

Town Board Meeting

August 16, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Location: Town Hall, 24 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152
Remote via www.zoom.com (id#: 82801411425 password 078093)

Present: Supervisor Aaron, Councilor McCormack, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Legg, Councilor Tucker, Attorney Langan.

Also, Present via Zoom: Sue Murphy, Allan Wellington, Bridget Winkelman, Keri Fey, Chris Page.

Present in person: Paula Powell, Karen Barkdull, Kimberly Benda, Steve Bryant, Joe Dwyer, Miranda Robinson.

Highway, Water, Transfer Station: Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington reported in the Highway Department they paved Sugar Maple Lane with help from the Towns of Spafford, Marcellus, and Elbridge. They also helped the Towns of Elbridge and Marcellus with paving projects. They cleaned highway drainage ditches along Milford Drive and Elizabeth Streets, made tractor repairs and mowed roadsides. In the Water Department they replaced a curb box at Willow Glen Café and set up a back flow preventer and water meter for a house demolition on Route 20. At the Transfer Station they began to lay out the Recycling Building to further segregate single stream commodities. And spoke to 2 individuals that are interested in the guard position.

Engineer: Engineer Robinson reported the engineering department continued to work on the Lead Service Line mandated inventory and the submission of the 5 grants for the County ARPA funds. The Town submitted 5 projects from 3 different departments. The Total project costs are approximately \$160k with a request of approximately \$110k-70% of total project funds.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Engineer Robinson for the work on these grants. The County is sharing 2 million dollars of their relief funding with Towns and Villages within Onondaga County municipalities in the county.

Parks: Parks Manager Sue Murphy reported Playday is over for the season. It was a great summer, and the campers and councilor were sad to end the program. It was a huge success. She thanked Kim Kelly for all her hard work as head councilor. They made it through without any incidents of COVID. They are doing a soft premier for the movie screen tomorrow night in the Austin Pavilion. The Mandana Boat Launch had been busy the past few weekends and the waterfront had been going well and is scheduled to close next week. She reported they are working on the 2022 budget and starting to mark out the fields for soccer. The Fire Department is starting to prep the Austin Pavilion for the Labor Day Field Days.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Sue and her staff for all their hard work keeping playday going during this year and keeping everyone safe from COVID.

Minutes of August 2, 2021: On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of August 2, 2021, were accepted as presented.

Employee 40 Year Recognition – Steve Bryant: Supervisor Aaron announced the Board is recognizing Steve Bryant for his 40 years of service with the Town. She stated the following:

“40 years ago, Steve started with the Town of Skaneateles in the Highway Department and over the years we have earned great respect for you as a mechanic, machine operator and snowplow driver. I had firsthand knowledge when I rode with Steve on his snowplow route last year. I found him very fussy on how he plowed paying particular attention to clearing all intersections to his satisfaction.

Steve started his career in government with the Village working part time in the highway department in the summer when he was 17, later working for almost 2 years for Skaneateles Excavation. In August 1981 the Town was lucky to snag Steve for a full-time machine operator in our Highway Department. Over the years Steve has always been recognized for his operation of equipment, safety and his work ethic. In 2004 the Highway Department masterfully rebuilt the stone bridge on Crow Hill Road and rebuilding the old Pennysaver Building that is now the Town Highway Department and School Bus Garage. Supervisor Bill Pavlus recognized the highway department and specifically wrote a letter to Steve Bryant for the work he did especially on the Crow Hill Road bridge.

Steve, you continue to only do excellent work for the Town of Skaneateles and in recognition of your 40 years with the Town we want to present you with something you are known for, your hats, and present you with a new one to add to your collection along with a 40-year pin.”

Steve Bryant thanked the Board for the recognition.

Employee 25 Year Recognition – Julie Stenger: Supervisor Aaron announced the Board is recognizing Julie Stenger for her 25 years of service with the Town. She stated the following

“Julie was the 2nd and last person I hired as my Deputy Town Clerk a year after I was in that office. She became much more than a fellow employee, Julie is also a very trusted friend, and it is my honor to be here today to be able to recognize Julie, someone who has worked always to make me, and others look good and to be supportive in accomplishing everything that is tossed her way.

Julie began her career part time in the Town Clerk’s Office on October 6, 1995, and was appointed full time on August 12, 1996. 21 years later she assumed the office of Town Clerk. Having held that office for 23 years, it was important to me to have someone follow me that will continue to look at the future for changes but to always focus on just one thing, our residents and to make sure they were always the priority. Julie exceeds that in so many ways from her outstanding customer service, your ability to get to know our residents and to take the time to listen. This along with her positive attitude, integrity and work ethic has made her a shining example of what a true public servant is. Today, it is much more than recognizing Julie for her 25 years of service by presenting this watch, it is for thanking her for the years of dedicated service to the Town and our residents that we also thank you for.”

Town Clerk, Julie Stenger thanked both Supervisor Aaron and the Town Board for this honor.

Eagle Scout Project Presentation – Chris Page: Councilor Alexander introduced Christopher Page. She stated Christopher Page had contacted her and the Conservation Committee regarding an Eagle Scout project at the Town of Skaneateles Conservation Area.

Christopher Page of Troop 61 presented his Picnic Table Restoration project at the Skaneateles Conservation Area to the Town Board. He introduced himself and stated he was in 11th grade at Skaneateles Highschool. He had participated in scouting for 8 years and he was currently ranked a Life Scout.

Christopher reviewed the current state of the picnic tables at the Conservation Area. When he saw the current poor condition of the picnic tables, he saw an Eagle Scout Project opportunity. Many of the picnic tables need board replacements and all need to be repainted. His goal is to repair and paint 11 picnic tables at the pond and picnic shelter at the Skaneateles Conservation Area.

Christopher reviewed the project details:

Phase 1: Make Repairs in late Summer/Fall 2021

Replace missing or damaged boards with pressure-treated lumber, tightenbolts, and add screws to make sure that they are safe and stable for use. (The new wood will need time to season before painting.)

Phase 2: Paint in late Spring 2022

Scrape peeling paint and sand surfaces to prepare them for painting. Paint the tables with two coats of brown paint with primer that matchesthe existing dark brown color.

Christopher reviewed the project funding:

Purchase of Supplies (lumber, screws, paint, etc.):

- Donations from friends and family
- Money that I have earned mowing lawnsand walking dogs
- Local businesses to see if they will offer any discountsand donations towards supplies

Equipment/Tools (drills, saws, paint brushes):

- Borrow from friends and family

Christopher stated his next steps were the following:

- I am seeking approval this evening from the **SkaneatelesTown Board** and the **Conservation Committee**.

- Once approved, I will present this to the **LonghouseCouncil** and **Eagle Scout Review Board** for their approval and then I can begin repairs.

Christopher Page thanked the Board for their time and consideration of his proposed project.

Councilor Legg stated this was a phenomenal project and he is in full support.

Councilor Tucker stated he was also in support of this project. He had worked with his son on his Eagle Project and knows how much work the projects are and commended Christopher for his presentation.

Councilor McCormack asked if he would be working with other Scouts, or would he be doing all the work himself? Christopher stated part of the project is leading other Scouts. Scouts would be recruited from his troop to help.

Supervisor Aaron stated this is a great project. She thanked Christopher for taking on this project. It will be a great benefit to the Town.

Councilor Alexander stated she also is in favor of this project. It is a wonderful idea. She asked him to keep the Board and the Conservation Committee informed as to when he would be there working. To keep the public informed for safety reasons.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board approved the Picnic Table Restoration Project for the Skaneateles Conservation Area as presented by Christopher Page.

Data Collection Interviews – September 10, 2021, at 3:30 p.m.: Supervisor Aaron announced the Town Board is scheduling the first interview for the Town’s Data Collection. This is part of the processing in preparing for a Town wide reval of properties. It has been a challenge keeping the assessments up to date with the sales and correct the falling Equalization Rate. The first part of this process is to do a Town wide data collection.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board scheduled an interview for the Data Collection Project on September 10, 2021, at 3:30 p.m.

Updated COVID Guidelines: Supervisor Aaron reviewed the current Town of Skaneateles COVID Guidelines and the updates since its approval by the Town Board in March of 2020. Supervisor Aaron stated the Board is recommending this update to the COVID Policy due to Onondaga County being in a Red Zone for infections.

Supervisor Aaron reviewed the follow proposed update:

POLICY 8/16/21

Onondaga County has been [identified](#) by the CDC as an area of high transmission. We must be vigilant. Get [vaccinated](#). Wear a mask. Stay home and get [tested](#) if you are sick. Know the facts.

The Delta variant is highly transmissible. It spreads quickly; even vaccinated people can spread it. If you are vaccinated, you're less likely to catch it and much less likely to be hospitalized. The vaccines are the best weapon against COVID-19 and all its variants—including Delta.

We need to protect each other, especially those who are immunocompromised or cannot get the vaccine:

- All people entering Town Buildings must wear a face mask.
- All Town employees who are not fully vaccinated against Covid-19 must wear a face mask at all times while working indoors.
- All Town employees who are not fully vaccinated against Covid-19 must be tested for Covid-19 weekly and provide proof of negative test results to Department Head.
- All Town employees who are fully vaccinated must present proof of vaccination to Department Head.
- Town employees who take time off during their regular work hours to receive a Covid-19 vaccine will receive their regular compensation during such time and will not be penalized.
- All Town employees who are fully vaccinated must wear face masks if they are working with the public indoors.

Councilor McCormack stated that he is in support of this as long as it stated fully vaccinated people do not have to wear masks unless they are working with the public and there are provisions for exemptions.

Councilor Tucker agreed with Councilor McCormack.

Councilor Legg thanked Supervisor Aaron for putting this together so quickly. The five counties in Central New York have been identified as the highest transmission rates in the state, hopefully that changes soon. But while we are in the Red Zone for infection rates, we must take precautions. There is a large part of our community that can not get vaccinated such as those children under 12 and we should do our part to protect this as well.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor McCormack, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board approved the updated August 16, 2021, Town of Skaneateles COVID Guidelines as presented.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

▪ *Public Information Meeting Marijuana Regulation & Tax Act – August 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Austin Pavilion:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town Board would be holding a Public Information Meeting regarding the new Marijuana Regulations in New York State. The Village Board of Trustees will also be there. The Boards are looking for comments regarding this new regulation. The Town Board needs to decide to either opt in or opt out of allowing dispensaries in the Town by December 31, 2021.

▪ *Skaneateles Country Club Application to Office of general Services:* The Town received notification from the Office of General Services that the Skaneateles Country Club had applied for an extension of their floating dock system. Supervisor Aaron stated the application was for 5 25-foot finger slips for boats. Councilor Tucker asked with this expansion will they remove some of

the moorings? Councilor Alexander stated there are some boats that can not go in the slips and need to be on the moorings. The Board agreed to pass on the information to the Planning Board for their comments. Planning Secretary Karen Barkdull said she would inform the Planning Board at their meeting tomorrow night for their comments.

- *Recognition of Amy Rolleri – Skaneateles Life Magazine:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Skaneateles Life Magazine featured an article on Amy Rolleri. Amy Rolleri had been the force behind bringing back the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station. Amy is amazing. She volunteers and takes on any project to benefit the Town and its residents. The Town of Skaneateles is lucky to have her as part of our community and do all she does.

- *Board of Assessment Review Opening:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town is still seeking candidates for the Board of Assessment Review. Anyone interested should sent their letter on interest to Julie Stenger, Town Clerk.

- *Rescheduled - Town Board Meeting September 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town Board rescheduled the first meeting in September to September 9, 2021, due to the Labor Day Holiday.

- *I-81 Viaduct Project Public Hearings – Tuesday August 17th and Wednesday August 18th:* Supervisor Aaron announced there are meetings scheduled regarding the I-81 Viaduct Project, August 17th and August 18th. There are also community meetings scheduled throughout Onondaga County. This information is posted on the Town of Skaneateles website. She reviewed the negative impact the additional traffic would bring to the Town of Skaneateles. She encouraged the Board to take part in these meetings.

- *Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations:* Supervisor Aaron stated Attorney Smith is working on this resolution. Councilor Legg stated there is a template that was provided to us that we could modify to the Town of Skaneateles. The Owasco Watershed plan is available online for the Board to review. Supervisor Aaron stated the Cities of Ithaca and Geneva supported the effort to get the plan approved but they did not necessarily support the plan. Their resolution stated this. Councilor Legg stated Ithaca’s resolution predated the final draft of the Owasco Lake Watershed Plan. This could be a reason how the worded their resolution. The Board agreed to have Attorney Smith work on a resolution and present it to the Board for their review

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg , and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board authorized Attorney Smith to work on a resolution regarding the support of the Town of Skaneateles for the Owasco Lake Watershed Plan.

- *Cornell Cooperative Extension – Spotted Lantern Information Session September 22:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Cornell Cooperative Extension is hosting an information session on the Spotted Lanternfly on Wednesday September 22, 2021.

Public Comment: No one commented.

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

General Fund

\$ 5,000.00 Increase 031201.01.001.00 Police & Constable – P/S
\$ 5,000.00 Decrease 019904.01.004.00 Contingency
Additional hours for Guard at Transfer Station gate

\$ 50.00 Increase 085101.01.001.00 Community Beautification – P/S
\$ 50.00 Decrease 085104.01.004.00 Community Beautification – C/E
Using Park personnel to support activity at the Conservation Area

Part Town

\$ 40.00 Increase 090458.02.008.00 Life Insurance – C/E
\$ 40.00 Decrease 090898.02.008.00 Other Employee Benefits
Adjustment to life Insurance figure

Abstract #21-16: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #21-0819 - #21-0894 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 74,081.13	Highway:	\$ 5,555.06
Water:	\$ 15,827.97	Part Town:	\$ 5,609.52
Highway PT:	\$ 9,542.98	T&A:	\$ 4,006.81
Sewer:	\$ 2,045.49		
TOTAL:	\$116,840.45		

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 7:30 p.m. for attorney advice and potential litigation.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor McCormack with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was returned to open session at 8:50 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk