

Town Board Meeting

April 15, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Zoom: Meeting Id: 896 9441 6241 Passcode: 923885

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

Present Via Zoom: Councilor Milne

Also, Present (In Person): Tim Dobrovosky, Keri Fey, Brian Buff, Chris Buff, Emily Young, Greg Cromer, David Brown.

Also, Present (via Zoom): Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Miranda Robinson, Sue Murphy, Miranda Robinson.

Deckard Technologies Rentalscape Presentation: Councilor Alexander stated David Brown from Deckard Technologies was here to give a presentation to the Board on their Rentalscapes software. This software is a short term rental monitoring program.

David Brown of Deckard Technologies stated he was the Northeast Director of Sales for Deckard Technologies. Deckard Technologies Rentalscapes is a program that utilizes data science expertise to assist local governments with managing their compliance and enforcement of short-term rental properties. They work exclusively with municipalities and not private companies to assist in codes enforcement and occupancy tax management. They use artificial intelligence, internal learning and data scientist to gather their online data. They work with all the third party online rental sources, such as Airbnb and VRBO as well as other smaller online services.

Mr. Brown presented the software to the board and reviewed how it would work with properties in the Town of Skaneateles. He reviewed the other services the software would provide the Town such as; codes enforcement, estimated rental income and estimated occupancy tax. He

Mr. Brown reviewed the other municipalities that have contracted with Deckard Technologies for this service. The majority of the communities Deckard works with are in the South, but they are slowly working up through the Northeast and would like to have the opportunity to work with the Town of Skaneateles.

Councilor Alexander stated this would be a great idea for the Town since the Occupancy Tax local law went into effect on January 1, 2024. This would help the Clerk's Office track down the short-term rentals that needed to register and filed.

Supervisor Legg reviewed the options with Mr. Brown. He asked if the Village of Skaneateles would be separated out from the Town in this program. Mr. Brown stated yes, the program would be programmed with GIS mapping that would separate the Village from the Town.

Mr. Brown stated the pricing is based on the number of proerites in the municipality. There are 111 life lsitings in the Town of Skaneateles right now and there are some duplicate listings. The proposed cost for the basic program for the town of Skaneateles would be \$3,500 per year. There are other levels of the program that would cost more but the base fee would be the \$3,500 per year.

The Board thanked Mr. Brown for the presentation and stated they would discuss the proposal.

Minutes of April 1, 2024: The minutes of April 1, 2024 would be tabled till May 6, 2024 for a quorum of the Board, since Councilor Alexandrerf was not present for the April 1, 2024 Town Board meeting.

Abstract #24-05: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers were authorized from the following funds:

General:	\$ 56,992.94	Highway:	\$ 10,296.94
HWY PT:	\$ 7,230.28	Sewer:	\$ 635.17
Part Town:	\$ 9,282.36	Water:	\$ 29,419.24
T&A	\$ 1,704.11	Limeledge Wtr:	\$ 655.08
Total:	\$ 116,217.22		

Community Garden Update: Supervisor Legg stated Chris Buff had established the Town of Skaneateles Community Garden at the Conservation Area and had volunteered to maintain the garden.

Chris Buff stated this is the third season for the Commiuyu Garden and they are not were she would like the gardens to be. She introduced Emily Young. Emily is a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener and is willing to take over the Community Garden. Ms. Buff stated she would to a great job and is pleased that she has volunteered for this work.

Ms. Buff reviewed some photos of the gardens and of the damage that had happened at the garden during the wind storms this winter. The damage was able to be repaired, and the gardens should be ready for the spring.

Supervsior Legg thanked Emily for taking over the gardens. Emily stated she was happy to be a part of the Community Garden and looking forward to starting. She stated they plan to donate what they grow to the Skaneateles Food Pantry.

The Board welcomed Emily Young and thanked Chris Buff for her years of service to the community gardens.

Supervsior Legg stated the garden was originally funded by Adam Weitsman, and not by tax payers dollars and he thanked him, Chris Buff and the volunteers. This is a true community effort.

Lakeshore Baseball License Agreement: Attorney Smith reviewed the proposed License Agreement for the Lakeshore Baseball's request to use temporary fencing at Austin Park. This is an agreement between the Town of Skaneateles and Lakeshore Baseball for that the licensor agrees

to grant to licensee a revocable license to erect temporary fencing on the premises located at 1 East Austin Street, Skaneateles, New York, more commonly known as Austin Park. The Licensee acknowledges that it shall have a non-exclusive right to use the Premises for baseball and softball and may, at its sole expense, erect temporary fencing on the Premises in connection with such use. The Licensee agrees to abide by the rules set forth in the agreement at all times and acknowledges that failure to comply with the rules in any respect shall be grounds for termination of this License.

Attorney Smith reviewed the License Agreement as presented to the Board. He stated there is no statement regarding the stakes/sockets that are installed in the ground and if they are to be removed at the end of the season. This decision could be made later.

Councilor Alexander stated they would like to wait and see if and how the sockets can be removed at the end of the season. Parks Director Murphy agreed to this and to wait and assess the stakes/socket removal at the end of the season.

Councilor Alexander stated the License Agreement presented to the Board, if approved would be sent to Lakeshore Baseball for their review and approval.

Councilor Dove asked if Lakeshore Baseball's request for the mounds and the scoreboard be added to the License Agreement.

Councilor Alexander and Parks Director Murphy agreed that Lakeshore had already installed the mounds and there were no problems with Lakeshore maintaining the mounds. And, the scoreboards would have to be removed since they cannot be left out in the rain and inclement weather. Therefore, these items did not need to be added to the agreement. The Board agreed.

Supervisor Legg clarified that the cost of fencing, scoreboards and mounds were all being paid for by Lakeshore Baseball and there were no tax dollars used.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Approved the License Agreement with Lakeshore Baseball for temporary fencing in Austin Park as presented.

Parks Divider Equipment Authorization: Supervisor Legg stated the Parks Department has requested the purchase of

NY American Water Works Association (AWEA) annual meeting April 9th -11th – Supervisor Legg stated Town Engineer Robinson and Water Foreman Christman were requesting authorization to attend the NY American Water Works Association annual meeting April 9, 2024 -April 11, 2024.

On a motion of Councilor Milne, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Town Engineer Robinson, and Water Foremen Christman were approved to attend the AWEA annual meeting from April 9, 2024 – April 11, 2024.

Deckard Technologies Rentalscape - Occupancy Tax Proposal: Councilor Alexander reported she had spoken to Deckard Technologies at the Association of Towns Conference. This is a company that locates short-term rentals. This is a service that would locate the short-term rentals and Airbnb's for the Town to be able to collect the Occupancy Tax recently enacted in the Town of Skaneateles.

This company provides a program that maps out anyone who has a short-term rental online. It also shows how many days the property was rented for over the year and their revenue. It is an amazing program.

Councilor Alexander stated they have various levels of service. The level she would like the Board to consider is a lower cost level that would help the Clerk's office locate and track these properties. The program gives locations, addresses, owners, and revenue. The Town could contract for a year to get a handle on the properties in the Town of Skaneateles. She stated when she did a quick search on the Deckard Technologies program, she found online rental properties in the Town had done 1.7 million dollars in revenue in the past year.

Councilor Alexander stated the cost for one year for the lower service level would be around \$3,000. She would like to schedule a presentation from Deckard Technologies and get some pricing for the Board to consider.

The Board discussed the program and what it could offer the Town and agreed to have Councilor Alexander schedule a presentation from Deckard Technologies for a future Board meeting.

Schedule Special Town Board Meeting April 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. – Supervisor Legg stated the Board needed to schedule a special meeting to continue contract negotiations.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, scheduled a Town Board Special Meeting for executive session for contract negotiations.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

Shred Day – April 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.: Supervisor Legg announced Shred Day would be held at the Skaneateles Transfer Station on April 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan Preliminary Draft – March 2024: Supervisor Legg announced the Board was in receipt of the Draft Skaneateles Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan. This draft plan will be posted on the Town of Skaneateles website.

Town Departments Closed March 29, 2024, for Good Friday – Half Day

Town Hall 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

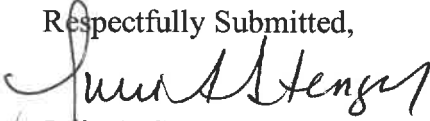
Transfer Station 7:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to attorney advice at 7:15 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting returned to open session at 8:20 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Dove, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk