

Town Board Meeting
January 3, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Zoom: Meeting ID: 876 1505 0894 Passcode: 996208

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

Also, Present (via Zoom): Kim Perrse, Pete Babbles, Keri Fey, Miranda Robinson, Bridgett Winkelman, Paula Powell, Bob Herrmann, Brian Buff, Chris Buff, Jason Gabak, Kathy Beyers, Ronald Walsh, Samuel Pruyn, Beth Battle, Jorge Battle, Sue Murphy, Bob Eggleston, Kim Benda, Joe O'Hara, David Ketchum, Mike Carberry.

Highway & Water: Supervisor Aaron welcomed newly elected Highway Superintendent Tim Dobrovosky. Highway Superintendent stated all was going well so far. He was working with the Highway crew and Town Hall to learn his new position.

Transfer Station: Municipal Recycling Liaison/Refuse Officer Brian Buff reported they had moved the tires out back by the open top construction containers and cleaned up around the open tops. He had met with a company called PaintCare regarding paint disposal year-round. The program would start May 1st. They had sent out 9 trash containers, 4 recycling containers and 5 open top containers. There is another load of cardboard to go out next Tuesday and they sent out 5 more pallets of electronics.

Councilor Dove asked how much does it cost to ship a pallet of Electronics? Brian stated it is depended on the weight of the load. He is working with EWaste and the State to not pay for electronic disposal.

Councilor Legg stated the bleachers at the Transfer Station are gone from the area around the open top containers. Brian had done a great job cleaning up this area up.

Councilor Legg stated it had been a remarkable effort by the Town Hall staff and the Transfer Station to get out permits for 2022 in a timely fashion. It took an enormous amount of work, and it has been pretty exceptional teamwork by a large number of employees. Councilor Legg said he wanted to highlight some things that Brian Buff had been doing and for those that have not had a chance to peek at the expansion to the building at the Transfer Station where the office and the additional space that was put into place. That was all Brian's hard work, and it was exceptional. He did it at an extraordinary low price with labor right there in house.

Supervisor Aaron stated there had been a lot of changes at the Transfer Station over the years, this is not the first time we have made significant changes. She agreed with Councilor Legg, Brian Buff is doing a great job. She stated she is at the Town Hall everyday watching as the staff never stops issuing permits, and it has been challenging because of the new rules that we have put in place. It is the staff that gets the push back and they have done an exceptional job.

Supervisor Aaron stated she wanted to give some history of the Transfer Station; she stated the following:

In 1969 the Town of Skaneateles obtained ownership of the property that is now our Transfer Station. For 52 years the operation has undergone a series of changes including some that were recently made. All changes have been difficult ones but necessary in order to keep the facility open for the residents of the Town.

“Ed Carls was Town Supervisor in 1969. Charlie Major, Town Justice in 1969 was on the Town Board because at that time Justices were also Town Councilors when the Town was able to purchase the Transfer Station property. The Town needed a new, larger location to take the Town’s refuse. A committee was formed to find possible locations. The Federal Government owned this property under the Department of General Services and decided to sell it. It generated a lot of interested buyers including BOCES and the Marcellus School District. While the Board had differences of opinion what property to consider purchasing, in the end it was this property the majority agreed to try to purchase it and in 1968 they did.

An Incinerator was added which generated a lot of complaints for the 16 years it was in operation for the smoke and smells it created. In 1984 the incinerator was shut down because the DEC added additional requirements to obtain a permit including a higher stack and an exhaust and ventilation system. The town had an exceptional recycling program and was receiving \$80 a ton for newspapers and junk mail which helped when the incinerator was no longer in use. In 1990-91 the NYSDEC submitted a consent order to the Town mandating the closure of the landfill. The cost to the Town was cost to \$700,000 with half provided by State grants. The Town had saved for this and was able to pay for the closure without bonding. In 1988 the Town began discussions with the County on a solid waste agreement. Skaneateles was the only municipality that did not sign with the county but instead contracted with the City of Auburn to take our garbage to their landfill saving the Town a considerable amount of money. At that time, residents who had a Town transfer station permit were allowed to deposit construction and demolition material at the Auburn Landfill at \$72 per ton.

From 1993 to about 2011 the Town drove the refuse to either to Auburn Landfill or to Seneca Meadows. Beginning in 2010 the Town sold their garbage trucks and no longer had our employees drive to these two facilities with a significant cost savings to the Town. One employee position was eliminated, and the Town put out to bid the removal of refuse and recyclables.

In the 1990’s single stream recycling was introduced as a lower cost alternative to dual stream collection. While collection costs were lower the costs associated with disposal of contaminated recyclables was much higher. The recycling market collapsed and has just recently shown signs of marketing options. In 2017 the Town Board authorized the purchase of a baler and since then we have removed the tonnage from our refuse and obtained a revenue for the sale. We now have a market for tin cans has allowing for additional savings and we hope to find more markets in the future.

Yet, the cost of operating and removal of refuse has continued to escalate. In 2020 the Town Board made several significant changes. In order to make sure only residents/town taxpayers entered the facility, we added an attendant at the gate. We increased the cost of residential permits and required

business owners to pay an annual fee as well as a per garbage bag fee. This year further changes were made.

In 2021 the Town Board began making significant changes at the Transfer Station to try to contain the escalating costs associated with the removal of garbage and recyclables. Many other communities have found it impossible to continue their Transfer Stations. The Town of Owasco recently closed their transfer station completely. We are trying to prevent that from happening in Skaneateles. We want the Transfer Station to be available for our residents well into the future.

The Town of Skaneateles can no longer allow Commercial Haulers at our Transfer Station. Too much refuse was coming in from other towns and non-residents which made it impossible for us to monitor when haulers would bring in large loads. Garbage haulers are still allowed to serve customers in Skaneateles, they just cannot take their garbage to our Transfer Station, there are options for them to dispose of your refuse at other facilities.

Residents still have full use of the Transfer Station and can take everything from garbage, recyclables, appliances, televisions, mattresses/box springs, brush and debris from their property and take advantage of a volunteer-run swap shop during the spring, summer and fall.”

Supervisor Aaron said there is a lot of options at the Transfer Station for residents and we are hoping that with these changes and the containment of escalating costs, that it will be in operation for many years to come. Thank you everybody for your hard work.

Planning and Zoning: Councilor Tucker reported on the open projects report submitted, there are 9 new open projects. Councilor Tucker reviewed the status of existing open projects. Chris Graham – Application pending for re-design of multi-family residences for the RR district. Meunier -The application for 8 condominium units in the “Block” building on Jordan Road, is pending with the Planning Board. ZBA approved the variances at their March 3, 2020, meeting and extended the time of approval through March of 2022, Bob Herrmann would be contacting him to close out an open repair permit and remind him of the expiration of the variance approval. Victory Sports – The application is pending as the Applicant is considering the potential for smaller scale development on the property. Nulty – application is on hold with the Planning Board for the shed, awaiting the owner to apply to the ZBA for variance approval. Lakelawn – proposed brick and stone masonry wall to replace wood fence along West Lake Road. Other activities included three pre-application meetings. The Zoning Committee had met to finalize the draft PDD and discuss new zoning topics.

Codes: Councilor Tucker reviewed the Codes Office report for November 2021, He reported there were 18 new permits issued at a total construction cost of \$662,420.00 with permit costs for a total of \$ 4,402.25, 7 Certificates of Completion and 2 Notices of Violation. Councilor Tucker stated Mr. Herrmann reported he is starting to work on the expired permits. Ben Garrett had completed his training for the year.

Parks: Parks Manager Sue Murphy reported both Matt Sheppard and Josh Charili started full time. They have done some snow plowing and a little salting. They have painted the inside of the lobby and they are going to be moving on to painting the inside of where the nursery school was. Ms. Murphy stated she had working hard on the play day registration program so that all registrations

can be online. I've touched base with the Health Department and met with Councilor Alexander to work on some details, it is going to work out well. This program will also be able to be used for the Mandana Boat Launch Parking. She will be sending out an email to those people have signed up for Playday in the past so they know it will be a different procedure and what they will need to have before they decide to sign up.

Councilor Alexander reviewed the new online registration program for the Parks Department. This is the time of year Sue and the Parks Department prepare for the busy Spring and Summer months. She displayed the new park registration program to the Board and the audience.

Staff Engineer and Water Department: Town Engineer Robinson reported on the following:

Solar- The Solar Farm is 100% energized and rotating (all but one row). The panels will track and follow the sun and they also slough off snow if it accumulates on the panels.

Streetlights - There are 2 streetlight work orders in progress, if they are not already completed, they will be done by the end of the month.

Engineer - A draft RFP was written and submitted to the Board for Emergency Water Services and Septic work.

Town Engineer Robinson reported new employee, Shane Christman started today in the Water Department.

Councilor Legg stated he Miranda, and Councilor Tucker met with Tim Dobrovosky, Highway Superintendent, along with Dave Bader, who is taking on new responsibilities as a water operator. Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky confirmed he would continue doing the same as past practice, that on a availability basis, the Highway Department would respond for assistance in the Water Department when needed. We greatly appreciate Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky stepping forward to be able to help. The RFP Engineer Robinson referred to said we hope to never use have to use it, but it would be a backup to the Highway Department with emergency responses or routine responses if we ever had that circumstance.

Engineer Robinson stated the Town would need this outside contract for the septic work that might be needed in the future.

Budget : Supervisor Aaron welcomed Keri Fey back to the Budget Officer after her maternity leave. Budget Officer Winkelman reported they are working on the year end, payrolls, and starting off the new year on a good note. She welcomed Keri Fey back. She reported the 2021 audit would start the week of February 21st.

Historian: Town Historian Beth Batlle reported she had been doing most of her work from home. She is working on documenting all the farms in Skaneateles.

Minutes of December 20, 2021, and December 28, 2021: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with a (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Councilor Dove abstained, the minutes of December 20, 2021, and December 28, 2021, were accepted as presented.

2022 Town of Skaneateles Annual Resolution: Supervisor Aaron reviewed the following regarding the Town of Skaneateles 2022 Annual Resolution:

Supervisor Aaron stated this resolution is for appointing town officers and employees, fixing wages and salaries and other matters for 2022. We have had some additions and changes to this annual resolution. Don Kasper has been reappointed as Planning Board Chair for this year, Jill Marshall had been reappointed for a 5-year term on the Planning Board and Denise Rhodes is continuing as chair on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Sherill Ketchum is also being reappointed for a 5-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilor Tucker stated Planning Board member Doug Hamlin is also being reappointed as cochair on the Planning Board.

Supervisor Aaron stated Steve Bryant will be foreman in the Highway Department. Steve is the longest serving employee in the Town. We are happy to have Steve as foreman. In the Water Department Shane Christman is a new employee that started this year. And in the Parks Department. Josh Chiarelli is a new full-time employee along with Matt Shepard who has been part time and was moved up to full time. We have reappointed the Veterans Coordinator, Sherry Spooner. We have many of the committees and Town Board liaisons to several departments that are also listed on the Annual Resolution. This resolution also sets the hours of operation of our different departments and designates the Skaneateles Press as the official newspaper and also sets the amount of fifty-six cents per mile for mileage reimbursement. The resolution designated M&T Bank is our official bank along with New York State Class.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the 2022 Annual Resolution was adopted.

2022 Town of Skaneateles Procurement Policy: Supervisor Aaron stated to the Board the Town's Procurement Policy is reviewed and approved every year stating the policies and procedures of purchasing in all departments of the Town of Skaneateles.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the 2022 Town of Skaneateles Procurement Policy was adopted.

2022 Town of Skaneateles Official Undertaking: Supervisor Aaron reviewed the Official Undertaking stating that certain elected and appointed officials have to sign the Official Undertaking that they will faithfully perform and discharge the duties of their office. She said that while the Town needs either an Official Undertaking to be filed with the Town Clerk or an individual Blanket Dishonesty Bond issued by the Town's insurance company, the Town has both.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board in attendance, the 2022 Official Undertaking was approved

Transfer Station Operations Overview: Supervisor Aaron stated she had reviewed this earlier in the meeting. Councilor Alexander stated there a few reminders for residents. The speed limit at the Transfer Station is 10 mph, please slow down and obey the speed limit. A new tag will be issued this year for mattresses and box springs, no charge, but a tag will be needed. Councilor Tucker stated people will have to show proof of residency to be issued a tag. Councilor Alexander stated businesses will only be allowed to bring cardboard and metal and the permit fee is \$300.

