

Town Board Meeting
September 23, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Zoom: Meeting Id: Passcode:

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

Present via Zoom: Councilor Alexander.

Also, Present (In Person): Scott Brothers, Deborah Dawson, Tessi Spearing, Jean Clayborn, Debbie Carlson, Diane Mueller, Alan Briggs.

Also, Present (via Zoom): Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Keri Fey, Brian Buff, Chris Buff, Sue Murphy, Paula Powell.

Supervisor Legg stated Councilor Alexander is eligible to participate and vote. Councilor Alexander is not present due to a medical procedure which qualifies her to vote under the Town of Skaneateles Video Conferencing Law.

Minutes of September 9, 2024: On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of September 9, 2024, were accepted as presented.

Abstract #24-17: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Dove, and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers were authorized from the following funds:

General:	\$ 41,028.69	Highway:	\$ 8,612.81
HWY PT:	\$ 7,169.96	Part Town:	\$ 6,541.94
Water:	\$ 21,627.66	T&A	\$ 10,314.89
Sewer:	\$ 1,956.59	Limeledge:	\$ 662.28

Total: \$ 97,914.82

2025 Townwide Reassessment Project Update: Michael Maxwell of Maxwell Appraisals reviewed the status of the 2025 Townwide Reassessment Project. Mr. Maxwell reviewed the assessment equations for farmland and agricultural exemptions. He reviewed some of the current sales and why the equalization rate is as low as it is. The current sales are well above the current assessed values.

Mr. Maxwell reviewed the following:

Work Progress:

1. Have completed the cost and land tables for the Town properties.
2. Have set up comparable neighborhoods for the comp selection.
3. Will start field review this week for the non-Skaneateles school District properties.

4. Continue to see the sale prices on homes in the village spiral upward.
5. 6 Ramble Wood sold for \$1,695,000.
6. Sales in the village are extremely high when compared to any other part of the town.

Mr. Maxwell reviewed the Village sales as compared to the current assessments and the equalization adjustments. He stated the older the sale the inflation is upwards of 50%. He gave an example of a house that sold for \$100,000 in 2018 when adjusted over time the sale would have increased over 50% in 2024. The time adjusted selling price is what he would be using as comparables.

Councilor Dove stated she would be working with Mr. Maxwell on getting educational material on the Reassessment Project out to the public.

The Board thanked Mr. Maxwell for the update.

Chedy Hampson Charitable Fund Donation: Supervisor Legg announced the Town of Skaneateles received a \$6,000 donation from the Chedy Hampson Charitable Fund.

Councilor Alexander stated the gift was made specifically for the Guppy & Beaver Trails, to be used for projects and maintenance in the Skaneateles Conservation Area.

Supervisor Legg read the attached letter.

Councilor Alexander stated the funds will be used specifically for the Guppy & Beaver Trails. The Conservation Committee must approve the project to use these funds. The committee would present the project to Mr. Hampson.

The first project will be the Eagle Scout project by Kevin Torissi. Councilor Alexander stated they are really excited and extremely grateful for this funding for the Conservation Areas.

On a motion of Councilor Milne seconded by Councilor Dove, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board accepted the \$6,000 donation from the Chedy Hampson Charitable Fund for the Town of Skaneateles Conservation Areas.

Seniors of Skaneateles Memorandum of Understanding: Supervisor Legg stated the Board was in receipt of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Seniors of Skaneateles. Supervisor Legg reviewed the agreement that stated:

"This Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the Town of Skaneateles (the "Town") and Seniors of Skaneateles as of September 23, 2024 ("Effective Date"). The Town and Seniors of Skaneateles may also be identified in this Agreement as a "Party" or, collectively, as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, Seniors of Skaneateles is an independent club organized and managed by its own

mission statement, by-laws, and board of officers.

WHEREAS, *the Parties wish to enter into an arrangement whereby the Town serves as a pass-through for grants & donations to be received and held with the Town Budget Office to allow Seniors of Skaneateles to receive the benefit of the Town's tax-exempt status & eligibility to receive grants and funding."*

Supervisor Legg read and reviewed the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

Jean Clayborne, Vice President of the Seniors of Skaneateles asked the Board about changes to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. She asked the Board if there could be members of the organization outside the Skaneateles Area, and if so, would it hurt their opportunities for funding and grants.

Supervisor Legg stated it was the fiscal responsibility of the Board to spend taxpayers' money in support of Skaneateles residents. This MOU references the Bylaws, and the Bylaws can be amended as need and still approve the MOU.

Councilor Alexander stated she had discussed this with the Seniors and Town Attorney Brody Smith, and the Seniors could still apply for grants and funding through the County and the State even with non-resident members. Many other Town's Senior organizations currently do this with no issues. She did not see this as a conflict, most of the non-resident members were former Skaneateles residents. Taxpayer dollars are not funding this group, they are funded through their own dues and fund raising.

Jean Clayborne thanked the Town Board and the Seniors for pulling this group together.

On a motion of Councilor Dove seconded by Councilor Milne, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized Supervisor Legg to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Seniors of Skaneateles.

Lauder Lane Request: Supervisor Legg stated the Board was in receipt of a request from Alan Briggs and the residents of Lauder Lane for the Town to consider taking over Lauder Lane. If it were a Town Road, the Town Highway Department would plow and maintain the road.

Alan Briggs addressed the Board and stated he was asking the Board on behalf of the Skaneateles Meadows subdivision for the Town to consider taking over Lauder Lane, currently a private road and make it a public road.

Supervisor Legg stated the Board was in receipt of the final approvals of the Planning Board for the subdivision. The approvals stated the road was to be built to Town and emergency vehicle specifications. The road was built to these specifications.

Deborah Dawson, president of the Lauder Lane HOA, stated the HOA is fairly new and they would like an answer as quickly as possible. They will need to budget accordingly if the road remains private.

Supervisor Legg stated they had preliminary conversations with the Town Highway Superintendent, Tim Dobrovosky. He is currently out of Town. The Board stated they would like to talk to Mr. Dobrovosky before the Board made a decision.

Supervisor Legg stated Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky was not in favor of making this a Town road due to the plowing schedule and size of the road.

The Board decided to table the decision till the next meeting when Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky would be present.

Schedule Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law B of 2024 “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy” : Supervisor Legg stated New York State Property tax levy growth will again be capped at 2% for 2025 for local governments that operate on a calendar-based fiscal year. The Tentative Budget is currently over that 2% increase. The Board is not sure if it will be over 2% when the budget is finalized, the goal is still not to exceed the tax cap, but it might have to happen so this is precautionary. The Town has done this in the past.

Supervisor Legg stated the board was in receipt of a draft Introductory Local Law B of 2024- “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law”. The Law requires the Town Board to adopt the Local Law by over 60% of the Town Board to allow for the tax levy to exceed the New York State tax cap .

Supervisor Legg stated the calculation for this tax cap is difficult. This year’s amount allowed would not cover the water district that would now be on those parcels located within the Town’s consolidated water district. This is only if we exceed the 2% tax cap after the Board has completed their review of the 2025 budget. The majority of Towns in Onondaga County are faced with the same challenge and have already passed their local law.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Milne and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board scheduled a Public Hearing for October 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. regarding Introductory Local Law B of 2023- “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law.”

Re-submit Request to Lower Speed Limit on County Line Road from Old Seneca to Route 20: Supervisor Legg stated Town Clerk Stenger had been in communication with the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the request submitted in 2022 to lower the speed limit on County Line Road from Franklin Street to Route 20. The NYS DOT stated the request from 2022 was not going to be approved and the Town should resubmit the request since there had been more accidents at the intersections of Franklin and County Line and Route 20 and County Line Roads.

The Board agreed.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Milne and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized the Town Clerk to submit the request to the

New York State Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit on County Line Road from Franklins Street to Route 20.

Village/Town Parking Violations Bureau: Supervisor Legg stated the Board was in receipt of a request from the Village of Skaneateles to create a “Parking Violations Bureau”.

Attorney Smith explained that the Village of Skaneateles is considering a Local Law to create a “Parking Violations Bureau”. The Board of Trustees has determined that it is necessary to establish a Parking Violations Bureau to efficiently adjudicate parking violations within the Village. This Local Law would be to enact pursuant to the authority of Article 14-B of the General Municipal Law. It is the intent of the Village Board of Trustees to relieve the Justice Court of the Town of Skaneateles of administrative burdens in connection with the collection of fines for parking violation offenses. This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority of Article 14-B of the General Municipal Law, as amended. The Town would have to be in cooperation with the Village to enact this proposed local law.

He explained that if parking violations were issued the violation would go to this bureau and not to the Justice Court. The procedure is in the State guidelines that were presented to the Board.

There is lot of procedure to this local law. Currently parking violations do not go to the court and this procedure would be put in place to be able to act on these violations outside the court. This would streamline the payment of fines and relieve the court from prosecuting these violations in person. If the Board is interested in pursuing, he could draft a local law for the Town Board to consider.

Councilor Dove asked if the Village had spoken to the Town Justices. Supervisor Legg stated no, the Village had not spoken to the Justices.

The Board agreed to speak to the Town Court. Attorney Smith stated he would have a conversation with the Town Justices.

The Board agreed to consider this local law with the agreement of the Town Justice Court.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

Andrews Water District Update: Supervisor Legg announced he had met at the site with C&S Engineers and Allan Wellington, representing the property owner. They reviewed where the water tower and pump station would be. They met with the loggers who would be clearing the land, and the site work would be moving forward in October.

No Parking Mill Road: Supervisor Legg announced the Planning Board approved the application from John Menapace for an event center on the property that collocates with Last Shot Distillery and the Skaneateles Brewery. One of the conditions of the Planning Board is that there is to be no parking on Mill Road. He asked the Board if they should consider changing the Town’s local law to have No Parking on either side of Mill Road. The Planning Board would like the Board to consider this.

Councilor Alexander asked how would this “No Parking” be enforced? And if the property owner did not abide by this, would they be in violation of the conditions of their Special Permit, and could their permit be revoked? Parking there is a problem.

Supervisor Legg stated that the existing Local Law is that cars would be towed at the vehicle owner’s expense.

Attorney Smith stated the Town would have to coordinate with the Onondaga County Sheriffs, or the Town could contract with a towing company.

Supervisor Legg stated he would investigate contracting with a towing company and have a conversation with Sherriff’s Department.

Councilor Alexander stated she wanted a clear way to enforce this “No Parking”.

Harmful Algal Blooms - From Research to Mitigation: Sharing the latest updates for Skaneateles Lake- Wednesday October 9th at The Lodge 4355 State Street: Supervisor Legg stated here would be a program held by the Cornell Cooperation Extension regarding Harmful Algal Blooms. He encouraged anyone to attend.

Skaneateles Fire Department Thank You Letter: Councilor Dove announced the Fire Department thanked the Town Board for their support of the Fireman’s Labor Day Field Days.

Swap Shop update – The Swap Shop will continue on Saturdays through October 26th weather permitting: Supervisor Legg announced the Swap Shop would be open on Saturdays through October 26th, weather permitting.

Upcoming Town Board Special/ Budget Meetings: 9/24, 10/01, 10/08, 10/15 at 3:30 p.m. (October 1, 2024 accept 2025 Tentative Budget and Employment Update): Supervisor Legg announced the scheduled Town Board Budget meetings, and the Board would accept the 2025 Tentative Budget on October 1, 2024.

Public Comment: Chris Buff, Sheldon Road stated that Emily Young had done a phenomenal job with the Community Garden this year and she would like to update the Board at the next Town Board meeting. She thanked the Board for their concerns on the Mill Road parking issue.

Scott Brothers, Mottville Road also thanked the Board for their concerns on the Mill Road parking. He asked if there could be more signage for the no parking law that is in place now. The current signage could be improved.

Supervisor Legg stated that John Menapace has put yellow tape between the no parking signs which has helped. Councilor Dove stated John Menapace is working on an agreement with Skaneateles Excavation for overflow parking.

Mr. Brothers asked when the next Hamet Committee would be scheduled. Supervisor Legg stated they are working on some clarifications to the plan and the mapping. Once this is completed, they would schedule the next meeting.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Milne and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Attorney Advice at 7:25 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Milne and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk