

Town Board Meeting

June 17, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Zoom: Meeting Id: 850 6417 7839 Passcode: 891229

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

Also, Present (In Person): Tim Dobrovosky, Leif Kallquist, Keri Fey, Miranda Robinson.

Also, Present (via Zoom): Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press, Sue Murphy, Brian Buff, Paula Powell, Duane Shoen, CPA Inero & Company, LLC, Travis Buckley, Inero & Company, LLC, Karen Barkdull, Don Kasper.

Minutes of June 3, 2024: On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of June 3, 2024, were accepted as presented.

Abstract #24-11: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Milne, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers were authorized from the following funds:

General:	\$ 65,808.45	Highway:	\$ 6,402.42
HWY PT:	\$ 93,348.31	Sewer:	\$ 871.78
Part Town:	\$ 5,003.14	Water:	\$ 21,607.28
T&A	\$ 4,054.70		

Total: \$ 197,096.16

Inero & Company 2023 Town Audit Review: Supervisor Legg introduced auditors Duane Shoen and Travis Buckley of Inero and Company, LLC.

Duane Shoen reviewed the results of the 2023 audit. He stated they had audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Skaneateles for the year ending December 31, 2023. Professional standards require that they provide the Town Board with information about their responsibilities under accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of the audit. He stated they had communicated such information in their commitment letters.

Mr. Shoen reviewed the management comment letter and the communications letter. These are required by auditing standards.

Mr. Shoen stated they had encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing the audit. Budget Officer Keri Key had done an excellent job and was very accommodating to work with.

Travis Buckley reviewed the Town's revenues and expenses as reported in the Financial Report, as

presented to the Town Board. He reviewed the balances of the reserve funds stating all the Town's funds were healthy in 2023. Mr. Buckley concluded the Town is in a positive position in comparison of assets and expenditure.

Mr. Shoen reviewed the Financial Statement as presented to the Board. He also reviewed the current and future accounting standards. He recommended the Board read the Management Discussion and Analysis Presented in the Financial Statement.

Supervisor Legg and the Town Board thanked Mr. Shoen and Mr. Buckley for their report.

**2023 Town of Skaneateles Audit attached*

City of Syracuse Water Department Request for Lead Agency: Supervisor Legg stated the Board was in receipt of a letter from the City of Syracuse.

Town Attorney Smith reviewed the letter of request. He stated the City of Syracuse Water Department had planned improvements to the public water supply infrastructure in Skaneateles Lake and they are asking for Lead Agency under coordinated review of the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA).

Supervisor Legg stated the letter was written to Don Kasper, Planning Board Chair and he recommended the Board refer the request to the Town of Skaneateles Planning Board. The Town Board agreed.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board referred the request from the City of Syracuse Water Department to the Town of Skaneateles Planning Board.

4355 State Street Road, LLC (Allyn Lodge) Request for 30-Day Waiver- Liquor License Application: Supervisor Legg stated the Town Board was in receipt of a letter from 4355 State Street Road, LLC (Woodbine Group).

Attorney Smith stated, when applying for a liquor license in the State of New York the applicant is required to wait 30 days, but they can ask the municipality to waive the 30-day requirement which is what this request is.

Supervisor Legg stated the request from 4355 State Street Road, LLC, formally The Lodge is a currently operating business, they have just changed management and he would have no problem waiving the 30-day waiting period. The Town Board agreed.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board waived the 30-day waiting period for the New York State Liquor Authority application for 4355 State Street Road, LLC.

Andrews Road Water Tower: Town Engineer Robinson reviewed with the Board the options for the water tower that would be installed for the Andrews Road Water District. She reviewed the

three tank options. The modular tank would be a higher cost up-front with lower costs for operation and maintenance. The cost of this tank would be approximately \$1.8 million. The multi-column elevated tank would have lower upfront costs with higher operation and maintenance costs. This tank would be approximately \$700,000 but would require painting every 15-20 years. The painting costs currently are \$1.2 million. The third option would be the Pedosphere Elevated Tank. This tank has a sleek design with the same operation and maintenance costs with painting required every 15-20 years and the up-front cost would be \$900,000.

Engineer Robinson stated she had gotten the price for the tank's maintenance and painting from OCWA. Councilor Alexander asked what the size of the tanks are. Ms. Robinson stated these tanks have a 150,000-gallon capacity.

Councilor Dove asked how this cost fits into the total project budget? Ms. Robinson stated the cost estimate from C&S was around \$700,000 in the original map, plan, and report. This plan was in 2016. Ms. Robinson stated this was just an estimate at the time and increases were taken into consideration with the final estimates.

Councilor Alexander asked if there were any new cost estimates since 2016? Engineer Robinson stated the numbers in 2016 were estimated and increases were figured into the budget.

Councilor Alexander stated she would need to see some professional estimators' numbers on the project since the estimated cost was so old. She would need these cost estimates before any decision could be made. The projected costs were given to the residents, and she would not want it to cost a lot more.

Supervisor Legg stated the difference in the tanks is the life cycle costs. The bond for the project would be 30 years. The modular fused glass tank would be at the higher up-front cost which would be rolled into the bond. The other tanks the painting and maintenance costs would have to be budgeted for over the 15–20-year maintenance cycle of the tank. The amount would still have to be on the water district residents, either in the bond payment or yearly in taxes.