Reschedule Town Board Meetings – January 17, 2022, and February 21, 2022: Supervisor Aaron stated in January and February there are two Town Board meetings that need to be rescheduled due to holidays.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor , and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the January 17, 2022, Town Board meeting is rescheduled to January 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the February 21, 2022, Town Board meeting is rescheduled to February 17, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Initial Water Payment - Village Settlement Agreement: Supervisor Aaron stated the Town Board had been negotiating with the Village regarding a lawsuit that was filed by the village against the Town regarding a water project in the Village. The Village had requested that the Town pay for a large portion of that water project that was done on the east side of the Village. The Board did not agree with the determination they made so it did go to court. The Town and Village Boards negotiated a 15 year contract that would set water rates the Town would pay the Village. This contract would be in effect till 2037. This contract also established how future projects that required participation by both the Village and Town would be approved. It also stated the procedure for discussion in the future how the Village and Town Water Departments could work together.

As part of the settlement the Town agreed to pay a lump sum of \$50,000 to the Village for 2021 only and establishes the yearly water rate over the 15 year contract.

Attorney Smith stated this is pursuant to the agreement the Town Board approved at the last meeting.

Supervisor Aaron stated this is the reason for the residential water rate increase the Board had previously approved. The Board would be looking at the increase in the dairy and commercial rates as well.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized the payment of \$50,000 to the Village of Skaneateles as stated in the approved water settlement agreement.

Dairy and Commercial Water Rates: Supervisor Aaron sated currently businesses pay the same rate as residential customers, but dairy customers are given a discounted rate. This practice started in 1994 when it was decided to give farming businesses a discount of about 12.5% from what residential customers pay. Currently there are four different rates to be considered.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Board is proposing increasing the dairy rate at the same percentage as the residential rate increase. This would increase the dairy from \$3.65 per 1000 gallons to \$5.29 per 1000 gallons. The residential rate is \$6.05 per 1000 gallons. Also, the commercial rate would go from \$4.26 to \$6.05 per 1000 gallons and the trailer rate, which is a flat fee of \$67.95 per quarter

would be raised to the to a proposed fee of \$98.52 per 1000 gallons per quarter. Trailer outside a water district the rate would increase from \$67.95 to \$127.53 per quarter.

Councilor Dove asked if this rate was for all agriculture or just dairy farms? Supervisor Aaron stated the only agricultural users of water are dairy farms. Councilor Tucker stated there are other agricultural users and we should look at it in the future.

Councilor Alexander stated she had struggled with this increase because one dairy farm does not have the option for water from a secondary source. One farm in particular has usage that is quite a bit higher than the others and this increase would have a major impact on them. She had reached out to this farm, and why they asked for the discounted rate to begin with was because they can not control the rate at which they can sell their milk for. This would be a significant impact on them.

Supervisor Aaron agreed, and said everyone on the Board understands that this will impact not just dairy farms but all users of water. The Town has not raised water rates since 2008. If we do not increase the dairy farms then we will have to put it all on the residential customers. Many farms in our Town don't have the option of public water. We are trying to be fair across the board. This is not easy. Councilor Alexander stated this is not something we planned for, and we are in a difficult situation.

Supervisor Aaron stated with the new contract there will not be this large increase again, it would be a gradual increase in the future.

Councilor Legg agreed with Councilor Alexander. There have been many hard discussions this past year and the Board understands the difficulty to the residents and all the water users. The Board has made these decisions in the fairest way possible. This should have been addressed previously but now we are in a position that it really needed to be addressed or it would be much worse.

Councilor Dove stated she is new on the Board and was not a part of the negotiations but would vote tonight and commended the Town and the Village for working through this and getting it out of litigation. This needed to be done and it is a hard thing on residents, farms and all the water customers.

Supervisor Aaron stated Councilor Dove was on the Village Board when this started and thanked her for her input.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board approved the following water rate increases:

Dairy/Agriculture	\$ 5.29 per 1000 gallons
Commercial	\$ 6.05 per 1000 gallons
Trailer (in district)	\$ 98.52 flat rate per quarter
Trailer (out of district)	\$127.53 flat rate per quarter

Introductory Local Law A of 2021 -Planned Development District Legislation: Supervisor Aaron stated this local law was introduced to help keep Chase Design in Skaneateles. There were other factors that Chase had to consider and, in the end, decided to move their business out of Skaneateles to Syracuse.

Supervisor Aaron stated this Local Law was introduced, the Town Board was declared lead agency and completed SEQR. They submitted it to Onondaga County Planning. Onondaga County Planning recommend approval. At that time, the Planning and Zoning reviewed the Local Law and now they had submitted their review back to the Town Board.

Supervisor Aaron stated there had been significant changes to the Local law and she recommended the Town Board review the updated Local Law before continuing the process.

The Board agreed there were significant changes and it needed further review.

Attorney Smith stated with the changes made by the Planning and Zoning Committee this Local law is significantly different than the original Introductory Local law A of 2021. With the changes the law should be looked at separately.

Planning and Zoning Secretary Barkdull reviewed the proposed changes. She stated the largest change is in the process. The Planning and Zoning Boards and Committee referred it back to the Town Boards for their review.

The Board agreed to review the updated Introductory PDD Local Law.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

▪ *Onondaga County – COVID Tests and Masks:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town received 82 COVID rapid tests from Onondaga County. The Board decided to distribute these tests to the residents in need. They were distributed to the Fire Departments, the American Legions and the Outreach Office. Masks were also distributed. They are hoping to receive more from the County.

Councilor Alexander stated the school distributed to each child in the school district. Councilor Legg stated Jordan Elbridge and BOCES also distributed tests to their students.

Public Comment: No public comments.

Budget Amendments Abstract #21-25: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following budget amendments were approved:

General Fund

\$ 2,360.00	Increase	010101.01.001.00	Town Board – P/S
\$ 105.00	Increase	010104.01.004.00	Town Board – C/E
\$ 65.00	Increase	016204.01.004.00	Building – C/E
\$ 180.00	Decrease	012204.01.004.00	Supervisor – C/E
\$ 2,350.00	Decrease	012201.01.001.00	Supervisor – P/S

Additional expenses supported by the Town Board

\$ 3,300.00 Increase 031201.01.001.00 Police & Constable
\$ 3,300.00 Decrease 081601.01.001.00 Transfer Station – P/S
Additional hours for Guard at T/S

\$ 300.00 Increase 051321.01.001.00 Garage – P/S
\$ 300.00 Decrease 051324.01.004.00 Garage – C/E
Re-balance – Garage

\$ 500.00 Increase 051824.01.004.00 Street Lighting – C/E
\$ 500.00 Decrease 081822.01.002.00 Street Lighting – Equip
Rebalance – Street Lighting

\$ 1,600.00 Increase 070201.01.001.00 Rec. Admin. – P/S
\$ 450.00 Increase 071101.01.001.00 Summer Rec. – P/S
\$ 2,450.00 Increase 071104.01.004.00 Summer Rec – C/E
\$ 260.00 Increase 085104.01.004.00 Community Beautification – C/E
\$ 4,760.00 Decrease 071401.01.001.00 Winter Rec. – P/S
Re-balance – Parks

Part Town Fund

\$ 325.00 Increase 080101.02.001.00 Zoning – P/S
\$ 3,800.00 Increase 080124.02.004.00 Land Development
\$ 4,125.00 Decrease 080104.02.004.00 Zoning – C/E
Rebalance – Zoning and Land Development

Highway Town Wide Fund

\$ 600.00 Increase 051304.03.004.00 Machinery – C/E
\$ 600.00 Decrease 051424.03.004.00 Snow Removal – C/E
Rebalance - Highway

Highway Part Town Fund – cont.

\$ 11,000.00 Decrease 051101.04.001.00 General Repair – P/S
\$ 11,000.00 Increase 051101.04.001.55 General Repair – P/S Equip / Maint.
Reverse Budget Adjustment abst. – 21-24 adjustment

Abstract #22-01: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #22-0001 - #21-0013 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 52,527.27	Highway:	\$ 3,007.57
Water:	\$ 2,765.42	Part Town:	\$ 2,976.88

Hwy Part Town \$ 3,007.57 Limeledge.: \$ 957.43

TOTAL: **\$65,247.11**

Abstract #21-25: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #21-1644 - #21-1682 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 10,974.45	Highway:	\$ 8,626.58
Water:	\$ 52,111.23	Part Town:	\$ 3,862.50
T&A:	\$ 1,110.24	Light Dist.:	\$ 1,252.37

TOTAL: **\$77,937.37**

Executive Session: 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 Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for attorney advice and discussion of personnel.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Alexander the meeting was returned to open session at 9:15 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk