

**Town Board Meeting**  
**June 18, 2015**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Pete Buehler, Sue Murphy, Michael Plochocki (Onondaga County Legislator), Dana Pickering, Jim Lanning, Jonathan, Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal), Allan Wellington.

**Department Reports**

▪*Highway, Water, Transfer Station:* Allan Wellington reported that they removed several trees from the Town's right of way, cleaned drainage culverts and ditches, installed 2 new driveways, mowed roadsides, did truck repairs and transported a portion of the foundation blocks for the new Fennell Street Bridge. In the Water Department they repaired water main breaks on Jewett and Mottville Roads, modified the pressure reducing valve on Jordan Road and finished flushing approximately 75 hydrants in District #1. At the Transfer Station all the old mulch has now been loaded for DeMarco's. The phone service has been installed in the relocated office building and the electric service will be installed on Monday.

Supervisor Sennett complimented Allan Wellington saying he does a great job and is so good at returning calls and talking to people.

▪*Parks:* Sue Murphy reported that the Austin Pavilion has been prepared for the Rotary's Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. She submitted the paperwork to the DOH for the PlayDay program permit. She received the DOH permit for the waterfront, which opens on June 24<sup>th</sup>. She is organizing new and returning employees with Bridgett Winkelman for payroll paperwork. The Fishing Derby plans are well underway and the new design for the t-shirts has been sent to the printer. The end of year school picnics are wrapping up on Tuesday. The Austin Pavilion will be prepared to hold graduation should it rain. The garden club will have a Boutique at the Austin Pavilion next week.

▪*Budget:* Bridgett Winkelman said she is working with the new seasonal employees to complete their paperwork.

▪*Codes:* Councilor Brace reviewed the 14 open projects in the Planning & Zoning Departments submitted by Karen Barkdull. She said that department is very busy.

▪*Fire Department Report:* Dana Pickering reported on the activity of the Fire Department for May 2015. Calls for the month included: 17 fire, 2 rescue, 7 EMS and 5 mutual aid. They had 2 drills. Total personnel hours spent on drills & calls for May was 419.9. Mr. Pickering also reported that Water Rescue 2 will be back in service by the middle of June and Engine 11 is still be refurbished. The NYS Chief's Association Show will be June 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> at Turning Stone. They have sold 600 tickets for the High Stakes Money drawing. The Labor Day parade is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Sunday September 6, 2015.

**Fennell Street Bridge Funding – County Legislator Michael Plochocki:** Legislator Plochocki said that he tries to get out to the five towns and three villages he has at least once a year to sit in on their meetings. He reprised the information regarding the Skaneateles Falls Playground and how it had looked like the Town would receive funding from the County and then on the federal

level the eligible area was taken away. He pointed out that this money is still available and he hopes the work that the Town is doing to obtain this funding will work out.

He said that the Town has been mandated to repair the bridge on Fennell Street and that he is about to secure \$30,000 from the County to go towards the cost of these repairs. He also knows of additional funding coming to Skaneateles for the benefit of the lake, but isn't able to say what it is for because it is not quite official yet.

The Town Board thanked Legislator Plochocki for his work on obtaining this funding.

*Resolution #15-093*

**Minutes:** On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Greenfield and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of June 4, 2015 were accepted as presented.

*Resolution #15-094*

**Authorize Seasonal Lifeguards:** On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Stephen Hartnett, Paige Williams, and Cameron Buell were hired.

*Resolution #15-095*

**Updated Beach Safety Plan:** Sue Murphy reported that the last Plan was approved by the Department of Health (DOH) in 2011. This time she reduced it down and simplified it to what the lifeguards are actually responsible for at our waterfront. The DOH has approved this plan. Councilor Brace asked if the lifeguards report before the 11:30 a.m. opening. Sue said, yes one lifeguard is required to report at 11:15 a.m. They also do training before the park opens and additional training takes place on Sunday's after they close at 6:30 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Murray, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the updated Beach Safety Plan was accepted as presented.

**Skaneateles Lake Monitoring Report – Robert Werner Presentation:** Robert Werner reported that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> report from Upstate Freshwater Institute on the condition of Skaneateles Lake. The report is done every three years. The testing began in 2005 as a goal of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan in order to maintain its pristine character. He said Skaneateles Lake is one of few oligotrophic lakes. With a baseline of data, trends can be charted and problems identified early. Upstate has a crew on the lake from May through October taking samples from the surface to the bottom of the lake to measure the water's transparency and how far you can see below the surface of the water, and the amount of phosphorous. Too little phosphorous inhibits plant growth and too much causes overgrowth. They also measure the amount of chlorophyll used for photosynthesis. All three measurements have been level and steady and look good since the monitoring program began. In fact for the period between 1970 and 2015 the lake quality has improved significantly. He said that the clarity of the water is improving, and the levels of phosphorus and phytoplankton are decreasing.

Mr. Werner said there are potential issues such as increased turbidity during storm events and winter melt cause erosion that dumps silt which brings nutrients into the lake. Algae is another

concern around the shore of the lake and brown algae on rocks. It is not a problem now but it is building up and is of some concern.

He suggested an increase in monitoring the water along the shores and tributaries instead of just in the middle of the lake at different times throughout the year. In addition, he suggested having the Skaneateles Lake Monitoring Committee start a conversation with scientists at the Upstate Freshwater Institute. He said adding several monitoring systems to tributaries is not cheap. Sampling has to be done when the water is high. The Committee will look for a menu of options and cost on how to effectively monitor this. They will then bring it back to discuss with the Town Board for consideration. He believes it is now time to look at the tributaries.

Councilor Howard said she was definitely in favor of monitoring near the shore and believes it is a great addition to what has already been done. She said that that seems to be anecdotally where we can experience a lot of the plant growth because most of us don't swim in the middle of the lake but there is plant growth at the shorelines such as milfoil and the different kinds of algae. Plus everyone is worried about the foam. She said personally she has been swimming in the lake for 50 years and it does seem different to her and she would love to see more monitoring.

Supervisor Sennett agreed. She said she worries that things are clear in the middle of the lake but not at the shoreline. She believes the Board needs to have a proposal and understand what it would cost and then work with the City of Syracuse and possibly the County to see how this can be funded through grants or other opportunities.

Mr. Werner said that the Town of Skaneateles has carried the burden on this so far but the lake is surrounded by four other towns and there should be a way for the costs to be shared.

Mr. Werner said that the milfoil project is handled by the Skaneateles Lake Association. It is not a town project. The removal of milfoil was started in 2007 with a projection that they would be finished in three years and they are still working on it. He said that they are making good progress and over 55 acres has been removed to date from the lake. This year they are looking at three to five acre patches that are left. They can remove these patches every summer but there are three to five acres of regrowth that they aren't dealing with. He said he believes that they have it under pretty good control with one boat and 4 divers. In 2001 when there was a concern regarding milfoil, he and Rich Abbott from the City of Syracuse Water Department went out on the lake and did a survey of all the patches. At that time there were 39 large patches. Five years later and there were 111 patches. That got everyone's attention. If it would have continued to grow without eradication there would have been over 200 large patches which illustrates the success of this operation. He said they had a huge advantage on Skaneateles Lake because of low productivity in the lake, a small watershed, a big mass of water, nutrients that come in get diluted pretty effectively, they started early, and community support. About 95% of funding came from private funds by people who live around the lake.

Councilor Murray asked about the lake foam. Mr. Werner said that a lot of foam washes up on the north end of the lake when you have a south wind. He said that all lakes have some foam with bubbles here and there and whitecaps. Foam persists if there is a large amount of surfactants in the water. Surfactants are like a detergent. This large amount of foam is unusual but is happening on many of the Finger Lakes. Something is going on and Mr. Werner said he

does not know what it is. The Skaneateles Lake Association has a board member, Dr. William Sawyer who is a forensic toxicologist and is used to doing complicated chemical analysis and they took a sample of the foam to be analyzed. They found that it was a natural product. They don't know for sure what it is but it could be as simple as decaying leaves in the fall that have a certain amount of surfactants in them. They set up a foam work group comprised of members from Syracuse University and ESF and they have met 2-3 times to try and figure out what it is. They are taking more samples this year. There is no scientific literature on lake foam.

Jim Lanning questioned if all the lakes were being monitored like Skaneateles Lake. Mr. Werner said no. Studies have been done on other lakes for a particular purpose, but nothing on a long term basis. The City of Syracuse monitors the drinking water standards of our lake.

Councilor Howard said that the summary on the report said that compared with other aquatic resources, Skaneateles Lake remains one of the most pristine lakes in New York State. She would like Skaneateles Lake to be compared with Skaneateles Lake and not with other lakes because many of the other Finger Lakes have declining water quality. She was hoping that the lake monitoring program compared our lake to our lake and was pleased that it did. The statistics show that. She said that there was a statement that said the hydrology of the lake, which is the precipitation and the runoff, may be an important driver of inter-annual variations and trophic state metrics. She said that is where we are going with the tributary monitoring because climate change is affecting our weather patterns and we are having huge weather events that never used to happen with this frequency so there will be more precipitation and runoff which could cause more plant growth. She said we need to get out ahead of this and do what we need to do to protect our lake. Mr. Werner agreed and said that he believes that the 2005 Comprehensive Plan was specific about monitoring the tributaries and shoreline.

The Town Board thanked Mr. Werner.

**Request for Qualifications – Zoning Audit/Analysis:** Supervisor Sennett said last meeting the Board discussed distributing qualifications to try to find someone who could work with our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning to provide a roadmap of priorities and where changes are needed in our zoning ordinance once the comprehensive plan is adopted. The list of qualifications was given to Karen Barkdull, Denise Rhoads and Mark Tucker to review. They had no changes. Supervisor Sennett said she would be submitting this to the Town Planner, Howard Brodsky, Randall & West at Stream Collaborative in Ithaca, NY, Ingalls Planning and Design and Fisher Group of Rochester, NY. If there are any other companies the Town Board would like the qualifications sent she asked the Board to let her know. The Town Board agreed to send out the request for qualifications by July 6<sup>th</sup> and to request responses by August 1, 2015.

**Tree Transplant Proposal – Western Gateway:** Councilor Murray said she met with Fred Squires to look at all the trees. Several trees are struggling. Two trees need to be removed from in front of Rosalie's because of a request not to plant them there. Councilor Murray said she will be meeting with Larry Hazard from NYSDOT the first part of next week to look at locations to plant the two trees that are being removed.

The proposal from Mr. Squires is \$350 to remove each of the two trees in front of Rosalie's and to relocate them to a place specified by NYSDOT.

Councilor Brace questioned if moving the trees can wait until fall when watering may not be required as often. Councilor Murray said that Gary Robinson would like them to be taken out now. Supervisor Sennett suggested asking Fred Squires when the best time is to move them.

Supervisor Sennett wondered if the warranty on the trees that are transplanted starts over once they are replanted. Councilor Murray said she would ask Mr. Squires.

Councilor Brace asked if gators would be put around the trees as a way to water the trees. Councilor Murray said she wasn't sure.

Councilor Murray said she was also researching the type of plaque to add to the trees.

Supervisor Sennett asked if the two trees that didn't make it will be taken out at the same time. Councilor Murray said yes. Councilor Murray said she also went with Allan Wellington to look at the bench and where it will be placed in front of the Hilltop Restaurant.

The Town Board thanked Councilor Murray for all her work on this.

On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Greenfield and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the proposal submitted by Fred Squires, Jr., of Fingerlakes Landscape & Design to remove and transplant two trees at \$350 each was approved.

**Proposed Legislation – Shoreline Structures:** Supervisor Sennett said that this spring the Town Board held a roundtable discussion with members of the Planning and Zoning Board and one of the topics of discussion was regulating shoreline structures. Scott Molnar, Attorney to the Planning and Zoning Boards is drafting legislation to review with all entities around the lake in hopes that all Towns will adopt the same regulations. Supervisor Sennett asked the Town Board read the proposed legislation so that she can follow up with Attorney Molnar to schedule discussing this with the other towns.

Supervisor Sennett said that our jurisdiction stops at the shoreline and she hopes to appeal to NYS for the ability to legislate beyond the shoreline.

Councilor Howard said she recently had a call from a constituent about this as a structure was being built next to the property boundary line and he never received notification from the Town. She informed him unfortunately right now the Town does not have jurisdiction. She said they were very upset about it. Supervisor Sennett said they only have to get a permit from the NYSDEC which is limited permitting.

Councilor Murray said that there are regulations requiring hedges along West Lake Road to be trimmed so that it doesn't impair the view. Since this has to go through the NYSDOT she contacted them to remind them that the trimming needed to be done and they said they would take care of it.

The Board agreed to review the legislation.

*Resolution #15-096*

**Jordan Road Bridge Easement to National Grid:** On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the following resolution read by Councilor Brace was authorized:

A Resolution granting a temporary easement to Onondaga County for the purpose of repairing and replacing the Jordan Road bridge.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Skaneateles and its residents have been served by and rely upon Jordan Road as a means in to and out of and within the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of Jordan Road consists of a bridge over or near the outlet from Skaneateles Lake ("Bridge"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has been advised that the Bridge is in need of repair and replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government and Onondaga County have made funds available to repair and replace the Bridge, and to otherwise make improvements to the area, including, but not limited to, a pedestrian path, all at no cost to the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, Onondaga County has requested that the Town provide to it a temporary easement for purposes of facilitating the repair and replacement of the Bridge and the other improvements; and

**WHEREAS** the Town Board is desirous of accommodating the request of Onondaga County

**NOW, THEREFORE**, The Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles

**RESOLVES**, the Town Board finds that the Bridge repair and replacement is in the overall best interests of the Town and its residents; and

**FURTHER RESOLVES**, that the Town Board declares itself as Lead Agency for SEQR purposes and further determines that the grant of this easement would be a Type 2 action under SEQR Section 617.5 (c) (15) requiring no further review or findings; and

**FURTHER RESOLVES**, that the value of the Bridge repair and replacement, and the other improvements; are adequate consideration and of greater value than any inconvenience which may arise by the grant of a temporary easement; and

**FURTHER RESOLVES**, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to Onondaga County, a Statement of Donation, Agreement to Purchase Real Property and Easement Agreement, all as appear on the attached Schedule "A, subject to the results of a permissive referendum as required by New York law.

**Announcements/Correspondence/Updates**

▪*Consider Dates for Fall Hamlet Meetings:* The Town Board agreed on the following dates: 9/28/15; 10/5/15; 10/19/15; 11/9/15 for Mottville, Skaneateles Falls, Mandana and Shepard Settlement.

▪*Transfer Station Closed July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>*

▪*Joint Public Hearing Comprehensive Plan – 7 p.m. July 13<sup>th</sup> at Fire Department*

▪*NYS AOT – 2015 Planning & Zoning Schools:* Supervisor Sennett announced that the school in Syracuse in July 27<sup>th</sup>.

▪Holly Gregg, CPCS Letter regarding Mirbeau/Gateway Expansion Proposal

Resolution #15-097

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

**Budget Amendments**

General Fund

\$ 700.00 Increase 085101.01.001.00 Community Beautification – P/S

\$ 700.00 Decrease 085104.01.004.00 Community Beautification – C/E

Cost associated with clean up at Conservation Area by Highway Personnel. To establish a P/S line.

**Budget Adjustment**

Part Town Fund

\$ 550.00 Increase 016804.02.004.00 Central Data Processing

\$ 550.00 Decrease 016704.02.004.00 Central Print – C/E

Cost associated with shared repair to server.

Water Consolidated

\$ 1,930.00 Increase 083102.08.002.00 Water Admin – Equipment

\$ 1,930.00 Decrease 083104.08.004.00 Water Admin – C/E

Shared expense with Village - associated with De-Icer.

Resolution #15-098

**Abstract #15-12:** On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Brace voucher #15-0672 to #15-0773 from the following funds:

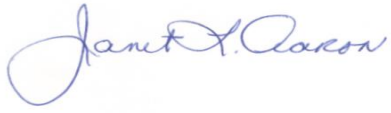
General Fund:	\$107,347.46	Part Town:	\$ 4,819.30
Highway:	\$ 9,669.45	Highway p/t:	\$17,021.76
Lighting:	\$ 292.01	Water:	\$17,888.40
Water #5:	\$ 208.41	Sewer:	\$ 1,091.38
Sewer #6:	\$ 166.87	T & A:	\$11,898.20

Total: \$170,403.24

**Attorney Advice/Executive Session/Pending Litigation:** On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the meeting was adjourned to Attorney Advice and Executive session regarding pending litigation at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting returned to open session and adjourned at 8:45 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" and "A".

Janet L. Aaron  
Town Clerk