Councilor Alexander stated the Village has a multi-column elevated tank, so they could get an estimate of the maintenance costs from the Village. She stated the Board should do their due diligence before making a decision and get more information. The Board should also get updated costs on the entire project.

Engineer Robinson stated she was tasked to produce the costs of the tanks and their maintenance. She reviewed the spread sheet she had prepared with the cost of the tanks and the maintenance costs. The Town could save for the maintenance costs or bond for the estimated cost. The per year cost for multi-column elevated tank for the tank and to save for the painting and maintenance would be \$83,333.33. This cost would be paid only by the water customers.

The Board reviewed the options. Supervisor Legg stated the modular tank option would be able to be added on to for additional capacity the other two options would not be able to and a new tower or structure would have to be added.

Councilor Alexander stated she would like to get the maintenance costs from the Village. And a new cost estimate for the entire project.

Engineer Robinson stated C&S would give new estimated costs when the design is complete. Councilor Alexander stated she is concerned with misrepresenting the cost to the residents and coming back and largely increasing the estimates. We should not make the decision on the water tank till we see how this would impact the water customers.

Attorney Smith asked what are the towers that OCWA would recommend. Engineer Robinson stated OCWA does not build many tanks, they acquire existing tanks, but they would recommend the higher cost modular design. It is low maintenance and has a longer life estimate.

The Board agreed to get more data before they make a decision on the water tank design.

Land and Development Rights Acquisition Fund proposal for the Finger Lakes Land Trust Shotwell Brook/Skaneateles Gateway Conservation Project: Supervisor Legg reviewed the Finger Lakes Land Trust request for consideration of funding the Shotwell Brook Gateway Conservation Project. He stated Karen Barkdull had presented a very thorough report to the Town Board regarding guidance to the Board to determine candidates for consideration of financial assistance to preserve and protect open space/agricultural land in keeping with the Town's desire to sustain the Town's rural character and provide additional measures to protect Skaneateles Lake, the unfiltered drinking water for the Town, Village, and City of Syracuse.

There is currently \$330,737 in the Development Rights Acquisition Fund (DRA Fund) that was collected from property owners who have nonconforming lots that are unable to meet the maximum impermeable surface coverage as required in the zoning code. The fund was established in 2007 to provide relief to the property owners.

The Open Space Committee was approached by Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) to participate in the potential procurement of land in Skaneateles that would be purchased by FLLT to manage in conservation. The Open Space Committee met two times to review the property under consideration that was recommended by FLLT.

The committee met with a goal to determine if the property met the criteria for protection under the use of Town land preservation funds. Through the analysis they concluded that the property presented warranted consideration by the Town Board for funding support.

Supervisor Legg reviewed the previous contributions the Town had made for conservation easements. The property in question is located in the Dunning Tract, adjacent to the Town conservation property on Route 20, east of the Village.

Councilor Alexander spoke for the Open Space Committee; she stated this property is more valuable to the Town in a conservation easement since it is adjacent to conservation land the Town currently owns. This conservation easement would protect a major tributary to Skaneateles Lake, Shotwell Brook, from development. There were a lot of positive responses from the committee to support this contribution of funds. The property would be opened up for hiking to the community.

Councilor Alexander stated the Finger Lakes Land Trust is asking for \$50,000 in support of this project. This is a very reasonable request for the contribution to this project. Supervisor Legg stated this is a small investment for a huge return to the community.

Supervisor Legg and Councilor Alexander reviewed the location map of the project. Councilor Tucker also reviewed the mapped area and stated he recommended the Town support this project.

The Board agreed.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board approved the recommendation of the Open Space Committee to contribute \$50,000, of the Land and Development Rights Acquisition Fund to the Finger Lakes Land Trust Shotwell Brook/Skaneateles Gateway Conservation Project to purchase a public access conservation easement.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

Parks Project Meeting – June 20, 2024, at the Skaneateles Fire Department at 7:00pm: Supervisor Legg announced the Town Board would hold an informational meeting on the Parks Project on June 20th at 7:00 at the Skaneateles Fire Department.

Northern Hamlet Committee Meeting Review: Supervisor Legg reported on the Northern Hamlet Committee Meeting. The final Draft Northern Hamlet Master Plan was reviewed. Comments were presented. The public comment period would be kept open until July 31st after that the Board would review the draft plan.

Town Departments closed Juneteenth – June 19, 2024: Supervisor Legg announced all Town departments, including the Transfer Station would be closed on June 19, 2024, in observance of Juneteenth.

Skaneateles Recreational Charitable Trust Letter: Supervisor Legg announced a letter was received from the Skaneateles Recreational Trust regarding the Community Center and the use of the Community Center access road.

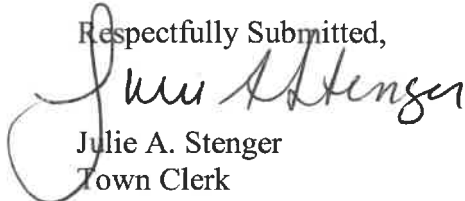
Public Comment: No Comments

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to attorney advice at 8:00 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting returned to open session at 10:00 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk