a three-lot subdivision would the easement be on each parcel. Councilor Tucker stated yes it would be on each deed filed.

Supervisor Aaron stated The Town, and the Assessor should receive the filing with the County Clerk.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized Supervisor Aaron to sign the necessary paperwork for the Town of Skaneateles drainage easement across the three lot Bradley Subdivision on Fisher Road and with the condition the Town and the Town of Skaneateles Assessor get copies of the documents that are filled with the Onondaga County Clerk's office.

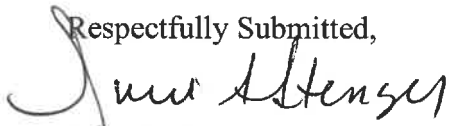
Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

- *Transfer Station Shred Day – September 23, 2023:* Supervisor Aaron announced there would a Shred Day at the Town of Skaneateles Transfer Station on September 23, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- *Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program:* Supervisor Aaron announced that there is a Farmland Protection Grant program from agriculture available.

Public Comment: No one commented.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk