

**-Town Board Meeting  
September 9, 2020  
6:30 p.m.**

**Remote Meeting via [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) (id#: 885 5756 7494 password 010739)**

**Present:** Supervisor Aaron, Councilor Tucker, Councilor McCormack, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Legg, Attorney Smith

**Also Present:** Bridgett Winkelman, Karen Barkdull, Sue Murphy, Kim Benda, Miranda Robinson, Chris Buff, Kimberly Bobbett, Dee McGuire, Pete Buehler, Marty Lynn, Doreen Simmons, Gary Dower, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press).

***Highway, Water, Transfer Station:*** Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington reported the Highway Department cleaned up fallen trees on Gully and Albring Roads, replaced damaged street signs, mowed roadsides and made equipment repairs. They paved Baptist Corner, Clapp, Masters and Austin Roads with help from the Towns of Spafford, Sennett, Marcellus, and Elbridge. They helped the Town of Marcellus chip and seal roads and rebuild shoulders and helped the Town of Spafford with paving. In the Water Department they replaced the top of a fire hydrant on West Lake Street, trimmed grass around hydrants, installed a new water meter and MXU on School Street, repaired a valve box on Visions Drive and repaired cub boxes on Jordan, Road, Irish Road, Maple Drive and Hillside Drive. At the Transfer Station they mowed the field for the solar panel project, graded the berm to the west of the buildings to catch blowing debris, paved the damaged blacktop at the entrance of the Transfer Station and at the scrap steel area and Clifton Recycling finished the grinding of the brush.

Highway Superintendent Wellington announced the Town will hold their annual mandatory safety training on September 30<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Town's worker's compensation insurance carrier, Comp Alliance. He stated he would like to close the Transfer Station on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30, to allow all employees to participate in the mandatory training from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Town Board agreed to close the Transfer Station at 12:30 p.m. on September 30<sup>th</sup> for the employee mandatory annual PESH Safety Training.

Councilor Legg reported Clifton Recycling and the Transfer Station employees had done a great job clearing and grinding the brush pile. He also reported the Swap Shop is running successfully with the volunteers. He stated this extraordinary activity has kept reusable items out of the garbage.

He also reported the Swap Shop volunteers are starting "the Mary Alice Project". This is a project with William and Kelly Haining, along with their daughter, Mary Alice to allow people to borrow a "picker" from the Swap Shop for \$1 to help clean up litter while families walk around the Town of Skaneateles. The \$1 would go to purchasing the pickers. The families would pick them up at the Swap Shop and return them the following week, they would be responsible to dispose of the garbage collected.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Councilor Legg for all the work he had done at the Transfer Station and the Swap Shop.

**Planning & Zoning:** Councilor Tucker reported the Planning and Zoning Department had 8 existing projects currently open; Card Subdivision, Hidden Estates, Graham County Line Road Subdivision, Zechman Subdivision, Graham Multi-Family Residences, Steve Datz, Meunier, and Victory Sports. New Open projects include Bonnie Dunn application for an Area variance, Ray Lessongang application for an Area Variance, Michael Gorman's application for a Special Permit and Charles Rounds application for a Subdivision. Other activity includes 2 possible community solar projects, completion of an additional hour of CEO Training, Gateway Committee meetings, Zoning Committee meeting, audit of the draft Zoning Code for code reference accuracy, finalized major changes comparison of the 2020 draft code to existing code and conducted three pre-application meetings and two denials.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Planning and Zoning Department had been very busy and she thanked Secretary Barkdull for all her hard work.

**Codes:** Codes Enforcement Officer Robert Herrmann reported permits are a little ahead of last year at this time- 126 compared to 116 last year. Expired permits total 28 at this time, 7 of the original 350 are still open. Complaints seem to be up. We have been able to solve most of the complaints quickly, but there seems to be an uptick this year. Fire inspection database continues to grow hopefully as businesses open-up, we can get going in the next couple weeks on improving our program. The Fire Department wants to walk thru with us on some so we can compare concerns.

Councilor Tucker reviewed the August 2020 Building Permit Report. He reported there were 15 permits issued with permit fees totaling \$8,487.27 and building valuation totaling \$1,380,280. 16 Certificate of Completions were issued.

**Parks:** Parks Manager Sue Murphy reported the Clift park swimming area is closed for the season as well as the attendants at the Boat Launches. She thanked all the Summer seasonal employees for all their work over the season. She had been working on the Parks 2021 Budget and preparing for the Nursey School to begin at the Austin Pavilion. She announced they would be working on the Charlie Major Nature Trail bridge for repair and maintenance and asked for people to please use caution when using the Trail next week.

**Staff Engineer:** Staff Engineer, Miranda Robinson reported the Gateways for the LED Street Lighting were installed in the three locations in order to operate the street lighting system. They were installed on 8/24 and 8/25. The Village was extremely helpful in this process along with Grace Chapel, we are very appreciative of their support with this infrastructure. There is a kickoff meeting on 9/10 for the streetlighting install with National Grid, NYPA, Guth DeConzo and the Town. More information will be provided to the public via the town website and the town Facebook page.

Big thanks to Julie, Kim, and Paula for answering the phones and taking complaints because there have been a lot of streetlights out since this transition began.

She reported on the Transfer Station Solar Project. The building permit had been submitted for the Solar Project up at the Transfer Station, a big thanks to Bob Herrmann for working on this with us.

She reported they are still in conversations with the residents of the Talcott Water District. Concerning the Eastern Gateway, a conceptualizing meeting happened yesterday, and we have put the project on the state project list just in case we decide to apply for funding in the future.

**Budget:** Budget Officer Winkelman reported she is continuing to work on the 2021 Budget. She had submitted the paperwork to all department heads and is working with each department in preparation of the budget meetings scheduled with the Board. They are working on the necessary paperwork for the refinancing of the Fire Department Bonding

**Minutes of August 17, 2020:** On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor , and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of August 17, 2020 were accepted as presented.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Councilor Legg and the Skaneateles Rotary for their ribbon campaign to support the Fire Department since the Labor Day Field Days was cancelled. The ribbons were placed on poles along the parade route and donations are being made. President of the Skaneateles Fire Department, Marty Lynn echoed Supervisor's Aaron comments and also thanked Councilor Legg and the Skaneateles Rotary.

**Skaneateles Fire Department Residential Action Committee Proposal – Marty Lynn:** Marty Lynn, Skaneateles Fire Department President reviewed the Fire Department's request. He stated they are asking the Town and the Village to consider purchasing the property adjacent to the Fire Department at 71 West Genesee Street. There was a residential home that had been demolished on the property. There are plans for a new 4-bedroom home to be built. The Fire Department's full membership visited the property and it was passed unanimously by all Fire Department Boards. The Fire Department formed a Residential Action Committee (RAC) to review all aspects of this proposal. The RAC committee members are: Chief Pete Buehler, Eric Sell, Dick Perkins, Dan Evans, Bob Frank, Gordon Carlson, Kathy Murphy, and Marty Lynn, along with Attorney Doreen Simmons.

Mr. Lynn reviewed the recruitment of new members for the Fire Department. He stated they are struggling to retain members. Recruiting and training is very costly and the loss of members to communities with more affordable housing is devastating to their ranks. They have lost several young members (many in their 20s) after investing time in training and purchasing costly equipment. Recruitment and membership retention continue to be an increasing problem.

Mr. Lynn stated the Department had been discussing purchasing the 71 West Genesee residence since 2016. The RAC committee has looked into other options - paid members/renting apartments/volunteer incentives, but do not feel that these are viable options with long term benefits. Our research indicates that a paid fire department would cost the community millions of dollars a year in salaries, benefits, and equipment. We have studied other department's programs and feel this is the best option for us.

Mr. Lynn stated they are confident the firefighter residence program will be successful. We have members ready to move in. The location of the house provides a unique housing opportunity and the attractive downtown location is an important feature to attract young volunteers.

Mr. Lynn stated the community is very supportive of the Fire Department. The Department has not come to the Town with many requests in the past. They have been able to be self-supportive due to the support of the community.

Fire Chief Pete Buehler reported to the Board on the benefit to response times this would add to the Department. Two most important components are: 1 Response time - need to be out of the fire house in an apparatus within 5 minutes and 2. The number of qualified firefighters that are responding. We believe we could reduce the response time in half with qualified members responding to calls. Fire is known to double every 30 seconds so every second counts. For medical calls, a patient in cardiac arrest every minute of delay reduces chances of survival by 10%. When faced with storm, governmental emergencies, and seasonal events, we have no bunk rooms, sleeping or shower facilities at the firehouse. Our members are dedicated to the SVFD.

Chief Buehler reviewed the status of the current members. He stated more than half of their members are over age 50 with many in their 60s, 70s and 80s. They service an area of approximately 35 miles which is divided geographically by the lake. Almost all members are required to respond to the firehouse for an emergency call which creates issues with seasonal weather and traffic. He stated there are currently 55 active members in the Department, the age breakdown is as follows: age 14-20, 5 members 20-29, 3 members 30-39, 6members, 40-49 12 members, 50-59, 11 members, 60 -69, 8 members, 70-79, 7 members. The average responder for daytime calls is of age 50 to 79.

Supervisor Aaron stated there was no questions the gratitude the Town Board and the community have toward the Fire Department. They are grateful for all they do to protect the community. Supervisor Aaron stated the Board would like to receive legal advice from their attorney to make sure we are following NYS Town Law and General Municipal Law. The Town Board is waiting to hear from Town Attorney Smith. Attorney Smith is in communication with Village Attorney Pavlus and Fire Department Attorney Doreen Simmons. Supervisor Aaron said she would like the Board to wait till the Attorney comes back with their recommendations. The Board members all agreed.

Supervisor Aaron read the following resolution:

The Town Board has introduced this resolution for purpose of expressing support for the Town of Skaneateles (the "Town") and the Village of Skaneateles (the "Village") obtaining a parcel of real property at 71 West Genesee Street for purposes of constructing a firefighter residence for use by the Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department ("SVFD"); and

**WHEREAS**, since 1833 the SVFD has been a 100% Volunteer Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD prides itself on its volunteerism; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD makes great efforts to serve the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has maintained the lowest fire tax rate in Onondaga County since 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD responds to approximately 365 emergencies a year, which include fires, motor vehicle accidents, water rescues, hunting injuries, medical emergencies, storm response, special events, call investigations, and residential water emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, SVFD volunteers have contributed 67,745 officially recorded hours in service

of the community since 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD is ready and willing to serve the community at any time that their presence is requested; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD serves an area of approximately 35 miles, which is divided geographically by Skaneateles Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, almost all SVFD members are required to respond to the firehouse for an emergency call, which creates issues with seasonal weather and traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD is struggling to retain members; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half of SVFD members are over age 50, with many in their 60s, 70s and 80s; and

**WHEREAS**, recruiting and training members is very costly and the loss of members to communities with more affordable housing is devastating to SVFD's ranks; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has lost several young members (many in their 20s) after investing time in training and purchasing costly equipment due to unaffordable housing options for young members; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has formed a Residential Action Committee ("RAC") to investigate recruitment and retention of SVFD members; and

**WHEREAS**, the RAC has reviewed numerous recruitment and retention options, including paid members, renting apartments and volunteer incentives, but does not feel that these are viable options with long term benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, RAC research indicates that a paid fire department would cost the community millions of dollars a year in salaries, benefits, and equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the RAC has studied other fire department programs and concluded that obtaining the 71 West Genesee Street property adjacent to the current firehouse is the best option for recruitment and retention of members; and

**WHEREAS**, the 71 West Genesee Street location provides a unique housing opportunity next to the firehouse, with an attractive downtown location, which is an important feature to attract young volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD and RAC are confident that a firefighter residence program at 71 West Genesee Street will be successful; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has members ready to move in to such a residence; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD needs to be out of the firehouse in an apparatus within 5 minutes of an emergency call; and

**WHEREAS**, fire is known to double every 30 seconds, so every second counts; and

**WHEREAS**, for a patient in cardiac arrest, every minute of delay reduces chances of survival by 10%; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD believes a firefighter residence at 71 West Genesee Street could reduce call response time by half, with qualified members responding to calls; and

**WHEREAS**, when the SVFD is faced with storms, governmental emergencies and seasonal events, there are no bunk rooms, sleeping, or shower facilities at the firehouse; and

**WHEREAS**, a firefighter residence at 71 West Genesee Street will attract and retain younger members, while allowing the SVFD to maintain a high-quality and cost-effective volunteer service to the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board supports obtaining the 71 West Genesee Street property for purposes of a firefighter residence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Attorney is directed to investigate and

report to the Board what steps must be taken to obtain the property in compliance with New York State Law.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board adopted the Resolution in support of obtaining 71 West Genesee Street property for the purpose of a firefighter residence.

**Easement with Elerion, LLC and Niorele, LLC Franklin Street Waterline Relocation-Project Update Gary Dower:** Gary Dower, owner of Mirbeau reviewed with the Board his update of the water main relocation across his property at Mirbeau. He stated this project with the help of John Camp, Miranda Robinson and the Village Engineers is under way and should be completed sometime in October.

Mr. Dower requested the Town Board approve of the “Release of Easement” when the waterline connections are completed and approved by the Village and Town Engineers . The easement would state that in connection with the redevelopment of the properties, the owners have requested that the Town release the Easement and the Town has agreed to such a release.

Supervisor Aaron stated this “Release” was reviewed by the Town’s attorney and the Mirbeau attorneys and was found to be satisfactory. She stated the reconnection would benefit the Town with better pressure and an emergency connection at Highland Street.

Mr. Dower stated they were able to work with the Village and the cost will be taken on by Mirbeau, the Developer and the Village. There will be no cost to the Town.

He stated the idea to reconnect this waterline came from Staff Engineer Robinson and it made the most sense. This would benefit the Town as well as the Mirbeau property. He thanked Engineer Robinson, Supervisor Aaron, and the Board for working with them on this project.

Councilor Alexander asked if the waterline would remain in the ground. Mr. Dower stated the engineer’s recommendation is to leave the pipe in the ground.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor McCormack, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Supervisor Aaron was authorized to sign the “Release of Easement” between Town of Skaneateles a Municipal Corporation with offices at 24 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, New York 13152 and ELEROIN, LLC and NIORELE, LLC releasing the waterline easement across Tax Parcel 06.-02-27.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Mr. Dower and asked about the timeline of his housing project. Mr. Dower stated construction would begin this month.

**Sims Building Opening:** Supervisor Aaron read the following statement regarding the Sims Building history:

*“In 1962 the original Sims Building was built and named for William J. Sims who was at that time President and Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and a prominent member of the Skaneateles*

*Rotary Club. Mr. Sims was instrumental in advocating for the utilization of Austin Park as a recreation area for boys and girls. His enthusiasm contributed to organizing and building three baseball diamonds in the Park and creating and developing recreation programs. The original building was sponsored by the Rotary Club. Today, 58 years later, a new building replaces the 1962 version. Still named for William Sims this building includes a woman's, men's, and family bathroom, a first aid room, a storage room for equipment as well as areas for picnic tables under the overhang that offers protection from the weather.*

*In 2016 Senator DeFrancisco provided an \$80,000 grant to the Town for the new Sims Building. Also, in 2016 Janice Miller, architect was engaged to provide a design for this new building. In 2018 the Town Board authorized going out to bid for the construction. McGinnis Nelson Construction Company was awarded the bid to construct the building. In 2019 County Legislator, Julie-Abbott Kenan provided \$25,000 from the County towards this building. We greatly thank our former State Senator John DeFrancisco and County Legislator, Julie Abbott-Kenan for advocating for Skaneateles in providing this funding. We also thank our Budget Officer, Bridgett Winkelman whose financial wisdom and guidance allowed for paying for this building through our savings without bonding. We thank architect Janice Miller for the design of this building and McGinnis-Nelson who was wonderful to work and did a great job constructing the building. We thank Tom Evans who did all the cement work to add the sidewalks and the cement pad that now connects the Sims Building with the Picnic Pavilion and to Miranda Robinson who oversaw that project for the Town. We thank Sue Murphy and her Parks Department for guiding the Town with how the building should be designed and for their work in providing the finishing touches to the landscaping and Allan Wellington and his Highway Department for doing the drainage and grading for the landscaping work. I also want to especially thank our Town Councilor Courtney Alexander, Liaison to the Parks Department for stepping up doing the final inspection and making sure all details were taken care of.*

*On Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> we had an official ribbon cutting ceremony marking the finish of this building and it is now open for the public. We know that this building will provide the needs of the Park and the community for years to come and we look forward with moving forward with future projects at the Park."*

Supervisor Aaron showed a slide show of the rebuilding of the Sims building restrooms at Austin Park. \*see attached.

Supervisor Aaron thanked the Parks Department and the Board for all their work and support during the completion of this project.

**Bell & Spina Report – Soldiers and Sailors Monument:** Supervisor Aaron reviewed the masonry assessment report submitted by Architect Dan Jackson of Bella and Spina Architects. She reviewed where the most damage was, according to the report submitted. The most damage was at the top of the monument in the stonework under the statue.

Highway Superintendent Wellington stated his department would do the repairs to the beam in the ceiling next week. Supervisor Aaron stated Dan Jackson will supply the bid specs for this project. It has been 50 years since any work had been done on the monument.

Engineer Robinson stated there are three parts to the project; the ceiling, the emergency repair and the full repoint of the top stonework.

Supervisor Aaron said this would be on the September 21, 2020 Town Board meeting to approve Architect Daniel Jackson of Bell & Spina, bid specifications for the monument repair.

**Water Meter Upgrade:** Staff Engineer, Miranda Robinson reviewed the Town's options for water meters. She reviewed two (2) different systems provided by 5 different which produced 8 options. Only three of these eight options were fully vetted in the cost analysis. Two (2) of these three (3) options have a higher level of risk involved with sharing costs with the Village.

There are two types of systems. An AMR system which is a remote system and an IMI system, which is a drive-by system. Three quotes were received for these types of systems.

#### **Option 1: Sensus**

Remain with Sensus. This system does not require any large initial investment into radio hardware. It is assumed this cost is currently absorbed in annual operational maintenance. The immediate costs incurred would be for the upgrade to head end equipment. The total initial cost is less than \$40,000, is to be shared with the Village, and is further discounted with grant monies. Please note that the shared grant of \$23,652.21 is not included in the analysis. The darker green is a worst-case scenario if the Town had to complete this upgrade alone and was the sole operator of the system (The Village does not contribute).

#### **Option 2: Landis + Gyr**

Switch to Landis and Gyr. This system is an identical system to Sensus but would piggyback off the infrastructure already in place for the Village's Electric System. It is anticipated that the costs for the use of this infrastructure would be less for the Town as the Village would be utilizing this same equipment to read water and electric meters. If the Village and Town did not have a mutual agreement regarding the L+G system, the Town would not enter into an agreement with L+G alone. It would not be financially feasible for the Town to contract with L+G for water meters and is therefore not shown in the charts.

#### **Option 3: Neptune**

Switch to Neptune. This system is a drive by system that is also utilized by the City of Syracuse. An initial investment of radios would need to be completed to execute this change over. This system is solely operated by the Town and therefore is only shown in one color, blue. The anticipated annual costs for this system are much lower than the other two systems as it does not require cloud storage for data, making it a more informationally secure system. The Town would download the meter readings directly onto its own hardware.

Engineer Robinson stated operationally it would be preferred to use the AMR drive by system. This drive by system is stand alone and will provide a more stable data security. The data will not be kept in a cloud system, it will be on hardware owned by the Town and used through software. This drive by system will also cost the water department less over time, however it does require upgrading the radios initially. Radios last for approximately 15-20 years.



Currently the Water Department is not in a position to invest \$120,000 in hardware, nor appropriately staffed to install all of the new hardware. Should the Town renew a contract with Sensus and upgrade the head end equipment at the Water Towers, it will result in an annual budget increase by \$2,000 per year for the contract of 5 years. This \$2,000 per year increase assumes the Village will also continue the Sensus contract, otherwise the increase will be \$4,000 per year. The Town will be able to take advantage of the shared services grant and can continue to replace radios per the annual operations plan.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Town and Village received a shared services grant from the county. She asked Engineer Robinson, what would be the cost? Engineer Robinson stated to upgrade the system it would be less than \$40,000, the shared grant is for \$26,652.21.

Supervisor Aaron stated Village water employee Allan Abbott and Village Trustee Carol Stokes-Cawley had reviewed these proposals and the Village has agreed to go with Sensus also.

Engineer Robinson said she would provide the board with an updated contract from Sensus for the Supervisor to approve.

Highway Superintendent Wellington and Budget Officer Winkelman agreed this is the right decision at this time.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Supervisor Aaron was authorized to sign the contract with Sensus for the upgrade to the Town of Skaneateles Water meters, subject to the Town Attorney's review and written commitment from the Village of Skaneateles.

**Transfer Station – Chemical Disposal Quote from Miller Environmental Group:** Supervisor Aaron reported there is proposal from Miller Environmental Group for the disposal of the remaining chemicals located at the Transfer Station. The cost is \$2,600.

Highway Superintended Wellington stated it is a small amount of household chemicals. Miller Environmental came and completed an inventory at the Transfer Station and the proposal is what was left at the Transfer Station after the paint removal.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Supervisor Aaron was authorized to sign the contract with Miller Environmental Group for the disposal of the remaining chemicals at the Transfer Station not to exceed the amount of \$2600.

#### **Announcements/Correspondence/Updates**

▪ *2021 Budget meetings – 9/17, 9/19 and 9/26:* Supervisor announced the Board would hold 2021 Budget Meetings September 19, 2020, September 19, 2020, and September 26, 2020 the first meeting, September 17, 2020 will be held through Zoom. The Board can decide if they would like to meet in person or remotely through Zoom for the other scheduled meetings.

▪ *Informational Meeting September 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. – Proposed Town of Skaneateles Zoning and Draft Comprehensive Plan:* Supervisor Aaron announced their will be a public information

meeting to review the Draft August 2020 Zoning, Comprehensive Plan and OpenSpace Plan on September 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

- *Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency Uniform Tax Exemption Policy*: Supervisor Aaron announce the Town received the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency’s Uniform Tax Exemption Policy.
- *Letter - The Carberry and Engle Families*: Supervisor Aaron announced a letter was received by the Carberry’s and the Engle’s regarding activity at their event center, The Sinclair.
- *Letter- 41A Repaving*: Supervisor Aaron stated a letter was received regarding the repaving of 41A and the concerns of truck traffic on that highway.
- *Letter – Paula Conan*: Supervisor Aaron announced a letter was received for Paula Conan, thanking the Town for the Conservation Areas and the Pickle Ball courts at the Park.
- *General Election Voting Information – November 3, 2020*: Supervisor Aaron announced voting information for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election would be posted on the website.
- *NYS Forestry Voluntary Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Guide*: Supervisor Aaron announced the NYS Forestry Voluntary Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Guide is now available at the Town Hall.

**Public Comment:** No one commented.

**Budget Amendments** – No budget amendments.


**Abstract #20-15:** On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #20-0872 - 20-0895 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 48,395.00	Highway:	\$ 2,346.16
Water:	\$ 38,502.50	Part Town:	\$ 585.70
Sewer:	\$ 2,025.36	Strt. Lght.	\$ 501.80
T & A:	\$ 877.94	Highway PT	\$ 36,768.62
Comm. Dev.	\$ 12,500.00		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$143,080.67</b>		

**Executive Session:** On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. for Attorney Advice .

On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker the meeting was returned to open session at 9:82 p.m. and immediately adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Julie A. Stenger  
Town Clerk

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

**WHEREAS**, Councilor Alexander The Town Board has introduced this resolution for purpose of expressing support for the Town of Skaneateles (the “Town”) and the Village of Skaneateles (the “Village”) obtaining a parcel of real property at 71 West Genesee Street for purposes of constructing a firefighter residence for use by the Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department (“SVFD”); and

**WHEREAS**, since 1833 the SVFD has been a 100% Volunteer Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD prides itself on its volunteerism; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD makes great efforts to serve the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has maintained the lowest fire tax rate in Onondaga County since 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD responds to approximately 365 emergencies a year, which include fires, motor vehicle accidents, water rescues, hunting injuries, medical emergencies, storm response, special events, call investigations, and residential water emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, SVFD volunteers have contributed 67,745 officially recorded hours in service of the community since 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD is ready and willing to serve the community at any time that their presence is requested; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD serves an area of approximately 35 miles, which is divided geographically by Skaneateles Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, almost all SVFD members are required to respond to the firehouse for an emergency call, which creates issues with seasonal weather and traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD is struggling to retain members; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half of SVFD members are over age 50, with many in their 60s, 70s and 80s; and

**WHEREAS**, recruiting and training members is very costly and the loss of members to communities with more affordable housing is devastating to SVFD's ranks; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has lost several young members (many in their 20s) after investing time in training and purchasing costly equipment due to unaffordable housing options for young members; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has formed a Residential Action Committee ("RAC") to investigate recruitment and retention of SVFD members; and

**WHEREAS**, the RAC has reviewed numerous recruitment and retention options, including paid members, renting apartments and volunteer incentives, but does not feel that these are viable options with long term benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, RAC research indicates that a paid fire department would cost the community millions of dollars a year in salaries, benefits and equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the RAC has studied other fire department programs and concluded that obtaining the 71 West Genesee Street property adjacent to the current firehouse is the best option for recruitment and retention of members; and

**WHEREAS**, the 71 West Genesee Street location provides a unique housing opportunity next to the firehouse, with an attractive downtown location, which is an important feature to attract young volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD and RAC are confident that a firefighter residence program at 71 West Genesee Street will be successful; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD has members ready to move in to such a residence; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD needs to be out of the firehouse in an apparatus within 5 minutes of an emergency call; and

**WHEREAS**, fire is known to double every 30 seconds, so every second counts; and

**WHEREAS**, for a patient in cardiac arrest, every minute of delay reduces chances of survival by 10%; and

**WHEREAS**, the SVFD believes a firefighter residence at 71 West Genesee Street could reduce call response time by half, with qualified members responding to calls; and

**WHEREAS**, when the SVFD is faced with storms, governmental emergencies and seasonal events, there are no bunk rooms, sleeping, or shower facilities at the firehouse; and

**WHEREAS**, a firefighter residence at 71 West Genesee Street will attract and retain younger members, while allowing the SVFD to maintain a high-quality and cost-effective volunteer service to the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board supports obtaining the 71 West Genesee Street property for purposes of a firefighter residence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Attorney is directed to investigate and report to the Board what steps must be taken to obtain the property in compliance with New York State Law.

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

Janet Aaron	Voting	Aye
Courtney Alexander	Voting	Aye
Chris Legg	Voting	Aye
Kevin McCormack	Voting	Aye
Mark Tucker	Voting	Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

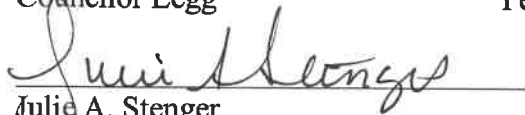
Dated: September 9, 2020

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles, Skaneateles, New York on September 9, 2020 the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was moved Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg, and duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Aaron	Yes
Councilor McCormack	Yes
Councilor Legg	Yes
Councilor Alexander	Yes
Councilor Legg	Yes

Carried 5-0

  
Julie A. Stenger  
Skaneateles Town Clerk

**RELEASE OF EASEMENT**

**THIS RELEASE OF EASEMENT** (the "Agreement") made this 9 day of September, 2020 by and between **TOWN OF SKANEATELES** a Municipal Corporation with offices at 24 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, New York 13152 (the "Town") and **ELEROIN, LLC** and **NIORELE, LLC**, each a New York limited liability company having an address at 102 East Genesee Street, P.O. Box 33, Skaneateles, New York 13152 (together the "Owners").

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, Eleroin is the owner in fee of certain real property located at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Genesee Street and Fuller Street a/k/a Franklin Street being identified as Tax Parcel 06.-02-26 in the Village of Skaneateles, County of Onondaga and State of New York (the "Eleroin Property"); and

**WHEREAS**, Niorele is the owner in fee of certain real property located at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Genesee Street and Fuller Street a/k/a Franklin Street being identified as Tax Parcel 06.-02-27 in the Village of Skaneateles, County of Onondaga and State of New York (the "Niorele Property", and together with the Eleroin Property, the "Properties"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Properties are subject to a Permanent Right of Way (the "Easement") as more particularly set forth and as contained in a certain instrument dated July 23, 1962 from Lester M. Kelley and Lena W. Kelley and recorded on August 2, 1962 in the Onondaga County Clerk's Office in Book 2102 of Deeds at Page 15&c; and

**WHEREAS**, in connection with the redevelopment of the Properties, the Owners have requested that the Town release the Easement and the Town has agreed to such a release.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00), in consideration of the foregoing and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and legal sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties do hereby mutually agree as follows:

1. Town hereby fully and completely surrenders, terminates, releases and quitclaims unto Owners all right, title and interest that the Town has acquired or might have acquired in, on, over, across and through the Properties by reason of the Easement.

2. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York and may not be modified or amended except by a writing executed by both Owners and the Town.

**NO FURTHER TEXT ON THIS PAGE, SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed by the parties as of the date first above written.

**TOWN OF SKANEATELES**

By: Janet L. Aaron  
Name: JANET L. AARON  
Title: Town Supervisor

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
                                      )ss.:  
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA )

On the 9 day of Sept. in the year 2020 before me, the undersigned, a notary public in and for said State, personally appeared Janet L. Aaron, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity and that by his signatures on the instrument, the individual, or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed this instrument.

Julie A. Stenger  
Notary Public

**JULIE A. STENGER**  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 01ST5073025  
Qualified in Onondaga County  
Commission Expires February 10, 2023