

**Town Board Meeting**  
**June 4, 2018**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Supervisor Aaron, Councilor Badami, Councilor Coville, Councilor McCormack, Councilor Tucker, Attorney Smith.

**Also Present:** Sue Murphy, Beth Battle, Allan Wellington, Jim Greenfield (Deputy Supervisor), Daniel Judge, Joey Brillo, Margaret Tiedemann, Tom Bitter, Beth Battle, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press).

**Department Reports**

***Highway, Water, Transfer Station:*** Allan Wellington reported the Highway crew had been cleaning ditches, mowing and cleaning culvert pipes. He also reported he had been attending Highway School this week in Ithaca. He reported that the Water Department is flushing hydrants and repaired two water breaks. At the Transfer Station he reported on the fire that burned the log pile and they had begun grinding the brush. Councilor McCormack asked if the Village water and sewer improvement project will affect the Town's water supply. Allan Wellington stated the improvements will affect the Town's water system. They will have more information after the meeting with the Village next Wednesday.

***Parks Department:*** Sue Murphy reported there had been vandalism at the park. The Library signs were knocked over and the bleachers had been overturned and bent. The Police were contacted and were working on finding out who is responsible. She stated she is working with the Rotary Club to get the Pavilion ready for the pancake breakfast. The Rotary Club is celebrating 50 years of their Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. They worked at the boat launches and the Mandana Parking lot with the boat washing station on the Memorial Day weekend. They are getting the information on the new regulations out to people. They have installed the lock box and are working on signage for non-residents to leave their payment for the parking area. They also cleaned out the waterfront area.

Supervisor Aaron asked if she had any new seasonal hires. Sue stated they are still looking for a least 3 or 4 more seasonal employees. She does not have a list of candidates for the board to approve, but due to the time constraints she asked the board for their approval for her to hire and have the new employees approved at the next meeting.

On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Supervisor Aaron and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized Sue Murphy, Parks Director to hire the needed seasonal employees for the Parks Department with Board approval at the next meeting on June 18, 2018.

***Budget:*** Budget Officer Bridgett Winkelman reported the Board had completed their budget review meeting and all departments budgets are in good shape. Water district 1 had been billed and she is working with CNYRPDB on the "Austin Park Improvements Planning & Phase 1 Improvements Project".

Supervisor Aaron stated her, and Budget Officer Winkelman are attending a meeting on the Federal Tax Change Law at the County Tuesday.

**Codes:** Councilor Badami reviewed Codes Enforcement Coville's report. There were 21 permits in May totaling \$1.4 million in value and permit fees of \$8,785.00.

**Planning & Zoning:** Councilor Tucker reviewed the open project report from the Planning and Zoning Boards. There are 4 open projects for the month of May.

**Conservation Areas:** Supervisor Aaron reported to the Board that Randy Nonemacher, Chair of the Conservation Committee sent a presentation from two Scouts, Haas Teehan and Ben Rudnick for their Eagle Scout project at the Conservation area. She showed the power point presentation to the Board on their boardwalk, bridge and board repair. The Scouts plan to complete this project on one of the bridges on the Conservation Area. She stated she was very impressed with the project and their presentation.

**Historian:** Town Historian, Beth Battle reported on the Split Rock Explosion on July 2, 1918.  
\*report attached

*Resolution #18-118*

**Minutes of May 21, 2018:** On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of May 21, 2018 were accepted.

Councilor Tucker stated after reviewing the minutes he would like to note the Skaneateles Lake Association did not discuss the third county on the lake being part of their Lake Management Council. That county is Cortland County.

**Public Comment:** No one spoke.

*Resolution #19-118*

**I-81 Presentation:** Supervisor Aaron introduced Bruce Keenan to give an update on the future of Interstate 81.

Mr. Kenan stated he is a resident of Skaneateles and a business owner along the I-81 corridor. Mr. Kenan stated the Department of Transportation is in favor of an improved boulevard, the community grid option, taking down the existing viaduct. He stated he is not in favor of this option. This option will increase the amount of traffic that will bypass the updated boulevard and travel through Skaneateles and the Fingerlakes region. With this proposal there is no direct connection to 690, which will make the traffic pattern very difficult through the city.

Mr. Kenan reviewed the map with different route options and main destinations in the city. The City would like to divert the traffic to 481. Most of the traffic is local traffic and the diversion will be resisted. The trucks that need to travel trough will not want to fight the traffic and will divert to the west through Skaneateles and the Fingerlakes.

Mr. Kenan stated the Governor and Senator Schumer both wrote letters strongly opposing the proposed trash incinerator in Romulus over environmental concerns. The same environmental standards should be applied to this decision-making process as well. Even without an incinerator looming, dirty trash and hazardous waste-hauling trucks would still surge in masse through the Finger Lakes area if I-81 were to be downgraded to a street-level routing, otherwise known as the “community grid.

Mr. Kenan asked the Board for their support in writing a resolution to reaffirm in the strongest possible terms its support for maintaining the existing Interstate 81 route through Syracuse and Central New York and opposition to the downgrading of Interstate 81 to a street-level routing. He requested that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New York State Department of Transportation, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, and to the to the various state legislative and congressional members representing Central New York.

Councilor McCormack asked what the alternatives are. Mr. Keenan stated the other options would be to rebuild the existing viaduct or there is an option for a tunnel. He is in favor of the tunnel option, but it would be very costly.

Supervisor Aaron stated in 2013 and 2016 the Town Board passed resolutions supporting this effort.

Supervisor Aaron read the proposed resolution regarding the need to maintain the existing alignment of Interstate 81 through Syracuse.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized the attached resolution that the Town Board of Skaneateles reaffirms in the strongest possible terms its support for maintaining the existing Interstate 81 route through Syracuse and Central New York and opposition to the downgrading of Interstate 81 to a street-level routing; and it is further, resolved, that the Supervisor of the Town of Skaneateles, is hereby directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the New York State Department of Transportation, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, and to the to the various state legislative and congressional members representing Central New York.

***\*Resolution Attached***

*Resolution #18-120*

**Agreement for the Expenditures of Highway Moneys:** On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, pursuant to the provisions of section 284 of the Highway Law the Town Board agrees that moneys levied and collected in the Town for repair and improvement of highways shall be expended as follows:

1. GENERAL REPAIRS. The sum of **\$53,000** shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon **40.82** miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.

2. PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS. The following estimated sums shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvements of Town highways:

a. **County Line Road** commencing at NYS Rt. 20 going north, ending at the Town of Sennett jurisdiction a distance of 0.68 miles. Expend not over the sum of \$116,267.32 (Chips Road).

**Highland Avenue** commencing just north of Jewett Road, ending at Old Seneca Turnpike, a distance of 0.74 miles. Expend not over the sum of \$90,139.01.

**Franklin Street** commencing at Fuller Street and ending at Old Seneca Turnpike, a distance of 1.3 miles. Expend not over the sum of \$104,843.67.

b. The following roads will be treated with a new seal coat of oil & stone at estimated costs as follows:

1. <b>Lacy Road</b>	1.44 miles	\$20,063.15
2. <b>Reynolds Road</b>	0.25 miles	\$ 3,431.85
3. <b>Cemetery Road</b>	0.61 miles	\$ 8,447.65
<b>Additional Chipper Rental</b>		\$ 1,200.00
	<b>2.29 miles</b>	<b>\$34,042.65</b>

*Resolution #18-121*

**Laker Limo Agreement:** Supervisor Aaron reviewed the Laker Limo contract with the Board. She stated there are two updates to the contract this year she would like to see added. Under the section "Work to be done and consideration therefor", she would like to add the following:

25. To require drivers to participate in any training as recommended by the Town's insurance company.

And:

9. Snowplowing will be done with priority given to safety needs first. Plowing will not be provided on days that the school is closed for snow days.

Councilor Badami asked how long the contract is for. Supervisor Aaron stated it is a three- year contract. Councilor Badami asked if the three- year time period should be reviewed. The accident the Laker Limo had last year caused the Town's insurance carrier to cancel their policy and we had to find another carrier with an increase in premiums.

Attorney Smith stated there is a termination clause in the contract. Attorney Smith agreed the contract should be reviewed and the recommendations Supervisor Aaron made should be added.

The Board agreed to have Attorney Smith review the Laker Limo contract and make the recommended changes and it will be on the June 18, 2018 meeting agenda.

*Resolution #18-121*

**Hidden Estates – Planning Board Lead Agency:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Planning Board was requesting to be authorized as Lead Agency for Hidden Estates Lot 3 Re-Subdivision amended SEQR and Full Environmental Assessment form.

Councilor Tucker stated the roadway for this subdivision is of big concern and the Planning Board is the most qualified to be lead agent for this SEQR.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Aaron was authorized to sign the form consenting to the Town of Skaneateles Planning Board being Lead Agency in the Hidden Estates Lot 3 Re-Subdivision, tax map #036-01-37.1 for purposes of SEQR and the Full Environmental Assessment form dated May 11, 2018.

*Resolution #18-122*

**Village of Skaneateles Water System Improvements:** Supervisor Aaron reviewed the letter of request from the Village. The Village is requesting to establish lead agency for SEQR with respect to the Village's next phase of the 2013 Water System Asset Management Plan, which includes a Village wide replacement of aging water infrastructure.

The Board agreed there is no objections to the Village being Lead Agency on the Water Improvement Project. With no objections within 20 days of the letter the Village stated they will assume the Lead Agency role as proposed.

Supervisor Aaron reviewed an additional letter from the Village regarding the Village Water Main Project. In the letter it stated: "The Village plans on financing the project with the Town similar to the debt service for the Ultra Disinfection System and will provide a copy of the debt schedule to the Town once the project numbers are firmer." Supervisor Aaron questioned this statement. When the UV system was installed by the Village it allowed the Town to close its reservoirs, if we kept the reservoirs open it would have been an expense to the Town water customers. If the Town installed the UV Systems with the Village it would been a benefit to Town water customers to do this project together instead of separately. We still have not received a breakdown of those UV costs. She stated the Town purchases water from the Village and we are the Village's customer. Why are we part of the debt service. There is a meeting with the Village on Wednesday.

Attorney Smith stated the Board should ask for a map, plan and report from the Village on the project. The Board may be able to make a more informed decision when more is known about the project.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Town is trying to make water improvements in areas of the Town such as Andrews Road and the Village has not come to the table on this. The Town is a water customer to the Village and shouldn't have to be part of the bonding. They are meeting with the Village to discuss this on Wednesday.

*Resolution #18-123*

**Swap Shop Discussion:** Supervisor Aaron stated the swap shop at the Transfer Station has been challenging. We are restricted by the area at the Transfer Station with the size of the room and the location. She stated she is not in favor of totally closing the swap shop. She would like to have some new ideas on how to make it better. There could be a small committee formed and some volunteers that would help. It is still a service that is needed and appreciated in our community. We could advertise for people who are interested in being on a committee to explore our options for the swap shop.

Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington stated the swap shop has become a safety hazard and difficult to keep up. People leave large items outside the building and they get wet and heavy with the rain. He stated he is open to options but he it can't stay open the way it is now.

Councilor Badami suggested it be closed temporarily and after a committee has some ideas to consider reopening it.

Councilor Tucker stated people like having the swap shop, but it is abused.

Supervisor Aaron stated more signage should be put up to show where the dumpsters for larger items are in the back of the building.

Margaret Tiedemann stated she is a resident and agrees it is not being used appropriately. She does not agree with closing it permanently, but something needs to be done.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board agreed to temporarily close the swap shop at the Transfer Station with notice to the public and to form a committee and accept comments from the community on how to continue to offer this service appropriately at the Transfer Station.

*Resolution #18-124*

**Joel Russell Consulting Services – Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law:** Supervisor Aaron reviewed Joel Russell's proposal for consulting services in connection with the revision, completion, and adoption of the revised Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law. The hourly rate for his services is \$200/hr. plus expenses with a maximum fee of \$14,900 for the proposal.

Councilor Badami asked if this included meals and lodging. Supervisor Aaron stated his travel time at a fixed rate of \$1200 and the Town will cover his cost of meals and lodging. She stated he usually stays at the Sherwood Inn for a reasonable rate. Councilor Badami stated he questioned the cost to make sure we were getting a reasonable rate for his expenses. Supervisor Aaron stated we have always gotten a reasonable rate from the Sherwood Inn and Mr. Russell has had reasonable expenses in the past.

Councilor Tucker moved a resolution authorizing Supervisor Aaron to sign a proposal from Joel Russell for consulting services in connection with the revision, completion, and adoption of the revised Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law. The hourly rate for his services is \$200/hr. plus expenses with a maximum fee of \$14,900 for the proposal. Seconded by Councilor McCormack.

Councilor Badami	Yes
Councilor Coville	No
Councilor McCormack	Yes
Councilor Tucker	Yes
Supervisor Aaron	Yes

Carried 4-1

*Resolution #18-125*

**CNYRPDB Agreement for Services – Austin Park Improvement Planning:** Supervisor Aaron stated she and Budget Office Winkelman have been working with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board for an agreement for consulting services in association with the Austin Park Improvements. She stated now that the Town owns the Park and Pavilion we need to look at opportunities for its improvements. We are working with Jeanie Gleisner of CNYRPDB for grant opportunities. There is a matching grant opportunity through the NYS Parks and Recreation Historic Preservation for up to \$500,000. We are looking at running a parallel line for the grant and an RFP to hire a professional to look at different options for Austin Pavilion and the Sims Building.

Budget Officer Winkelman said we need to look at what architecturally we can do with the building and we need to have hard numbers to go forward. The grant is a matching grant for up to \$500,000 so this would give the Town the ability to complete a lot of the work.

Supervisor Aaron reviewed pictures with the Board on the disrepair of the building and the need for it to be updated and repaired. Nothing has been done with the arena in a very long time. It would be nice to be able to have the ability to use the building year- round. There is a need for this in the community.

Councilor Coville stated the building could be used for a lot more with improvements.

Supervisor Aaron and Budget Officer Winkelman stated if the Town is awarded the grant there will be a \$18,000 cost to CNYRBPB to administer the Grant and be the project manager on the improvement project and a \$6,000 cost for CNYPDB to write the RFP.

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Aaron was authorized to sign the agreement for services with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board for Austin Park Improvements for the Austin Park Improvements Planning and Phase I Improvement Projects.

*Resolution #18-126*

**Amendment to the 2018 Annual Resolution – Vacation days and Codes Office Hours:** Councilor Badami reviewed with the Board a proposed schedule submitted by the Codes Enforcement Officer regarding his office hours. Codes Enforcement Officer Coville has proposed Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., or by appointment and weekends if necessary. Councilor Badami explained most of the time the Codes Officer’s job is in the field not in the office.

Councilor Badami reviewed the policy for first year employees that was part of the Codes Officer's request. He stated it was brought to his attention that currently the handbook stated first year full time employees get 3 vacation days, 1 personal day and accrue 8 hours of sick time each month after their 3-month probationary period. Councilor Badami proposed to modify this policy to 5 days of vacation after the probationary period, 1 personal day and continue accruing sick time 8 hours per month.

Supervisor Aaron stated she has thought hard about this request. She stated the Town has 16 full time employees, 8 of which are union. The union contract does not allow any vacation, personal or sick time for the first year of employment. Our union contract has another year before we negotiate again. Supervisor Aaron stated that the same time we negotiate the union contract and review next year's budget, the Board review the Codes Officer's request at the same time.

Supervisor Aaron stated she is not a fan on making amendments to our employee policies based on one request. These requests should be considered at budget time or when we are adopting our annual resolution at the beginning of the year. Employees understand the conditions under which they accept part-time and full- time employment with the Town of Skaneateles. And while some benefits may seem behind the times many of our benefits are far more than most people receive in the private sector. Our pension plan with NYS Retirement and our health insurance benefits are by far some of the best and many of our employees are attracted to work here because of the benefits even if the salary does not necessarily meet up to their expectations. She agreed vacation time with the Town has always been a bit behind the times. Up until only 3 years ago full- time employees did not receive any sick, personal or vacation time until they had completed one year of service. That was changed and now employees receive time off benefits after completing 90 days with the Town. This year the Town Board waived the 90 days requirement for both the Codes Officer and the Deputy Town Clerk because they had worked for the Town part time and the Board agreed that they did not have to go through another 90- day probationary period. All their benefits including health insurance started from day one.

Full Time employees after the first 90 days of service receive 3 days of vacation, 12 days of sick time and 1 day of personal time and a floating holiday. A request is being made by our Codes Enforcement Office to allow for two weeks of vacation. Supervisor Aaron stated she is not in favor of two weeks but would be in favor of an employee requesting permission to take time off without pay. Also, she would not object to increasing vacation time for new employees to five days from three days after the 90- day probationary period. But again, in the future she would make sure that it is very clear to new employees what they will be entitled to when they are hired and that the Town Board consider these requests at budget time and for our annual resolution so that it is not perceived that we are showing favoritism to one employee over all others.

The Codes Officer has also asked to change the hours he is in the office. Supervisor Aaron stated currently the annual resolution has the hours from 8 to 1. Codes Enforcement Officer Coville has requested that his office hours be Tuesday and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. She agreed with Councilor Badami that we need to have our Codes Officer out there making sure all violations are found and inspections completed not only in our watershed but throughout the Town. We must do all we can to protect our lake, that is a belief every single Board member supports. But there has to be some accountability no matter what those hours are. She stated she would like to see the Codes Officer start the day at the office and end the day at the office with documentation on what



is being done in between. All employees are required to account for their time in every department and that is no different for this department. Therefore, whatever decision the Town Board makes regarding hours that the Codes Office is available to the public that the other hours are documented, and the inspections and violations are time listed. The Town Board has also hired a part time Codes Enforcement Officer and between the two we should be able to have more office hours than 4 hours a week and with all employees, accountability just as we are doing with our employee volunteers. Document when you leave. We owe this to our taxpayers.

Supervisor Aaron stated with two Codes Enforcement Officers the office should be open more than 4 hours a week. Councilor Badami stated it's not that the office isn't open, it's that they are sitting there waiting for someone to come in. Other Towns do not have regular hours. The previous Codes Officers were in the office more and now there are permits that haven't been inspected and closed out. Supervisor Aaron stated this is a data entry issue. They are not sitting there doing nothing, there is paperwork and data entry that need to be done.

Councilor Badami stated the Codes Officer's job is primarily in the field. Supervisor Aaron suggested the Codes Officer check in at the end of the day. Councilor Badami stated he did not have a problem with that for accountability. We will have a clerk for paperwork and phone calls.

Supervisor Aaron stated there should be a happy medium, four hours is not enough time in the office. Councilor Badami stated the Codes Officer reported that 85% of his job is in the field. This is about availability to be seen by our constituents. He stated the current codes officer is doing a better job than it's been done in the past. Supervisor Aaron stated the previous codes officers did a great job and didn't have a part time codes officer in addition to a clerk to help with paperwork and data entry. She stated she would like the Codes Officer to check in at the end of the day to follow up on the day's activities.

Councilor McCormack asked if the Codes Officer keeps track of his hours. Supervisor Aaron stated he does, on his time sheet. Councilor McCormack stated this is for retirement purposes. Councilor McCormack asked if his phone number is published. Supervisor Aaron stated his cell number is not on his answering machine but on the website.

Councilor Tucker stated in the past when we had the same amount of staff as we do now. There was never a problem with the 9:00a.m – noon office hours. The inspections were done in the afternoon. He stated he is not sure that 2 hours twice a week is enough time.

Supervisor Aaron stated she spoke to Curt about have RJ Cunningham come in. This is the time of year when he is needed to do the additional inspections and paperwork.

Councilor Tucker stated when Codes Officer Coville took the job he knew what the job entailed and what the benefits were.

Supervisor Aaron stated she is willing to try these hours but would like the Codes Officer to check back at the end of the day, from 3:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Councilor Badami stated he was not in favor of this. He stated the Codes Officer should stop back in the office in the afternoon only if there is need for it.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board agreed to refer the “Volunteer Firefighters/Emergency Responders” policy to the employees, the Fire Departments and SAVES for comments.

**Announcements/Correspondence/Updates**

▪ *Joint Information Meeting with Skaneateles Lake Association – June 6, 2018*  
7:00 p.m. at the Highschool Auditorium.

▪ *Sue Ambrosie – 1020 Autumn Tree Court - water billing:* supervisor Aaron stated they received a letter from Sue Ambrosie at 1020 Autumn Tree Court. Ms. Ambrosie stated in the letter there must have been an error in the water billing and was asking for an adjustment. She said they could not have used that much water. Supervisor Aaron stated Water Foreman, Joe Dwyer had spoken to Ms. Ambrosie and has checked her meter and found the Ambrosie’s had a toilet that was running. He explained this to her, but she would not accept the explanation.

Budget Officer Bridgett Winkelman stated she had spoken to Ms. Ambrosie and told her she would waive the late fee and let her pay over a period.

Attorney Smith stated this could be considered a hardship case and the Board could approve to waive the late fees and Ms. Ambrosie could pay over time.

On a motion of Supervisor Aaron, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board agreed to waive the late fees on the Ambrosie’s water/sewer bill for 1020 Autumn Tree Court for 90 days.

▪ *Schedule a Special Meeting June 13, 2018 at 6:00pm*

**Budget Amendments/Adjustments:** No Budget Amendments or Adjustments

*Resolution #18-128*

**Abstract #18-09:** On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board voucher #18-0724 to 18-0774 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 56,494.98	Part Town:	\$ 2,248.45
Highway:	\$ 1,282.38	Highway P/T:	\$ 1,206.47
Water:	\$ 571.15	T & A:	\$ 1,193.45
Lighting District	\$ 1,035.81		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$64,032.69</b>		

**Public Comment:** Daniel Judge asked the Board what their opinion was on the proposed restaurant district in the Village. Supervisor Aaron stated that was a Village Ordinance and did not involve the Town.

**Executive Session:** On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Potential Property Transactions, Personnel and Potential Litigation.

Supervisor Aaron stated if he is in the field that many hours it should be listed on his time sheet. Councilor McCormack asked if this was required now. Supervisor Aaron stated no, only the hours he worked, not a list of inspections.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Codes Enforcement Officer's office hours were approved to be Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. or by appointment. The Codes Officer will also be required to submit a detailed log of inspections along with his weekly time sheet.

Supervisor Aaron asked about the proposal on the 5 vacation days. She stated she is not in favor of changing outside of budget time and making amendments to the Annual Resolution and also outside the Union contract. Councilor Tucker agreed. Councilor McCormack stated he did not have a problem with it and stated the Union employees get more benefits than the nonunion employees now.

Councilor Badami moved a resolution to amend the Town of Skaneateles Employee Handbook to the following:

<b>Length of service completed As of Anniversary Date of Hire</b>	<b>Vacation Leave Annually</b>
*1 Year of Continuous Service	5 Days
2-5 Year of Continuous Service	10 Days
6-10 Year of Continuous Service	15 Days
11-15 Year of Continuous Service	20 Days
16-32 Year of Continuous Service	25 Days

Seconded by Councilor McCormack.

Councilor Badami	Yes
Councilor Coville	Yes
Councilor McCormack	Yes
Councilor Tucker	No
Supervisor Aaron	No

Carried 3-2

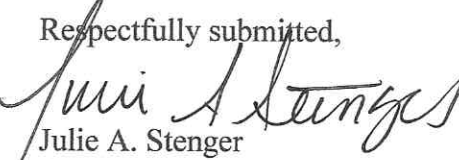
*Resolution #18-127*

**Volunteer Firefighters & Emergency Responders Policy:** Supervisor Aaron stated the Town Board is looking at a new policy for Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders to be published in the Town's Employee Handbook. She stated the new policy would require employees "in the event an employee is called upon to perform volunteer duties as a firefighter or emergency responder on a day the employee is scheduled to work, the employee will receive paid leave to perform such duties if so authorized. The employee may not leave the work place till it has been approved by the appropriate supervisor."

Supervisor Aaron recommended the new policy be referred to the employees, the Fire Departments and SAVES for comments.

On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Julie A. Stenger  
Town Clerk

Split Rock Explosion  
Beth Battle, Town of Skaneateles Historian

On July 2, 1918, at 9:30 p. m., an explosion at the Split Rock munition plant at not only shook the City of Syracuse but also sent shock waves as far away as the Village of Skaneateles. Of the 600 men working the 3 to 11 shift, 50 men were killed in the blast. Two, Vernon Dillon and James King, were from Skaneateles.

This trinitrotoluene (T.N.T. ) plant, one of 18 in the country, was started in 1915 by the Semet-Solvay Company. It was located on 1,000 isolated acres in the old abandoned quarry off Onondaga Road just west of the city. Approximately 25% of the country's explosives were produced here and sent to France and Belgium. The plant employed 3,000 people by 1918; John Hazard of Skaneateles was Vice President of the company.

Dillon and King Skaneateles had probably boarded the Auburn-Syracuse trolley in the village earlier that afternoon, and rode the line to work. Arriving at the plant, they passed through the turnstile and both, as required, would have left their matches and cigarettes behind, then headed for their work stations.

Vernon Dillon, age 23, was one of the 300 patrolmen who, day and night, guarded the 14 miles of fence that surrounded the plant. A graduate of Skaneateles High School and Manhattan College in New York City, he had worked at the plant for two years. As a patrolmen, not only was he capable of firing his 38 caliber revolver, he was also trained in the technique of fighting munitions fires.

When the fire whistle blew that night, he was one of the firemen who responded. A fire had started from an overheated gear in one of the grinding machines. At first the trained firemen were able to keep the flames under control. But suddenly the hoses went limp - the water system had failed. A wind blowing up from the south fanned the flames until they were dangerously close to the 60 foot tower in Number One T.N.T building. The men soon realized that they had to get away as fast as possible.

Before everyone could flee to safety, however, there was a blinding light, a deafening roar, and a fiery ball shot up into the air, then fell in a "cloud of sparks." Men were tossed up into the air, their clothes torn from their bodies, their skin turned yellow from the picric acid released into the air. Breathing became difficult because of the super-heated air and the noxious gases released into the night air.

When Vernon's body arrive at the morgue he was badly burned by the flames. He was identified by the family three days later by a missing tooth and other markings. The records show that he died of a crushed skull. He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Skaneateles.

James King had only been working at the plant for four weeks. He was waiting to be called up in the draft, for the country was now fighting in World War I. The body of the 26 year-old was among those 15 who were burned so severely that relatives were unable to identify them. Other men from Skaneateles that survived in spite of their injuries were Charles Wood, John Newman and Leslie Hoyt.

There were many acts of heroism that night. For example, a little over a ton of T.N.T. had exploded, while another 400 tons were in storage in the western section. ( T.N.T. is more powerful than dynamite but less dangerous to handle). If the fire had spread there, experts said, the explosion could have destroyed the entire City of Syracuse. As it was, 10

buildings were totally destroyed with the property losses amounted to \$1,000,000.

On August 7, 1918, 36 days after the explosion 15 hearses, carrying 15 black caskets with the bodies of the 15 unidentified casualties, slowly made their way to Morningside Cemetery in Syracuse. There these men, James King among them, were buried in a semi-circular formation. A monument was erected in the center with the names of all fifty who were killed.

The July 14, 1918 issue of *The Syracuse Herald* said, "The victims of the Split Rock T.N.T. explosion died for their country as truly as though they had fought in the trenches in France. They were as surely soldiers of civilization as are their brothers in khaki. They knew the danger. They accepted the challenge. They fought battles with fear and won – that our men abroad should not go without munitions and the people of Syracuse might be spared the horrors of a greater disaster if fire spread to additional explosives.

"They were soldiers of Uncle Sam when they worked in the midst of danger. They were heroes in that they died courageously, fighting to protect their city from disaster. If they had run away, if they had given up the fight, horror might have been widespread.

"The families of these men, their wives and mothers and children have given their most precious possessions to the country. They deserve the praise and gratitude of the community and of the country for their sacrifices."

Four months after the explosion, the quarry whistle blew once again. The men dropped their tools and ran toward the gate. This time, however, they swarmed jubilantly out the gate leaving the plant empty and unguarded. The date was November 11, 1918, the time was 11 a. m. – an armistice ending the war had just been signed.

On December 31, 1918 the plant closed its gates for the last time. Today the site is the home of the State Department of Public Works

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#### Sources:

"The Night the Rock Blew up" Jasena R. Foley, Onondaga town Historian, 1973

*The Syracuse Herald*, "In Memorium," July 14, 1918

*The Post Standard*, "Fifty Died Heroes in Split Rock Explosion 16 Years Ago,"  
June 17, 1934

Humphreys Diary, p. 608, "Awful Disaster At Split Rock," obituaries of Vernon Stuart Dillon, James King.

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

WHEREAS, with the prosperity and quality of life of the town, the lake and the region at stake, The Town Board officially resolved in 2013 and 2016 its determination that the existing Interstate 81 route must be maintained through Syracuse and Central New York; and

WHEREAS, we commend Governor Andrew M. Cuomo for his principled and decisive statement opposing the proposed trash incinerator in Romulus over obvious environmental concerns; and

WHEREAS, many of the same considerations must also be weighed when it comes to the future of Interstate 81 and of the Finger Lakes region. The same environmental standards must be applied to this decision-making process as well; and

WHEREAS, even without an incinerator looming, dirty trash- and hazardous waste-hauling trucks would still surge en masse through the Finger Lakes area if I-81 were to be downgraded to a street-level routing, otherwise known as the “community grid;” and

WHEREAS, an environmental study by the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the future of this vital north-south artery is being completed, necessitating an updated and renewed focus on protecting the environment and preserving vital access to and through Syracuse and Central New York; now therefore it is

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Skaneateles reaffirms in the strongest possible terms its support for maintaining the existing Interstate 81 route through Syracuse and Central New York and opposition to the downgrading of Interstate 81 to a street-level routing; and it is further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Skaneateles, is hereby directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the New York State Department of Transportation, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, and to the to the various state legislative and congressional members representing Central New York.

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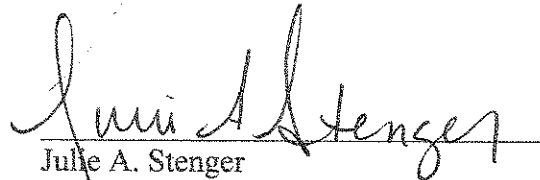
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles, Skaneateles, New York on June 4, 2018 the foregoing Resolution was duly moved by Councilor Badami and seconded by Councilor Coville a quorum of four members of the five-member Board being present, and each voted on the Resolution as follows:

Supervisor	Janet L. Aaron	Yes
Councilor	David Badami	Yes
Councilor	Robert Coville	Yes
Councilor	Kevin McCormick	Yes
Councilor	Mark Tucker	Yes

The Resolution was, therefore, duly adopted.

Dated: June 4, 2018

  
Julie A. Stenger  
Town Clerk  
Town of Skaneateles