

**Town Board Meeting**

**March 20, 2023**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Zoom:** Meeting ID: 869 6036 9302    Passcode: 718235

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

**Also, Present (via Zoom):** Paula Powell, Brian Buff, Sue Murphy, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Aimie Case, Dessa Bergan, Hillary Fenner, Cassandree Schwalm.

**Also, Present:** Michael Major.

Supervisor Aaron read the following statement regarding instances of vandalism that had occurred over the weekend at Austin Park, the Charlie Major Nature Trail and in areas through out the Village:

*“The Town of Skaneateles is working with the New York State Police, the Skaneateles Village Police Department, and the Skaneateles School District to investigate acts of vandalism that occurred throughout the town and village late in the evening on 3/17/2023. Investigators were at the Charlie Major Nature Trail today to evaluate more damage that was discovered. Once the temperatures rise to above freezing, the Town Parks Department and Highway Department will be able to finish the clean up on town property.*

*Should anyone have information to share regarding these incidents, please contact the Village Police Department at (315) 685-3819.”*

**Community Service Town of Skaneateles and Skaneateles Town Court:** Supervisor Aaron stated due to the vandalism that had occurred over the weekend in the Town Parks and the Village the topic of Community Service was brought up by the Board. In the past the Town Court had the option of assigning community service in the Parks or at the Transfer Station, but this had not been done in quite some time. When this subject was looked into it was discovered the Town had removed this option since the insurance company at the time did not have coverage for this and the Town Attorney recommended the Town Board not allow community service without insurance coverage. Since then, the Town had changed insurance companies to NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal). The Town has asked NYMIR if this were an option, they would cover but had not received an answer yet. The Town Board would assume there is coverage since NYMIR is a municipal insurance company, and they insure Towns across New York State.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Town Court stated they enthusiastically agreed that this should be an option again. Supervisor Aaron recommended the Board authorize Community Service be allowed for any person(s) before the Court if the Judges deem an appropriate option, subject to the approval of the insurance company (NYMIR) and that the Town Attorney Smith provide the correct waiver for participants.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the authorized the Town of Skaneateles Justice Court to allow for Community Service when deemed appropriate by the Town of Skaneateles Justice Court Judges, subject to the approval of the Town of Skaneateles insurance carrier (NYMIR) and a signed waiver as provide by the Town Attorney.

**Recognition of the Skaneateles Boys Highschool Hockey Team State Champions:** Supervisor Aaron announced the Skaneateles High school boys hock team had won the NYS Division II State Championship and she presented the following proclamation in their honor:

**“A Proclamation to Honor the Skaneateles  
Lakers Boys Hockey Team  
2023 Division II State Champions**

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 Skaneateles High School Boys Ice Hockey team won the Division II State Title on March 12, 2023, against Pelham in Buffalo, New York and,

**WHEREAS**, the winning team is made up of the following Players: Sean Kerwick, Trevor Jensen, Braedan Taggart, Andrew Falkenberg, Cullen Heintz, Jack Bobbett, Alex Whitlock, Henry Major, Casey Morrissey, Carter Corbett, Sutton Paro, Ben Patterson, Jack Torrey, Jeffrey McCrone, Andrew Gaglione, Tye Kennedy, Tyler Calkins, Luke Logan, Jack Marquardt, Kaden Rutledge, Asher Kozub, Noah Testa, Addison Taggart, Cole Palmer, Reece Benda, Chad Lowe, Colton McDonald, Michael Blowers, Luke Bobbett, Danny Angelina. And,

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of Head Coach, Mitch Major, who was on the 1989 Lakers team that also won a state championship and, Assistant Coach, Mike Major, who was the Assistant Coach for the 1983 Lakers team that won the State Championship and, Assistant Coach Jeff Bobbett, who played hockey for the Skaneateles Lakers from 1990-1993 and has been an Assistant Coach for 2 decades and, Goal Tender Coach John Ives, for his coaching and encouragement of the Laker Goalies throughout his career at Skaneateles, for leading this team during this outstanding season. And,

**WHEREAS**, these fine young men of varied skills and strengths pulled together to bring home the title and represented their school and community with honor, integrity and a competitive fighting spirit.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles on behalf of all its residents would like to congratulate these young men and their dedicated coaching staff for securing the Title of NY State Division II Champions and thank you for making us a very proud community.

**PRESENTED** by the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles at their regular meeting held on March 20, 2023.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board accepted the Proclamation to Honor the Skaneateles Lakers Boys Hockey Team 2023 Division II State Champions.

**Minutes March 6, 2023:** On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Legg and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of March 6, 2023, were accepted as presented.

**Budget Amendments:** On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following budget amendments:

\$395,000.00	Increase	16204.01.004.44	Building-Contractual Expense-Parks
\$395,000.00	Decrease	909.01.000.011	Unreserved Fund Balance

Transfer of funds from the Sale of the Fennel Street property to cover the cost of the King and King contract and the Blue Scoop contract.

**Abstract #23-05:** On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #22-1833 - #22-1874 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$108,856.13	Highway:	\$ 21,415.37
Water:	\$ 27,654.33	Part Town:	\$ 13,030.09
T&A:	\$ 6,003.77	Highway PT	\$ 17,422.36
Sewer:	\$ 886.42		

**TOTAL: \$194,716.06**

**Rotary Request for use of Austin Pavilion Annual Pancake Breakfast June 14, 2023 – June 19, 2023:** Supervisor Aaron reported on the request from the Skaneateles Rotary Club asking the Town for the use of the Austin Pavilion June 14<sup>th</sup> – June 19<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Father’s Day Pancake Breakfast and to waive the fee for use of Austin Pavilion.

The Town Board and Parks Director Sue Murphy discussed the set up for the event would be different then past years due to the preparation of Austin Pavilion construction project.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board approved the Rotary’s request to use the Austin Pavilion for the annual Father’s Day Pancake Breakfast June 14, 2023, through June 19, 2023 and to waive the fee for the event, subject to working with Sue Murphy, Parks Director for set up due to the preconstruction of the Austin Pavilion Project.

**BlueScope Letter of Intent – Parks Facility and Austin Pavilion Phase I:** Supervisor Aaron reviewed the letter of intend that was presented to the Board from BlueScope. BlueScope reviewed in their letter of intent that they would team with Whalen & Curry and assist King & King Architects for pre-construction services for the Austin Pavilion Phase I project. The fee for these services would not exceed \$18,200.

Councilor Dove asked about the section in the letter that stated:

“Any sketches, preliminary designs or drawings produced for the Town of Skaneateles by BlueScope Construction of Whalen & Curry during the phase and pursuant to this letter of intent are specifically for the sole purpose of BlueScope Construction providing the Pre-Construction

Services of the Parks Facility & Austin Pavilion – Phase I. Any preliminary building design level documents are the sole copyrighted property of BlueScope Construction.”

She asked if this was something the Board should look into. Attorney Smiths stated the Board could push back on this. They could strike it and initial and send it to BlueScope for their approval.

Attorney Smith stated BlueScope is part of Sourcewell, which is a buying cooperative. It is a part of the State of Minnesota, so we are able to piggyback on their bidding and buying programs.

Councilor Alexander stated the intent of the design being property of BlueScope is that they actually do more than what they are charging for and that would be what they were referring to. This would also be the case with Whalen and Curry. This is only a letter of intent, if the Town decided not to go forward they would keep what they had done to that point. The design and drawings from King & King are the Town’s to keep.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized the Supervisor to sign the letter of intent from BlueScope Phase I of the Parks Facility and Austin Pavilion Project for an amount not to exceed \$18,200, subject to the clarification of the “copyrighted property of BlueScope”.

**Guppy Falls Stairs Project Bid Opening:** Supervisor Aaron stated a bid opening was held for the replacement of the Guppy Falls Stairs on March 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and one bid was received:

**Barber Welding:**

Lower Stair System	\$ 42,000
Upper Stair System	\$ 18,000
Sum TOTAL of Lower and Upper Stair System	\$ 60,000

With prevailing wages, it would be an additional \$10,800.

Councilor Alexander stated this was much higher than anticipated. They had only budgeted \$35,000 for this project last year, therefore they would have to increase this amount.

Supervisor Aaron stated Stephen Walczyk of Barber Welding indicated they could look at a different location for the stairs and this might be less expensive.

Councilor Alexander stated she would meet with Barber Welding and have them come to talk to the Conservation Committee for more ideas on location and cost of the stairs.

Attorney Smith stated this bid could be accepted with a change order and they would not have to go out to bid again.

Councilor Alexander stated she would meet with Barber Welding and the Conservation Committee and come back to the Board.

**Map, Plan & Report – Andrews Road Water District:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Board was in receipt of the Map, Plan and Report for the proposed Water District Extension – Water District #6.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Town Water District has 1084 existing customers and 36 new water customers in this proposed district extension. The Onondaga County Health Department informed the Town about 10 years ago that our water system needed improvement in order to meet the Health Department Fire Flow requirements. The Village of Skaneateles’ project improved the fire flow on the East side of the Town and this proposed water tower would achieve an improvement to the fire flow on the West side of Town.

Supervisor Aaron stated the projected cost of the project is \$7.35 Million. The Map, Plan and Report reflects the worst-case scenario for what it will cost our water customers. We are hopeful that we will receive additional funding to reduce the cost to our water customers. We have submitted a NYS Consolidated Funding Application that supports economic development and we have also made application to Congressman Williams for his Community Project Funding. We are hopeful that we will be successful and will continue to look for additional funding opportunities, especially with both the State and Federal Government opening up more opportunities for infrastructure funding.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Map, Plan and Report identifies that an existing customer, on average would have an increase of \$151 a year or \$12.50 per month. New customers would pay \$501 yearly towards the bonding and it is estimated that including their quarterly water bills, the average new customer would pay \$1,020 yearly. Page #6 of the report Item #7 reviews the District Improvement Costs.

Supervisor Aaron stated this requires the Town Board to complete SEQRA, hold a Public Hearing and get the consent of the Village of Skaneateles to move forward.

Attorney Smith reviewed the resolution as presented to the Board.

Councilor Dove stated this is only for water customers outside the Village, in the Town water district only. Supervisor Aaron stated yes, only the Town Water customers would be included and this would be funded by water customers only in the water rates, not tax dollars.

Councilor Legg stated to clarify this project will improve the three items the Town is currently in violation with. Insufficient flow, pressure, and capacity. Until these violations are corrected the Town can not make any extensions to our existing services.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Map, Plan and Report is available on the Town website under “Projects”, for review.

The following resolution was approved by the Board:

## **RESOLUTION**

**OF THE TOWN BOARD  
OF THE TOWN OF SKANEATELES**

**RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING  
REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SKANEATELES  
WATER DISTRICT NO. 6 AND THE ACQUISITION,  
CONSTRUCTION, AND INSTALLATION OF WATER  
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles, New York held at 24 Jordan Street in the Town of Skaneateles, New York on March 20, 2023, the following resolution was offered by Board Member Alexander, who moved its adoption, seconded by Board Member Tucker; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles, New York (the "Town") has caused a map, plan and report (the "Maps and Plans") to be prepared by a licensed engineer in connection with the proposed establishment and improvement of a water district in the Town to be known as Skaneateles Water District No. 6 (the "District"); and

**WHEREAS**, the boundaries of the proposed District are set forth in the attached Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town proposes to acquire, construct and install a water supply and distribution system in the district, including water mains, laterals, valves and hydrants, together with all equipment, machinery or apparatus and land or rights in land required in connection therewith (the "Project"), all as more particularly described in the Maps and Plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum amount proposed to be expended for the Project is \$7,350,000; and

**WHEREAS**, there will be no hook-up fees for properties in the district that initially connect to the system via the services installed to their front property boundaries, but later connections will be charged a fee based on the cost to the Town, estimated at \$1,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the proposed District to the typical property in the district in the first year following formation of the District (or, if greater, the first year in which both principal and interest on indebtedness and operation and maintenance costs will be paid) is estimated to be \$1,020; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the proposed District to the typical existing property outside of the district in the first year following formation of the District (or, if greater, the first year in which both principal and interest on indebtedness and operation and maintenance costs will be paid) is estimated to be \$670; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed method of financing the costs of the Project consists of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and serial bonds of the Town to mature in annual installments

over an estimated term of 30 years, payable in the first instance from assessments levied on benefited real property in the proposed District and benefitted existing real property outside of the district; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the Project and related debt service will be assessed by the Town Board in proportion as nearly as may be to the benefit which each lot or parcel in the district or such existing lot or parcel outside the District will derive therefrom; and

WHEREAS, the Maps and Plans describing the foregoing, including a detailed explanation of how the estimated cost of the district to the typical property was computed, have been filed in the Town Clerk's office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Town Board will hold a public hearing to hear all persons interested in the establishment of the Skaneateles Water District No. \_\_ and the proposed acquisition, construction and installation of the water system improvements, which public hearing shall be held on April 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.; and be it further

RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Town Clerk shall give notice of such hearing by publishing a copy of this resolution in the official Town newspaper, and by posting a certified copy of this resolution on the Town's official signboard, not less than ten nor more than twenty days before such hearing.

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.

**7:00 p.m. Public Hearing – “Introductory Local Law C of 2023 “A Local Law to Strike and Replace Article IX of Chapter 134 of the Town Code of the Town of Skaneateles”:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Board had passed Local Law Local Law 1 of the Year 2023 “A Local Law to Strike and Replace Article IX of Chapter 134 of the Town Code of the Town of Skaneateles.” After the Board had passed this local law, it was brought to the Board’s attention that in § 134-27 (4) the law stated “ The applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service for at least five years.” The Board had received a request for the Skaneateles Fire Department to amend this law to two years of service rather than five. The Skaneateles School district and the Village of Skaneateles passed similar laws with only a two-year service requirement.

Supervisor Aaron stated this was just on oversight by the Town Board and they would like to make the amendment to two years. To amend this Local Law a public hearing would have to be held which was scheduled for this March 20, 2023, Town Board meeting.

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.

Mike Major stated he was in favor of this amendment.

No further comments

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

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Local Law 3 of 2023 “A Local Law to Strike and Replace Article IX of Chapter 134 of the Town Code of the Town of Skaneateles” was accepted as presented.  
\*Local Law attached

**Dairy Water Rates:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Board had previously increased the residential and commercial water rates for the infrastructure portion of the billing. Now the Board is looking at an increase for the dairy rate. The rate increase, for residential and commercial customers was an \$.08 cent increase per 1000 gallons. The dairy rate is \$5.29 per 1000 gallons and the proposed increase would be \$5.37 per 1000 gallons. Councilor Alexander stated this is a 1.15% increase.

Councilor Legg stated this pays for the infrastructure and preventative maintenance for our water customers.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board approved the dairy rate for water to increase from \$5.29 per 1000 gallons to \$5.37 per 1000 gallons.

**Skaneateles Country Club 30-day Municipal Notice for Amendment to Liquor License:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Skaneateles Country Club had applied to the New York State Liquor Authority to amend their liquor license. This amendment would be to allow liquor to be served at the stand on their golf course. Currently the stand offers beer and wine. Part of the application is to ask the municipality if there are any comments.

The Board agreed they had no comment.

**Occupancy Tax Home Rule Request:** Supervisor Aaron reported the Occupancy Tax request had been introduced by Senator May in the New York State Senate. They are continuing their efforts to get it introduced in the New York State Assembly, then the Board would need to have a resolution once it is passed in the Assembly to identify that we would like the State Legislature to consider this during this session. There is no action for the Board take at this time.



Supervisor Aaron stated this 5% tax would be charged to the users of the hotel facilities in the Town of Skaneateles and would go to support services in the Town. Councilor Alexander stated the Town of Skaneateles no longer received sales tax from Onondaga County and this revenue would help with the Town and the services it provides its residents. Supervisor Aaron stated this is a way to support our taxpayers from footing the bill from the tourism in the Town of Skaneateles. This will be especially helpful for the capital improvements planned for the Parks.

### Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

- *Shoreline Committee Update:* Councilor Tucker announced the Shoreline Committee had scheduled an informational meeting on the updated Shoreline Regulations – March 29, 2023, at 7:00p.m.

- *Hamlet Committee Update:* Councilor Legg updated the Board on the Hamlet Committee's meeting. They reviewed the Hamlet zoning with EDR and the density. There are areas within the larger study area that have nonconforming lots, homes that were built previously and would not be allowed now. This changes the characteristics of the neighborhood. Just north of the Village on Jordan Road there are homes that tend to match the density that are in the Hamlets or the Village. He stated the Hamlet Committee discussed the possibilities in this area and other area in the Hamlets with regards to the current zoning.

Councilor Alexander announced the dugouts at the Park, are in process and are moving along great.

Councilor Dove announced the Town is holding a, all department cyber security meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the Town Hall on April 11, 2023.


**Public Comment: Dessa Bergan:** Ms. Bergan asked if the Board had passed the Solar Moratorium. Supervisor Aaron stated the Board passed the moratorium at the March 6, 2023 Town Board meeting.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to attorney advice at 7:30 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Dove the meeting returned to open session at 8:15 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Legg the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger  
Town Clerk