

Town Board Meeting

October 4, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Zoom: Meeting ID: 828 9779 3842

Passcode: 678534

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

Also, Present: Bob Herrmann, Karen Barkdull, John Camp, Jacque McConnaghy, Allan Wellington, Paula Powell, Brian Buff, Jason Gabak, Sue Dove, Chris Graham, Bridgett Winkelman, Kim Benda, Don Kasper, Bob Eggleston.

Highway, Water, Transfer Station: Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington reported the Highway Department installed a driveway culvert on Crowhill Road, repaired a driveway entrance on Fennell Street, repaired a turn around on School Street, cleaned highway ditches on Heifer and Hoyt Roads, made equipment repairs, helped the Town of Marcellus with site work for their new Town Hall and trimmed tree limbs. He reported they had taken delivery of and started wiring the new shed for the Loan Closet. He also attended a Highway Superintendent Conference in Saratoga Springs, September 28th – October 1st. In the Water Department the wiring for a water meter MXU was repaired on Mill Road, and they continued to install MXU's in the meter pits for Talcott water customers. At the Transfer Station they shipped out another load of cardboard, the price is currently \$185/ton. Also, repairs were made to both equipment and the building.

Councilor Alexander asked all zoom participants to identify themselves and anyone that could not identify themselves would have to be removed from the meeting, due to cyber issues.

A participant named "motoz4" was removed from the meeting.

Planning & Zoning: Councilor Tucker reviewed the Planning and Zoning open projects report. A site plan at 2392 Wave Way, an extension for Skaneateles Springs (formerly The Birds Nest), and extension to the Emerald Est. Prop, LP for a subdivision, and a site plan for 1043 The Lane.

Planning Secretary Karen Barkdull reviewed the status of existing open projects. County Line Subdivision (now Fox Run Subdivision) –the Planning Board conducted its SEQR review with a negative determination. The application would continue on the October agenda. Chris Graham – Application pending for re-design of multi-family residences for the RR district. Meunier -The application for 8 condo units in the "Block" building on Jordan Road, is pending with the Planning Board. ZBA approved the variances at their March 3, 2020, meeting and extended the time of approval through March of 2022. Victory Sports – The application is pending as the Applicant is considering the potential for smaller scale development on the property. Other activities included five pre-application meetings, six hours of training which completed her Codes Enforcement Officer Training for the year and attended the P & Z meeting September 8th.

Codes: Councilor Tucker reviewed the July Codes Enforcement report. He stated there were 26 new permits issued at a total construction cost of \$2,706,398.00 with permit costs for a total of \$26,981.55 and they had issued 11 Certificates of Completions.

Codes Officer Herrmann reported that it is getting busier for the end of the year, the big push before the snow flies. He and the Planning staff took a trip with Budget Officer Winkelman on her boat and went around the lake. He had reviewed the lake front properties and took photos. He took 724 photos of properties. Mr. Herrmann stated he would share his photos and report with Assessor Mike Maxwell. He thanked Bridget Winkelman for the tour.

Supervisor Aaron stated the special legislation regarding boat houses and docks that we've been waiting for through many challenges the Town and Village is working getting the legislation enacted with the State of New York.

Supervisor Aaron asked about Allan Briggs project on Visions Drive and Lauder Lane. She stated he is moving right along with this new building, that's nice to see. Codes Office Herrmann stated yes, they are selling faster than he can build them.

Parks: Parks Manager Sue Murphy reported that Gene and Matt had been working on the lights at the Northfield. Gene hopes to have them done by the end of the month. She thanked Highway Superintendent Wellington and his crew for cleaning up the ditch in front of Austin Park on State Street. They cleaned out all the cat tails, and the muck. The Parks crew was still weed eating and mowing. She reported they had some donations of cabinets, which were greatly appreciated for the new office. The ASPCA, is having their event on Sunday, it's their annual Halloween event with their pets.

Councilor Alexander reported they are still working regularly with Chase Design and are coming up on finalizing most of the signs that they are proposing for the town and should have an update on that for the Board soon.

Staff Engineer: Supervisor Aaron stated that Town Engineer Robinson was unable to attend this evening and reported on the following:

They had received their first work order from NYPA regarding a streetlight that is going to be replaced on Fennell Street. It is part of a pole replacement. The report was very detailed and let us know that the work would be on October 13th.

Engineer Robinson had attended the American Water Works Association Symposium held at the Marriot in Downtown Syracuse for 3 days.

The engineering department is going to miss working with Joe Dwyer, Water Foreman, who is retiring this month.

Budget: Budget Officer Winkelman reported she continued to work on the 2022 budget. They had completed the third quarter payroll and reporting. She wanted to remind everybody that we will be sending all outstanding water bills, as of October 31, to the county if they're not paid in full by October 31.

Budget Officer Winkelman asked the Board to approve the following schedule for additional Budget Meetings:

October 5, 2021, 4:30 p.m. -6::30 p.m.
October 7, 2021, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

October 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

October 23, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the additional 2022 Budget Meetings were approved as presented.

Outreach: Outreach Coordinator Jacque McConnaghy reported she was very excited they finally got the storage shed for the Loan Closet. It was delivered last week, and it's great. She stated the Highway crew was going to wire up lights and electricity. Her and Jean Babbles had gone through the old storage space and did some clean up. It looked like they would be able to take everything from the old Loan Closet space except possibly the hospital bed. It is very cumbersome to store and move so they don't lend it out much, maybe once a year.

She stated they had two volunteers from St. James Episcopal Church, that are going to help with the move when they are ready, and the highway crew said they help as well. It is a space about half the size of what they had before, but that is good thing, it will limit the items that can be accepted for donation.

Outreach Coordinator McConnaghy stated it was purchased from Fred's Sheds and built a by local Amish contractor. Everything is solid wood. They should be moved in there by November 1st.

Dog Control: Supervisor Aaron reviewed Dog Control Officer Dave Wawro's September report. She stated there were 30 calls in September, some regarding dogs that have been a problem in the past. There was a lot of activity in the month of September.

Minutes of September 20, 2021: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of September 20, 2021, were accepted as presented.

Board of Assessment Review Appointment: Supervisor Aaron stated Board of Assessment Review member Joe Calipari had held the position on the Board of Assessment Review for several years and when his term expired, September 30th, he did not wish to continue. The Board advertised and interviewed, and the one person that stood out was Joanne Dussel. Ms. Dussel lives in the village and her background had varied between nursing and owning a business, and she is currently retired. She had been involved previously with real estate. Supervisor Aaron stated Ms. Dussel came across as one that would take into consideration the facts that are presented to her and address the concerns of each property in a fair and equitable manner.

On a motion of Supervisor Aaron, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board appoint Ms. Joanne Dussel to the Board of Assessment review for the term of October 1, 2021, to September 30, 202.

County Line Road/Fox Run Subdivision: Supervisor Aaron stated Chris Graham's County Line Road subdivision had a preliminary plat plan approval by the Planning Board. The applicant had gone back to the Planning Board to ask that the subdivision be approved in phases. The Planning Board and the Town Board agreed to the phased approval. The phasing would require the Town Board to decide how they would want to consider the road that would be built for this subdivision.

At the last Town Board meeting applicant Chris Graham and Architect Bob Eggleston presented to the Board, information regarding accepting the road and what the Town had done in the past. The board is still reviewing that information to come up with some guidelines for not only this subdivision but future subdivisions as well, that would be asking the Town to take over a road for maintenance and plowing. Supervisor Aaron stated they still had some legal issues to discuss with the Town Attorney and they expect to have this back on the agenda at a later date. At this point, the Board is still reviewing the road, and the schedule that we would recommend be followed.

Water Rates: Supervisor Aaron stated Town Engineer John Camp is here tonight to talk about the water rate study that they recently completed. The Town Board asked C&S Engineers to do this study, given it is anticipated the rate at which the Town pays the Village for water will increase, plus the increased cost of the projects the Town water districts would need to complete, the Town needed to look at water rates for the future.

Town Engineer John Camp stated C&S Engineers was asked by the town to prepare a water rate study, and a watery study is generally an examination of data related to the town's water system. The goal of a rate study is to recommend a future rate schedule that will allow the town to operate the water system in a manner that creates enough revenue, such that expenses can be covered as well as the infrastructure, will be able to be maintained and approved as needed in order to maintain compliance with health department standards.

Mr. Camp reviewed a list of upcoming maintenance and system improvement projects. This list, along with all the other data related to operating expenses is the basis of the water rate study.

Mr. Camp reviewed the list of 12 projects that they received from the Town Water Department.

Town Engineer Robinson prepared the list, and she is not here tonight. Mr. Camp reviewed the projects stating they are both maintenance and improvement projects. He reviewed the chart in the report that showed the cost and timeline of the projects.

Mr. Camp stated The Town purchases water at a bulk rate from the village. This bulk rate is also a very important part of the rate study. The Town is in the process of negotiating the bulk water rate with the Village, therefore the proposed study is currently presented in draft format. Once that future bulk rate has been agreed to by both the Town and the Village, they will finalize the report.

Mr. Camp explained what he would be presenting tonight is preliminary. Once the water rate with the Village is established, they would be able to quickly finalize the report.

Mr. Camp explained they looked at two scenarios. Scenario two suggested the projects be done regardless of any financial considerations. Scenario one reorders the projects, in a way that helped the cash flow in the water department. Mr. Camp reviewed the cost of the projects. He reviewed the tables in the report that showed the projection of costs of the water department related to the water system for years 2022 through 2041.

Mr. Camp reviewed the historical breakdown of costs from 2016 to 2020. Mr. Camp reviewed the table which showed historic volumes of water, purchased from the village. There is also a calculation for lost water. In 2016 and 2017 the Town was losing quite a bit of water, mostly through leakage in line flushing and firefighting. The Town did an improvement project here between 2017 and 2018 that dramatically reduced that amount of lost water.

Mr. Camp reviewed scenario 2 and the rate at which the Town's water rates to their customers would have to increase every year in order to generate enough revenue to both buy water from the village, as well as complete the necessary projects to keep the system up and running. For the first 10 years, the Town would be looking at a 5 ½% to 6% increase in rates. And once it gets past 10 years the rate increase drops a little by about 2%.

Mr. Camp reviewed scenario one. Scenario one, ordered the projects to make a little bit more financial sense and make it easier on the cash flow. The annual increases are quite a bit lower, 3 ½ to 4%, for the first 10 years and then it drops down to 2 ½ to 3% for the rest of the period.

Supervisor Aaron clarified that one thing that is important for the public to know is that this is a special district, water districts are special districts, and they aren't funded through tax dollars. It's totally funded by the water rate and the customers within the district. All the improvements and maintenance in the water districts come from whatever is collected in water, not the general fund.

Councilor Legg stated he had a couple of comments. He stated Engineer Camp's presentation was a broad overview that conceptually is trying to make sure that the maintenance of the water system is consistent with best engineering practices. The water department is looking at the life expectancy of the water system, and then planning for repairs or maintenance. What we're trying to avoid are very expensive corrective maintenance, where you'd run into high costs, to try and fix things, and at the same time, you've got major disruptions to service. This plan would stabilize cost in the long run, but it means that we have to increase rates.

Councilor Legg stated it's important to recognize that regardless of what bulk water rate we pay, there will be some increase over time.

Councilor Alexander stated we had not had a water rate increase in quite some time. And this is something that the Board feels is a high priority because we just can't continue the way that we are.

Councilor McCormack asked, what would be an example of a million-dollar project. Would it be like what the Village did when they ended up with a big \$4 million project.

Engineer Camp stated Town Engineer Robinson put together this information. And, unfortunately, she's not on the line tonight. We didn't go look into these projects in any detail so she may be able to in the future. Mr. Camp said the Village had a lot of undersized, as well as tuberculate pipes, they had situations where they had small pipes on both sides of the roads, which all needed to be replaced.

Councilor McCormack asked since the water customers pay for the water, does that mean the bonding costs will fall exclusively on the water customers or will that come out of the general fund.

Mr. Camp stated It's illegal to pay out of a general fund , unless every resident was in a water district.

Councilor Alexander stated we do have an opportunity to use some funding for water projects, such as the ARPA Funds.

Councilor Legg stated, unlike the approach in the village, we're trying to carry out the projects over a long period of time so it's not a massive disruption all at once.

Attorney Smith reviewed the negotiations with Village. He stated the two boards (Village and Town) had bridged the gap, and they have a tentative agreement with regards to the rates that the Town will be paying the Village through 2037. What remains is the details and the final negotiation of the actual water contract, which is still in progress.

Councilor Alexander thanked Engineer John Camp for the report. She stated it's very comprehensive.

Attorney Smith added there were a couple different scenarios that are being considered with different percentage increases and right now the proposed settlement between the Town and Village has an initial significant rate increase due to some of the reasons that were stated before, and there hasn't been a rate increase in over a decade. But after that, the rate freezes for three years but then it increases 2.5% a year. This rate increase would be within reason with what Engineer Camp was proposing.

Supervisor Aaron stated the contract they are trying to negotiate with the village, covers the bonding period for the Village's 4-million-dollar project, plus an additional two years beyond.

Supervisor Aaron thanked John for all their work on this as we try to move forward.

2022 Tentative Budget: Budget Officer Winkelman presented the 2022 Tentative Budget to the Board. She stated it is a work in progress and will be continued to be reviewed over the next month.

Budget Officer Winkelman reviewed the Tentative 2022 Budget. The Town Board continued to work on the 2022 budget. Currently, the Town is in a position where it needs to start bringing in some replacement employees. The Town currently has a very experienced workforce, and some are getting close to retirement. As those start to retire, new employees must have the training that's necessary to continue on. There are also two new positions: one with the Water Department and one at the Transfer Station. We are projecting overall inflation to be at about a 5.25% increased rate, and the everyday costs have increased as well.

Introductory Resolution – Local Law E of 2021- “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law”: Budget Officer Winkelman stated due to the increases in the 2022 Town Budget, she is asking the Board, if they would consider an override to the Tax Cap. The Town has not done this in the past. If the Board would consider this override, they would need to introduce a Local Law.

Budget Officer Winkelman stated the Tentative 2022 budget is about \$90,000 over the cap, this is where the Board will need to adjust from. If we do not approve the override now, and we do not meet the tax cap there will not be enough time at the end of the month to put this in place. The goal is still not to exceed the tax cap, but it might have to happen so this is precautionary.

Budget Officer Winkelman stated the current tax cap is only 1.005%. This would only allow an approximate increase of \$120,000 in the 2022 budget. The Town's budget is about \$6 million with special districts.

Councilor Legg stated to clarify, this is a much lower tax cap than we've seen in other years. A 1% tax cap is a very really small percentage. The Town Board had anticipated costs based on what we've experienced within this year and that would very likely be higher than 1% in many different categories.

Budget Officer Winkelman stated that is correct.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Board is trying very hard not to take away any services to the public and try to keep the rate as low as possible.

Councilor Alexander stated the Town Board's role is to try to keep the 2022 budget under the tax cap. But we would need this option in case we fall a little bit higher.

Supervisor Aaron stated Attorney Smith provided a draft Introductory Local Law E of 2021- "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law". The Law requires the Town Board to adopt the Local Law by over 60% of the Town Board to allow for the tax levy to exceed the 1.005%.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board scheduled a Public Hearing for October 18, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. regarding Introductory Local Law E of 2021- "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established By Section 3-C of the New York General Municipal Law"

*Resolution attached

Schedule Town Board Special Meeting – October 6, 2021, 4:30 p.m. Data Collector Interview: Supervisor Aaron announced the Town Board is considering the process of a Town Wide Reval and the first step is to make sure the data we have on every property in the Town is accurate. The Town Board is currently doing interviews with potential businesses that can provide this service to the town.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board scheduled a special meeting to interview a potential data collection service for October 6, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

▪ *Petition – Speed Limit Reduction Chapman Road:* Supervisor Aaron announced a letter and petition from Danielle Spain and the residents of Chapman Road had been received, requesting the Town consider reducing the speed limit on Chapman Road to 40 mph.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board authorized the Town Clerk to submit the request from the residents on Chapman Road to lower the speed limit to 40 mph to the New York State Department of Transportation for review and determination.

▪ *Letters regarding the New York State Marijuana Regulation and Tax Act:* Supervisor Aaron announced 2 letters were received regarding, the New York State Marijuana Regulation and Tax

Act. These letters were against the Town Board authorizing retail and on-site consumption in the Town. These letters will be added to the file as the Board moves forward.

- *Letters supporting adoption of Skaneateles Lake Special Legislation:* Supervisor Aaron announced her and Village Mayor Mary Sennett sent letters to both NYS Senator Mannion and Governor Hochul stating with the new building season, and the amount of pressure and protection of the watershed, it's important that the Skaneateles Lake Special Legislation be in place.
- *Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act – Broadband Survey:* Supervisor Aaron announced New York State Department of Public Service has provided an information online survey put together by New York State Department of Public Service and ECC Technologies to get feedback on where there is greater need for internet service within New York State.
- *Planning and Zoning Boards - Expiring Terms:* Supervisor Aaron announced there are two expiring terms on the Planning and Zoning Boards. On the Planning Board Jill Marshall's term will expire on December 31, 2021, and on the Zoning Board Sherril Ketchum's position also expires on December 31, 2021.

The Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to contact these Board members to see if they are interested in continuing on the Planning and Zoning Boards and to advertise for residents who would be interested to serving on the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Supervisor Aaron asked if the Board members had any comments. Councilor Legg stated he wanted to praise Budget Officer Bridget Winkelman publicly for the level of effort and considerable time put into the Town Budget. And the way she works with all departments. Councilor Legg stated he assured residents that there are good stewards trying to make sure the tax dollars are going to the right places.

Public Comment: Architect Bob Eggleston commented he appreciated the town maintaining full boards. The village has not done that, it's really disconcerting to the taxpayers to not have a full board. He thought it's important that applicants have a full board, to hear their cases and he wanted to comment publicly, that the town has done a very good job with their Planning and Zoning Boards. He stated he would personally endorse the continuation of both Sherill Ketchum and Jill Marshal on the Boards. They have been fair and good Board members.

Budget Amendments: No Budget Amendments

Abstract #21-13: On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #21-018 - #21-0224 were authorized from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 57,447.76	Highway:	\$ 5,373.93
Water:	\$ 271.79	Part Town:	\$ 5,933.45
T&A:	\$ 10,190.17	Hwy PT:	\$ 3,847.93
Fire District:	\$ 23,300.00	Lighting:	\$ 537.89
TOTAL:	\$106,902.95		

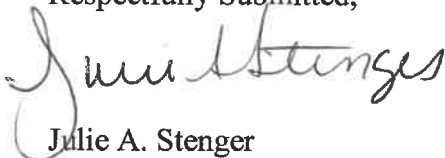
Executive Session: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with

unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. for attorney advice.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander the meeting was returned to open session at 9:20 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie A. Stenger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk