

**Town Board Meeting**

**October 7, 2024**

**5:15 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 846 1289 2790 Passcode: 502470**

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

**Executive Session:** On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 5:15 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting returned to open session at 6:30 p.m.

**Also, Present (In Person):** Tim Dobrovosky, Keri Fey, Scott Brothers, Janet Aaron, Sue Murphy, Mike Card, Emily Young, Allan Briggs.

**Also, Present (via Zoom):** Karen Barkdull, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Robert Herrmann, Rick Keys, Brian Buff, Paula Powell.

**Tribute to James “Skinny” Greenfield:** Supervisor Legg announced James “Skinny” Greenfield had passed away. Jim had been on the Town Board for 8 years and had served as Deputy Supervisor.

Previous Town Supervisor Janet Aaron read the following:

*“I remember in 2007 when Jim was asked to run for Town Board. To put it mildly, he was reluctant. Jim, better known as Skinny, was never afraid of working hard, he just didn’t know if politics was his thing. He easily won that election, receiving the most votes. Decisions during his years of service were especially hard. Zoning and mining decisions dominated his first couple of years. In 2008 the US faced its worst financial crisis and challenges then included trying to reduce the financial impact on our citizens including decisions on the dispatch, community center and a reorganization of the Transfer Station. Everyone knew if you gave a job to Jim, he would get it done, so he was usually given the toughest assignments. He worked hard, was effective and made a difference. He listened. He took time to build relationships with all departments and employees and that is why he was trusted, and an effective peacemaker. He had common sense. He was humble. Anyone underestimating Jim would quickly realize they misjudged his capabilities.*

*Jim served as Deputy to Terri Roney for the 4 years she served as Supervisor. When Terri decided not to run for re-election in 2009, Jim was once again was asked to step up and run. With 2 years left in his Town Councilor term, it took a bit of arm twisting, but he finally agreed. Jim lost by just a few votes. Jim’s true character showed through. He knew he was elected to do a job so true to form, he did it by showing respect for Supervisor Sennett and the Board. How many of us could have done the same? The Board found Jim a very valuable member. Councilor Brace said at*

*Jim's last meeting that "he doesn't say much but works behind the scenes to make things happen." Truer words could not have been said.*

*But for me, one of the greatest gifts Jim Greenfield gave me was agreeing to be my Deputy when I was elected Supervisor in 2017. Jim had been off the Board for 2 years and honestly, I know he was glad to be retired from politics. But I knew Jim was the one person I needed and could trust to help advance some of the important projects I wanted to achieve. He said yes, when I knew it was the last thing he wanted to do. I wanted to unite the municipalities on the watershed to work together on the protection of the lake. Jim and I would travel to Towns on the watershed and meet with other Town Supervisors to talk to them about forming this partnership. Because of Jim, we were successful in forming the Skaneateles Watershed Municipal Partnership with Towns and Village in the Watershed, the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County Soil and Water and Onondaga County Cooperative Extension and government and organizational partners. It is a group that still meets regularly to share information and ideas. A website was created that is still used today to provide data with the goal to bring the most up to date information regarding the Skaneateles Lake Watershed. In addition, and perhaps the best gift, was Jim stopping in my office to catch up, see what was going on and where he could help. This was quintessential, Jim Greenfield.*

*But as important and time-consuming his work was with the Town; it was only part of his contribution to our community. His love of the land and farming, his love of the lake and the importance of preserving his family's legacy and the Greenfield name was of utmost importance to him. He was the oldest of his siblings and felt an added responsibility.*

*In 1992 Jim was one of seven founding fathers of the City of Syracuse's Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agriculture Program. He and the other 6 members went farm to farm across the 37,000+ acre watershed and successfully convinced 60 farms to participate. He continued to advocate for this program by traveling to Albany to educate and answer questions from elected officials. For 2 years Jim also represented Greenfield Farms in the Owasco Lake Stakeholders Group. Jim met with many local groups to explain farm operations and best farm management practices implemented by farms in the watershed. Jim would often say at meetings that topsoil was their most valuable commodity, they wanted it to stay on the land, not in the lake.*

*Through the efforts of Jim and his brothers, Bill and Tom and his nephew TJ, Greenfield Farms has been recognized with many awards. In 2004 they were recognized as the Conservation Farm of the Year by the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District, in 2010 they were awarded the Environmental Steward of the Year by the City of Syracuse's Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program. In 2017 Jim was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agriculture Program.*

*In 2022 Jim, Bill, Tom, and TJ/Greenfield Farms were presented with the very prestigious Leopold Award, that honors farmers and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land. This was a very proud day for Jim and his family.*

*If Jim Greenfield considered you a friend, you were the lucky one. He was always the first one there if you needed anything. The first one to offer help. The town and our community is a better place because of Jim Greenfield."*

Supervisor Legg and the Board thanked Janet Aaron for her tribute and asked for a moment of silence for James "Skinny" Greenfield.

### **Department Reports**

**Highway:** Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky submitted his report to the Board for their review. He reported the Highway Department had paved cross culverts on Gully Road, aided Marcellus with chip sealing, worked on roadside mowing and weed eating, did ditching and shouldering, helped the Water and Parks Departments, did repair work, and made a snowplow turn around on Reynolds Road.

**Transfer Station:** Municipal Recycling Liaison Brian Buff reported the Transfer Station had sent out 12 loads of trash, 7 open top containers and 5 loads of recycling. He reviewed the cost and savings comparisons to date. \* Report attached.

**Planning and Zoning:** Planning and Zoning Secretary Karen Barkdull reported there were 6 new applications for the Planning Board. She reviewed the open projects Baxter, Foote and Lakelawn. \* September Report attached.

Other activities included 5 pre-application meetings, P&Z meeting, a Shoreline Committee work session and a Lighting and Signage Committee work session.

**Codes:** Codes Officer Herrmann reviewed the September Codes Office report. He reported they have 62 expired permits at this time.

Codes Officer Herrmann announced this week in October is Fire Prevention week and reminded all to check smoke detectors and home exit plans in case of an emergency. \*September Codes Report attached

**Parks:** Parks Manager Sue Murphy welcomed Tim Lewis to the Parks Department. The Farmers Market will be ending next week, and they are cleaning up the parks for the approaching Fall and Winter.

**Water:** Supervisor Legg reported the monthly coliform testing had been completed and came back from the lab with negative results and these results were submitted to the Department of Health. The HAB season is ending and there had been no Harmful Algae detected in the intake pipes.

The Water Department would be doing maintenance on the Northern PRV Valve, and the Department would let any residents know if there would be any disruptions.

**Budget:** Budget Officer Keri Fey reported they are preparing the 2025 Budget with the Board and department heads.

**Fire Department:** Councilor Dove reviewed the Skaneateles Fire Department September report.  
\*Report attached.

**Community Garden:** Supervisor Legg introduced Emily Young. Emily took over the Community Garden at the Conservation Area from Chris Buff this year and was here to report on the success of the Garden.

Emily stated they had a good season at the Community Garden. All the produce grown is donated to the local Food Pantry and they are completely funded by donations. They installed a solar powered water pump system that is working well. This helped with the ability to water all the planting beds. The volunteers have grown, and they continue to work with the local Scouting Troops.

Chris Buff stated Emily had done a great job at the Community Garden and thanked her.

The Board agreed and also thanked Emily.

**Minutes of September 23, 2024:** On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Dove, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of September, were accepted as presented.

**Abstract #24-18: :** On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Milne and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers were authorized from the following funds:

General:	\$ 46,693.25	Highway:	\$ 727.50
Water:	\$ 18,885.97	Sewer:	\$ 817.68
Part Town:	\$ 6,810.17	T&A	\$ 678.47
Hwy PT:	\$ 247.34	Lighting:	\$ 584.03
Total:	\$75,444.41		

**Agreement for the Expenditures of Highway Monies 2024 Amendment:** Supervisor Legg stated the Board was in receipt of an Amendment to the 2024 Expenditures of Highway Funds. The amendment was to remove Giles Road.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Tucker the 2024 Amended Agreement between the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Skaneateles, Onondaga County, New York, pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law was approved.  
\*Agreement attached

**Lauder Lane Request:** Supervisor Legg stated a request had been received from Allan Briggs regarding Lauder Lane. He had requested the Town Board to make Lauder Lane a Town road.

Supervisor Legg stated Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky was not in favor of dedicating Lauder Lane as a Town Road and the Board had agreed. Snow plowing would be difficult due to the size of the road and the turnaround.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove, the Town Board agreed to deny the request from Allan Briggs to take over Lauder Lane as a Town Road.

**7:00 p.m. Public Hearing Introductory Local Law B of 2024 “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy”:** Supervisor Legg stated proposed Introductory Local Law B of 2024 had to do with overriding the tax levy limit, established by section 3C of New York General Municipal Law. Several years ago, New York State put a tax cap rate requirement on local governments stating their budgets had to be within the percentage that was outlined by the state. The Board is trying to keep the percentage under 2%, but with the increase in costs this could be difficult. He stated they are still in the process of working on the budget before it goes to a public hearing on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board opened the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law C of 2024 - “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law”.

No Comments

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board closed the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law C of 2024 - “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law”.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board adopted Local Law 2 of 2024 - “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law”.

**Introductory Local Law C of 2024 “No Parking on Mill Road in the Town of Skaneateles”:** Supervisor Legg stated the Board was in receipt of proposed Introductory Local Law C of 2024 “No Parking on Mill Road in the Town of Skaneateles.

Attorney Smith reviewed the amended law. He stated that the no parking would be heading north on Mill Road starting at Old Seneca Turnpike ending at 1,525 feet. Beginning again at 1,750 feet, ending at 2,200 feet from Old Seneca Turnpike.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board scheduled the public hearing for proposed Local Law C of 2024 “No Parking on Mill Road in the Town of Skaneateles” on October 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**Schedule Public Hearing 2025 Budget – November 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.:** On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, The Town Board scheduled the Town of Skaneateles 2025 Budget Public Hearing on November 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

**Maple Harvest Industrial Wind Turbine Opposing Resolution:** Supervisor Legg stated he had been contacted by the Towns of Tully, Otisco and Lafayette to support the resolution opposing Maple Harvest Industrial Wind Turbine Project.

Supervisor Legg reviewed the project. He stated it was a large wind energy project named Maple Harvest, consisting of 24 to 27 industrial wind turbines and associated infrastructure, being considered in the Towns of Lafayette, Otisco and Tully; and each individual turbine may be up to 680 feet tall and located on hills which are at least 700 feet higher in elevation than surrounding valleys; and the erection of wind turbines such as proposed would violate many municipal zoning regulations. While the municipalities recognize the potential benefits of renewable energy, the current permitting procedures under the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) superseded the ability of municipalities to regulate land use decisions and directly address potential harmful environmental, social, and economic impacts of such a project.

The Board agreed with Supervisor Legg and the resolution as presented.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized the Town Supervisor to sign the following resolution:

### **RESOLUTION OPPOSING INDUSTRIAL WIND PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, a large wind energy project named Maple Harvest, consisting of 24 to 27 industrial wind turbines and associated infrastructure, is being considered in the Towns of Lafayette, Otisco and Tully; and

**WHEREAS**, each individual turbine may be up to 680 feet tall and located on hills which are at least 700 feet higher in elevation than surrounding valleys; and

**WHEREAS**, erection of wind turbines such as proposed would violate many municipal zoning regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, while the undersigned municipalities recognize the potential benefits of renewable energy, the current permitting procedures under the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES)

supersede the ability of municipalities to regulate land use decisions and directly address potential harmful environmental, social, and economic impacts of such a project; and

**WHEREAS**, similar projects may occur in any municipality in New York.

**NOW, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 7 day of October 2024, the Towns noted below in the County of Onondaga, State of New York that:

1. The undersigned oppose the current ORES regulations that usurp the ability of local municipalities to regulate land use decisions in their communities, thereby effectively overriding Home Rule; and
2. We stand in solidarity with the Towns of Otisco, Tully and Lafayette in opposing the erection and operation of large commercial wind turbines in their communities, along with the associated large transmission lines necessary to connect the turbines to the electrical grid; and
3. We urge relevant county, state, and federal authorities to engage in transparent and collaborative discussions to once again allow municipalities, instead of the state Office of Renewable Energy Siting, to make land use decisions within their jurisdictions; and
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The adoption of the foregoing Resolution was moved by Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Chris Legg	Voting	Aye
Courtney Alexander	Voting	Aye
Sue Dove	Voting	Aye
Mark Tucker	Voting	Aye
Lori Milne	Voting	Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**Schedule Reassessment Information Meeting:** Supervisor Legg stated the Town Board had been in an ongoing education process for the Town Wide Reassessment. The Board had agreed to schedule a public information meeting with the State of New York Real Property and Town property owners.

Councilor Dove stated the reassessment information is getting out to the public. There was a good article in the Skaneateles Press and the Town Board will be sending out an article in the Town Newsletter this month.

Councilor Dove suggested scheduling a public meeting in November with representatives from the New York State Department of Real Property. She stated questions would be accepted prior to the meeting and could be submitted to the State representatives in advance.

The Board agreed to try and schedule a Public Informational Meeting in November regarding the Reassessment Project.

**Announcements/Correspondence/Updates**

***Town Departments Hours October – December:*** Supervisor Legg stated the Town Board was in receipt of a request from the Employees to use their floating holiday. Since Christmas falls on a Wednesday this year the Town Hall employees requested the use of their floating holiday for December 24, 2024.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized December 24, 2024 to be used by the Town employees as their floating holiday.

Supervisor Legg reviewed the following Town Departments schedule:

**Town Department Schedules October – December**

- October 14, 2024      Town Departments Closed – Indigenous People Day
- November 11, 2024    Town Departments Closed – Veterans Day
- December 24, 2024    Christmas Eve – Floating Holiday
- December 25, 2024    Town Departments Closed - Christmas

***Harmful Algal Blooms – From Research to Mitigation: Wednesday, October 9th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at The Lodge, Register at <https://www.skanlakeinfo.org/> link is on the Town calendar:*** Supervisor Legg encouraged the Town Board and community members to attend the Cornell Cooperative Extension’s “Harmful Algal Blooms – From Research to Mitigation: Wednesday, October 9th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at The Lodge”.

***Welcome to Tim Lewis - hired in Parks Department and Frank Lessaongang started in the Water Department***

***Weather permitting, the Swap Shop will continue Saturdays to end the season on October 26<sup>th</sup>.***

***With hunting season started, a reminder that hunting activity may occur at our public conservation areas and private lands.***

***Comp Alliance Loyalty Award Program:*** Supervisor Legg stated the Town Board received a Loyalty Award check from Comp Alliance for \$1,266.

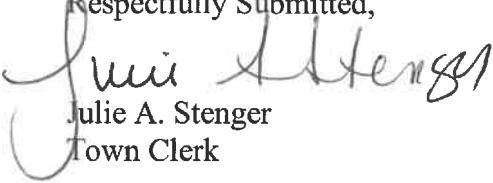
Councilor Alexander updated the Board on Kevin Torsi’s Eagle Scout project at the Conservation Area.

**Public Comment:** Town Engineer Robinson stated she is happy to be back after her maternity leave. She updated the Board on the progress of the water at the lodge and the Village Meadows project.



On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Julie A. Stenger  
Town Clerk