

**Town Board Meeting**  
**May 5, 2016**  
**6:30 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Julie Stenger, Sue Murphy, Randy Nonemacher, Allan Wellington, Gene LaForte, Jonathan Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal), Deb Holbein, Margaret Culleton, Elizabeth Holbein, Marcia Williams, Candy Searing, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Steve Ladd, Alan Johnson, Chris Legg, Beth Battle, Rob Howard, Paul Higman,

**Department Reports**

▪*Highway, Water, Transfer Station:* Allan Wellington reported that all plow equipment has been stored away for the season. Crews have been cutting road shoulders and cleaning ditches. They replaced a driveway culvert on Chapman Road, did equipment repairs and assisted the Village with milling of the municipal parking lot. In the Water Department they relocated a water service for the Jordan Road Bridge replacement and worked on the design for the water main replacement on Britcher Road. At the Transfer Station the NYSDEC inspected three areas of the facility; solid waste, construction and demolition, and recyclable handling and recovery with no violations.

Supervisor Lanning asked where the detour would be for the Jordan Road Bridge. Allan Wellington said it was an Onondaga County DOT project and detours would be Irish and Stump Roads coming from the north going south and Vinegar Hill Road and Visions Drive coming from the south going north.

▪*Parks:* Sue Murphy reported that on May 10<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Skaneateles is sponsoring “Our Farm to Your Table”, a presentation by the farmers who participate in the Farmers Market that will be held at 7 p.m. at the High School Library. The Farmers Market opens for the season on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. She has been interviewing lifeguards, counselors and field workers for this summer’s seasonal positions and will be making recommendations later on the agenda. Baseball officially begins on Saturday. They are receiving donations for this year’s Fishing Derby. Supervisor Lanning questioned if the new drainage was working well. Sue said, yes.

▪*Codes, Planning & Zoning:* Councilor Badami reviewed the 15 building permits issued for April and the 9 open projects for the Planning Board and 2 open projects for the Zoning Board.

▪*Historian Report:* Beth Battle presented a story about James Gray of Skaneateles Falls who enlisted in the Marines in April 1918 who was the first Skaneateles boy to return home with decoration won on foreign battlefields. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. [Report Attached]

**Multi-Use Corridor and Trails Committee Update:** Supervisor Lanning said that this committee was established on March 20, 2014 and created a mission and vision statement. He said that there is opposition to the trail extending north of the Charlie Major Nature Trail. He has encouraged the direction south to the Village. The committee has agreed that the priority should be to the Village. He said he represents the will of the people and would like to see more people on the committee that represent that area. He asked the Town Board to decide how to go

forward and whether or not to disband the committee or change the individuals on the committee.

Candy Searing, Chairperson of the Multi-Use Corridor and Trails Committee read a report (attached) giving an update on what the committee has done and asking the Town Board to communicate the following to Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC), the organization that awarded the grant to the Town and will provide planning services and an outreach to the community:

- a. That we are prepared to support a priority of extending the Charlie Major Trail southward to the Village, with special attention to looking at ways to safely cross Old Seneca turnpike; and that we would look forward to working with the Village for a connection into their jurisdiction. To that end, Councilor Brace has reached out to Mr. Eriksen as a representative from the Village to begin those discussions.
- b. Second, that due consideration should be also given to looking at ways to implement the multi-use trail in the area between Skaneateles Falls and the Elbridge Town Line, as a second priority included component of this year's study, without impinging on the priority of extending the Charlie Major Trail southward. I believe this fully conforms with the Board approved 5 year plan for Skaneateles Falls, aligns with the work that is being done to improve the playground area of the Falls, and reflects the opportunity to engage and involve both the residents and future businesses in that area. In fact, in a demonstration of the interest at the north end, the committee has been asked to set up a display table in Skaneateles Junction supporting a model railroad club gathering on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, at the request of UTD company which has expressed its strong support for this trail effort.
- c. And finally, I request the Board reiterate to SMTC that the committee stands by its offer to assist SMTC in facilitating any community meetings, fact finding, or data gathering related to the overall scope of work that we requested in our application. To assist that, I am proposing that the committee do this with a small working group of its members, focused on the technical aspects of the study in order to assist SMTC and the Board carry out the work related to the anticipated scope of work.

Allan Johnson a member of the committee said one of the things that SMTC will do is have meetings with residents of Mottville and Skaneateles Falls to hear their concerns and he hopes that that will be supported.

Margaret Culleton said she doesn't know how this committee more than any other Town committee got so influential with the Town Board.

Kate Estes said that Mottville is not being heard. They do not want the trail and they do not want the concerns. She stated that the Charlie Major Nature Trail is not cleaned or maintained by the Town and that it is left up to the residents. Who will maintain rest rooms and pick up trash. This is not what they want in Mottville.

Councilor Badami said he believes his position as Town Councilor is to be the mouth piece for the community and if the hamlets are against this then he doesn't want to force it on them. He wants this to be vetted out and expressed that he was not ignoring their comments.

Candy Searing said that SMTC will hold informational meetings to hear comments and concerns.

Chris Buff said that Mottville and Skaneateles Falls are not listened to and said to please hear us.

Deb Holbein said that petitions were submitted that the community does not want this. They are still saying no and she is tired of wasting her energy on this dumb trail.

Supervisor Lanning said no Town Board member lives south of Old Seneca Turnpike. The committee needs to have representatives from that area. The Town may own the old railroad property which for some residents it is in their front yard. For 30 years they have enjoyed the silence of no trains. People who live there should be part of the decision making process and it should be universally agreed upon. He said all committee and board meetings of the Town are open to the public and encourage attendance.

Chris Legg said that SMTC presents an opportunity to use their resources to see a long term picture of what may or may not be supported. But they can first look at what is considered feasible and that is connecting the Charlie Major Nature Trail to the Village. To find funding streams to support this. By shutting this down before it begins we will not have the opportunity to solicit input and to hear from the residents on a constructive project. SMTC is an objective third party group and the will of the people could be part of that discussion. He also encouraged anyone to meet at the Charlie Major Nature Trail this weekend for the yearly clean-up of that trail.

Councilor Brace said that the committee put together the grant application to receive planning services through SMTC. They will reach out to the community to hear concerns and provide planning services. This does not incorporate any implementation whatsoever. Nothing is cast in stone. This is an opportunity to study safety for the community and the Town does not have to do anything. This is an opportunity to receive up to \$100,000 in professional services.

Deb Holbein said that this should not have a dollar value because the community doesn't want this. She said just leave it alone and residents of the community are saying to stop but the Town will just not stop.

Mary Menapace said that when she visits her children in Colorado she enjoys the network of hiking trails all over the state and said that this could be for the whole community and it could be quantified by community response.

Supervisor Lanning said he does not like seeing taxpayers dollars used for something that will not go through.

Councilor Badami encouraged feedback over the next two weeks.

Councilor Howard said she has heard loud and clear that they do not want the trail. She said that moving ahead with SMTC does not mean the trail will go through Mottville. It simply means gathering information. She said “we hear you.” Moving forward with SMTC does not mean implementation in areas that it’s not wanted. Moving forward does not seal your fate.

The Town Board encouraged residents to submit their thoughts on this by submitting their letters to the Town.

*Resolution #16-97*

**Resolution Authoring Filing Application with NYSDEC for State Assistance for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** On a motion of Supervisor Lanning, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, authorization was given to apply for funding from NYSDEC for the Town’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

*Resolution #16-98*

**Resolution to Schedule the Bid Opening for Household Hazardous Waste Event:** On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board authorization was given to go out to bid for a vendor to hold a household hazardous waste collection day at the Transfer Station. The bid opening date was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on June 1, 2016.

*Resolution #16-99*

**Declare Cemetery Riding Lawn Mower Surplus:** On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Badami, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the riding lawn mower at the cemetery was declared surplus.

*Resolution #16-100*

**Development Rights Acquisition Fund Resolution:** Attorney Smith said that the purpose of the Development Rights Acquisition Fund (DRA) is to provide a property owner with the option 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. He discussed this with Attorney Scott Molnar after reviewing the Town Code. The Town Board would have the power from time to time to change the amount. The Town Code as currently written has the fee in it and that fee could now be part of the Town’s annual fee schedule.

Councilor Coville questioned if it was \$1.09/sf for all properties. Supervisor Lanning said it would be prejudicial to have it different in and out of the watershed and said the current rate is woefully inadequate. 99% of these properties are lakefront properties.

Councilor Badami made a motion, seconded by Councilor Howard pursuant to the authority granted in Section 148-12(G)(6) of the own Code, to set the estimated fair market cost to obtain and administer a conservation easement to be \$1.09/sf effective immediately.

Councilor Brace said she stated at the last meeting that it was her desire to have a separate rate for those properties in the watershed and outside the watershed. Properties outside the watershed would have a reduced rate. Those two rates were also calculated by Karen Barkdull.

Councilor Brace	Abstain
Councilor Howard	Yes
Councilor Badami	Yes
Councilor Coville	No
Supervisor Lanning	Yes

Carried 3-0

*Resolution #16-101*

**Introductory Local Law 2016-B- Development Rights Acquisition Fund:** Supervisor Lanning stated that the proposed Local Law would remove the fee associated with the Development Rights Acquisition Fund from the Local Law and add the fee to the list of all Town fees.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, a public hearing was scheduled for 7 p.m. on June 19, 2016 to consider Introductory Local Law 2016-B.

*Resolution #16-102*

**Review of costs for Defibrillators:** Supervisor Lanning said that defibrillators are needed at the Transfer Station and Town Hall. Julie Stenger obtained the state bid pricing from Jeff VanBeveran at SAVES. The cost is \$1619.06 each.

On a motion of Councilor Brace made a motion, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, authorization was given to purchase two (2) defibrillators at a cost of \$1,619.06 each or a total cost of \$3,238.12.

*Resolution #16-103*

**Addition to the Open Space Committee – Andy Ramsgard:** On a motion of Supervisor Lanning, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Andy Ramsgard was appointed to the Open Space Committee.

*Resolution #16-104*

**Appoint Gene LaForte - Clerk of the Works for Austin Pavilion Renovation Project:** Supervisor Lanning said that the Clerk of the Works would oversee the contractor doing the work at the Austin Pavilion. The Town Board agreed that a stipend should be paid for these additional duties that would include weekly meetings.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Gene Laforte was appointed Clerk of the Works for the Austin Pavilion renovation project with a stipend of \$1500.

*Resolution #16-105*

**Authorize to hire seasonal employees/Parks Department:** Sue Murphy presented the first round of applicants for seasonal lifeguard, park laborers, and head Playday counselor jobs for she is recommending that the Board authorize hiring for the summer: (\* denotes returning employee)

Lifeguards: \*Angela Poccia; \*Griffin Lawson; \*Mary Elizabeth Dristle; \*Samantha Annable; \*Thomas Hagan; \*Dana Ganley (sub only); \*Ryan Danaher; \*Joseph Capozza.

Parks Laborers: \*Joel Collard; Kyle Oschner.

Playday Head Counselors: \*Kristin Pill; \*Alyssa Rottger; \*Carley LaFrance.

Alyssa Rottger, head counselor recommended that from the interviews she and Sue Murphy conducted, they were recommending the following PlayDay counselors:

\*Graham McCarthy; \*Nicholas Rottger; \*Madison Ruffo; \*David Murphy (volunteered last year); Scott Oschner.

On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the recommended lifeguards, park laborers Playday head counselors and Playday counselors were approved to be hired for the season, subject to background checks and receiving their required paperwork.

*Resolution #16-106*

**Cleaning Bid – Sims Building bathrooms:** Sue Murphy said she advertised and called cleaning companies but received only one bid and that was from Patricia Melfi-Cottrill of Clean Sweep Cleaning. The bid in the amount of \$4,560 is to clean and stock the restrooms at the Sims Building 7 days a week plus additional times during high demand periods.

On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Clean Sweep Cleaning was contracted to provide cleaning services at the Sims Building rest rooms for approximately 24 weeks at a cost of \$4,560.

*Resolution #16-107*

**Creation of a Transfer Tax Review Committee:** Councilor Howard explained that establishing a transfer tax would provide additional funds to purchase open spaces. The committee would make recommendations to the Town Board which would then require state legislation. The levy would not be placed on every home sale, only those at or above a value determined by an established law. Farmers would be exempt. She anticipates that the committee will find the right value to recommend but believes it will be very high end homes. She would like to be on this committee and is recommending adding Mark Tucker and Molly Elliott who have expressed interest.

Attorney Smith said that this has been established in other communities on construction of high end single family residential homes. This would require a local law, public hearing and State Legislation if the Town Board were to pursue this. He said it would be important for the committee to reach out to the community and report back to the Town Board with their recommendations.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the creation of a Transfer Tax Review Committee was authorized with the following members: Claire Howard, Liaison; Mark Tucker and Molly Elliott.

*Resolution #16-108*

**Authorize Contract with Joel Russell – Updates to Comprehensive Plan:** Supervisor Lanning reported that the Town Board met with Joel Russell in Executive Session to review the updated draft Comprehensive Plan. He said that Mr. Russell did a wonderful job listening to the comments from various interest groups as well as the litigants and incorporating them into the draft. The Town Board submitted minor changes to Mr. Russell and requested that he update the Plan with those changes before submitting the draft to the public. The draft Plan is expected to be released to the public at the end of next week.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Joel Russell was authorized to update the redline version of the draft comprehensive plan at a cost of \$1500.

*Resolution #16-109*

**Article 78 Update:** Attorney Smith reported that the response is due June 10<sup>th</sup> for the Article 78. The Judge previously allowed for an extension for settlement and he is not sure the Judge will extend it again. If another extension is granted then it will allow the settlement to proceed. In the event the Judge rules against an extension then the Town will have to expend the funds so that he can prepare briefs to answer the lawsuit on time.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Attorney Smith was authorized to solicit the extension from the court and in the event the extension is denied, the Town Board authorizes the expenditure to prepare the briefs to answer the lawsuit on time on the Article 78.

*Resolution #16-110*

**Extend Bid Opening Date – Austin Pavilion Renovations:** Supervisor Lanning said that the Town was late getting the packets out and that an extension on the bid opening date may be needed.

Attorney Smith suggested that the Town Clerk contact all the plan holders and gauge from each one if they expect to submit a bid. If it is the opinion that the majority need more time in order to prepare the bid, then the Town Board can provide authorization now for the date to be extended at that time.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) approval of the Town Board to authorize Attorney Smith and Clerk Aaron to determine that if the plan holders need additional time to bid on the Austin Pavilion Renovations that the bid date be extended to 10 a.m. on May 23, 2016.

**Request from Dick Searing – Use of Clift Park swim area:** Supervisor Lanning said that he discussed this with Mr. Searing today and that the Town Board will continue discussion on this at their next meeting on May 19, 2016

*Resolution #16-111*

**Minutes of April 21, 2016:** On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of April 2, 2016 were accepted as presented.

### Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

- *SMTC – ADA Training Opportunity – Requirements for CHIPS funding that Allan Wellington has already signed up for.*
- *Comprehensive Plan Update:* Supervisor Lanning said that tremendous progress has been made and he is hopeful the litigants will drop their lawsuit with the proposed changes that have been made. The public will have lots of opportunities to weigh in on the changes. The proposed changes should be available late next week.
- *Letter From Mary Sennett – Time Warner Franchise Agreement:* Supervisor Lanning said the letter encourages the Board to negotiate extending cable service into rural areas that currently don't receive that service.

Councilor Badami said he has been in touch with Dennis Dundon who is the representative from the Village working on the renewal with Time Warner. He received a proposed agreement yesterday which he has not had a chance to review and noted Mary's concerns are his concerns and the concerns of the Board. Even though the contract expired on April 25<sup>th</sup>, by law Time Warner is required to honor their current contract with us until a new one is negotiated.

Councilor Howard questioned Mary Sennett's reference to the intranet, a benefit she was hoping we would address. Councilor Badami said he was not sure about this but all Board members agreed that they would work to get this service to as much of the community as possible.

- *Notice of Tentative Completion of Assessment Roll and Times to Meet with Assessor:* Supervisor Lanning noted that the tentative assessment roll is now completed that a copy is available at the Town Clerk's Office. The Assessor will be in attendance with the assessment roll on the following dates: May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Grievance Day is June 7<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m.
- *Village DPW /Taxes:* Attorney Smith said that Village Attorney Pavlus emailed him questioning why Village owned DPW property was paying taxes. He would be researching this and would report back to the Board.
- *Transfer ownership of Austin Park to Town:* Attorney Smith reported that the Town alienation legislation to transfer ownership of Austin Park from the Village to the Town that the Town Board previously approved. The legislation required the meets and bounds description that was just submitted to the Town today. That was provided to Senator DeFrancisco's office and inserted into the Legislation. After it is introduced into the Assembly a Home Rule form will be generated by the Legislature and sent to the Town and Village to execute. The Town can't authorize the Supervisor to sign it until it is introduced into the Assembly. He recommended giving the Supervisor the authority to execute the Home Rule form once the Assembly has introduced it.



Councilor Badami made a motion seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board to authorize Supervisor Lanning to execute the Home Rule Legislation form once it has been introduced into the Assembly.

*Resolution #16-112*

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

Drainage District – Butters Farm

\$ 475.00	Increase	051104.14.004.00	General Repairs – C/E
\$ 475.00	Decrease	000909.14.000.00	Unreserved Fund Balance

Cost associated with clearing the drainage ponds at Butters Farm – last time completed 2012

*Resolution #16-113*

**Abstract #16-09:** On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, voucher #16-0527 to voucher #16-0585 were approved for payment from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$21,764.56	Part Town:	\$ 310.41
Highway:	\$ 184.62	Fire:	\$134,910.69
Street Lights:	\$ 998.64	Water:	\$ 15,150.45
Water #5:	\$ 124.45	Sewer:	\$ 1,567.11
Sewer #6:	\$ 160.61	Butters Drainage:	\$ 899.00
T & A:	\$ 66.10		

Total: \$176,136.64

**Public Comment:**

▪*Randy Nonemacher* asked about Board’s decision on removal of Phragmites. Councilor Howard said she has researched the subject on many websites and it seems like we are between a rock and a hard place. She does not like using Roundup. She understands that Phragmites is an incredible nuisance and that it is just exploding all over the place. She also understands there are other methods such as digging them out and burning them but said that these methods are not recommended and won’t really work. Supervisor Lanning said this is a real problem and the Town needs to research this further because it will take over everything.

▪*Courtney Alexander* said that she loves multi use trails but understands why someone would not want one in their back yard. She hopes that there will be a compromise instead of disbanding the committee.

**Executive Session – Personnel/Assessor Position:** On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) of the Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss the Assessor position.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet L. Aaron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Janet L. Aaron  
Town Clerk