

Town Board Meeting

June 1, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Remote Meeting via www.zoom.com (id#: 817 8417 7766 password 646331)

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

Also Present: Bridgett Winkelman, Robert Herrmann, Karen Barkdull, Sue Murphy, Kim Benda, Allan Wellington, Miranda Robinson, Chris Buff, Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Kimberly Bobbett, Cindy Meili, Tyler Lorey.

Highway, Water, Transfer Station: Highway Superintendent Allan Wellington reported the Highway Department had cleaned up tree limbs on Mill Road and West Lake Street, excavated roadside ditches on Hencoop and Thorne Schoolhouse Roads, made lawn repairs and mowed roadsides. He reported they had replaced 2 driveway culverts on Hencoop Road, repaired the blacktop at the intersection of Phillips Street and Stump Road, site work at the Sims Building and installed address markers on East Lake Road for the Fire Department. In the Water Department they had done quarterly maintenance to the pressure reducing valve on Jordan Road, sent a second sample to the EPA for monitoring blue-green algae. All fire hydrants had been weed eaten, two water meters had been replaced and Water Foreman, Joe Dwyer attended a meeting regarding the Mirbeau water line relocation. At the Transfer Station he reported three containers of scrap steel had been shipped out and the site had been cleaned up. He also reported the price of baled cardboard had increased to \$120 per ton.

Planning & Zoning: Councilor Tucker reviewed the May Planning and Zoning report submitted by Planning Secretary Karen Barkdull. He stated there were currently 11 open projects: Hidden Estates, Teixeira, Graham Subdivision, Eggleston, Sinclair, LLC, Zechman Subdivision, Chris Graham, Steve Datz, Woodbine Group, Meunier and Victory Sports.

Codes: Codes Enforcement Officer Robert Herrmann reviewed the May report and stated there were 10 new permits and 7 Certificates of Completion issued. He stated the workload is starting to increase as contractors go back to work.

Supervisor Aaron asked if Ben Garrett is continuing to work. Codes Officer Herrmann stated yes Codes Officer Garrett had continued to work reviewing plans for all the permits and working on the new, New York State Building Code.

Councilor Tucker asked how it was going with closing out the past permits. Codes officer Herrmann stated they had almost completed the back log and are staying current with the new permits issued.

Parks: Parks Manager Sue Murphy reported the Farmers Market had started and it was going well. Most of the vendors were sold out of their products by the close of the Market last week. They had attendants at the Boat Launches start on Memorial Day and it had been a steady flow of cars. Her crew had been working on the fields, mowing, and weed eating.

Staff Engineer: Miranda Robinson, Staff Engineer reported she had been working on the Transfer Station Solar Project and received a new project plan today. Engineer Robinson stated she would have a memo to the Board regarding the plan before the next Board meeting. The Water meter proposal is expected this week from L&G. There is a meter pit discussion scheduled for tomorrow at 8:30am regarding meter pits for all new construction. The concrete bid packet is complete. The pricing has not come in yet for the Smart Cities Street Lighting project.

Engineer Robinson reviewed the meeting she had with Cimcon and Avigilon, the two major competitors for the LED Smart City Street Lights. These companies will be supplying the hardware for this project. She reported the Town would be looking at cameras in the Park and throughout the Town, as well as temperature sensors. This was a very informative meeting. No pricing yet on the streetlights but they are hoping to keep it under the \$20,000 grant funding. She stated to the Board the additional options for this project need to be decided by the end of the month.

Veterans Outreach Coordinator: Cindy Meili reported the Veterans Office is still working and keeping in contact with the Veterans that need assistance. The mask program had been a success. She had distributed masks that had been donated to all Veterans in the Town.

Minutes of May 18, 2020: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of May 18, 2020 were accepted as presented.

Skaneateles Rotary Pancake Breakfast – Father’s Day Feed the Community Event: Supervisor Aaron announced the sad news that Rotary Club is canceling the annual Father’s Day Pancake breakfast.

Tyler Lorey reported to the Board stating they are canceling the annual Father’s Day Pancake breakfast with the health and safety of everyone in mind.

The good news is they have come up with a way to raise money without having the traditional pancake breakfast, by utilizing an on-line fundraising service called Rallyup. (Please note we originally planned to have a raffle option, but this has been canceled because it is not legal to do on-line in NYS).

Mr. Lorrie stated the community needs are greater than ever as a result of COVID-19. 100% of the funds donated will go to local food pantries and school and community outreach meal programs. (Please be aware: because we are utilizing a free service, it may either prompt or attempt to add a tip to your donation. Look carefully for this and delete. We do not benefit from the tips; they go to the service).

Mr. Lorrie explained how this fund raiser would work. He stated those who want to donate can go to <https://go.rallyup.com/feedskan> for the easy details. Choose a donation amount or create your own amount. At checkout, watch for the tip option and delete. Share this with everyone you would normally invite to the breakfast.

Mr. Lorrie also explained that Rotary will surprise some donors after the campaign by giving out some Skaneateles Chamber of Commerce gift certificates (thanks to donations from generous

sponsors). This is intended to infuse dollars back to business owners who have been hit hard by the virus as well.

He stated these are unprecedented times and our community needs Rotary more than ever! We need your help to make this successful. In addition to donating, you can help by encouraging your friends and family to give as well.

Mr. Lorrie thanked the Board for their support.

Supervisor Aaron stated this was a great idea and hoped it is well liked and funded by community. Councilor Legg stated the benefactors will be the Spafford and Skaneateles Food Pantry and the Town of Skaneateles COVID-19 Relief fund.

Town Departments – Phased Reopening: Supervisor Aaron stated during these last 10 weeks the Town has worked to make sure that our constituents needs were met. During this time adjustments were made in all department in order to meet the new social distancing guidelines. Many worked remotely or on a different schedule. While the Transfer Station remained open and continued their normal schedule, all departments made sure that the services their department handled were still covered by either working remotely or rescheduling how crews worked together. More than two weeks ago in addition to the Transfer Station, the Highway, Water and Parks Departments returned to full schedule. Next up will be Town Hall.

While the Town Hall was closed down to the public the Town was able to do planned projects for 2020. The first floor was painted, and new carpeting added, and a deep cleaning was accomplished. Like all businesses, we have been scheduling installation of social distancing protocols and setting up guidelines for how the public and employees will interact in the future. We anticipate that next week or shortly thereafter, the public will be allowed in the building by appointment only and limited to one or two people at one time. Entry will be at the back entrance only. We will be working on signage, thanks to Courtney who has designed and executed the delivery of all the signage we have.

In the meantime, your calls will be answered by all departments and the services that the public has come to expect from our Town employees will continue. We have the best employees and they along with our fellow elected officials in the town are working hard every day to make sure that your needs are met, projects move forward, and questions answered. We know in the future many businesses will operate in a different way and we expect that the Town will as well. But our focus will always be to provide the services you have come to expect.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Town Hall would like to open starting Monday June 8th. She reported Highway Superintendent Wellington built a movable counter with a plexi-glass top for protection to use at the door at the Town Hall. Supervisor Aaron stated Allan Wellington had done a great job on this counter

Town Parks Department Summer Programs 2020 Season- Councilor Alexander stated she and Parks Director Sue Murphy had several meetings to discuss the options for the Parks programs this Summer. They reviewed all the guidelines that are required by the State and County Health Departments and it will be very difficult to abide by theses strict guidelines and still operate the Town of Skaneateles Summer “Playday” Program. The Skaneateles Country Club and Lourdes Camp have both cancelled their summer camp programs.

Councilor Alexander stated her and Parks Director Sue Murphy's recommendation to the Board is to cancel the 2020 Summer Town Playday Program. This was a very difficult decision but feels it is in the best interest of the community for everyone's health and safety.

Supervisor Aaron stated she had been meeting with the other Supervisors in Onondaga County and the other Towns in the County are cancelling their summer programs also.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the Town Board approved the cancellation of the 2020 Town of Skaneateles Playday Program due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Councilor Alexander stated they are still in discussions to try and open the swimming area. The regulations are changing daily and by the next Town Board meeting they should have a decision.

Transfer Station Employees recognition during COVID-19: Supervisor Aaron stated:

“As previously stated in this meeting, the Town Board is grateful and we appreciate how all of our employees and elected officials have stepped up to the challenge of operating differently but with the same desire to do all they can to keep the quality of services the public has come to expect from the Town. For the Town Board, one department in particular has stood out and that is the Transfer Station. From the first day that we all realized we had to change the way we operated, the Transfer Station continued to operate as they always had each day. Each day Dana Pickering, Foreman; Jim Rusin and Joey Pickering came to work, in a very public environment and just did their job. Not once did I hear any complaints that they had to work while other departments got to stay home or work remotely. No. Each day they showed up and did their job. On top of this, many of our residents were now at home and what do you do, you decide it is the time to work on projects that you never had time for before. It is when you decide to finally clean out the basement and garage. The Transfer Station became very busy accommodating this and the additional needs of the community. Actually, I think the public really enjoyed going to the Transfer Station. It was the one thing in the community that had not changed and that they actually got to go to like they did prior to COVID19. It gave some sense of normalcy. The Town Board is thankful to all our employees but for these three employees we believe they deserve special monetary recognition for going above and beyond during COVID19. Therefore, the Town is proposing to provide additional COVID19 pay to each of these employees in the amount of \$800 each. This COVID19 pay hopefully will demonstrate to Dana Pickering, Jim Rusin and Joey Pickering our appreciation and the appreciation of our residents for keeping this department operating for the essential services it provided. Are there any further comments before I ask for a motion.”

Councilor Alexander stated it is refreshing and amazing to have employees like those at the Transfer Station and she thanked them all.

Councilor Legg stated it was an 8-week period that the employees at the Transfer Station worked when others were not. They reported to work everyday with anxiety from the pandemic and being in close contact with many even before people were required to wear masks. The never missed a

beat. They worked with the public with their usual kindness and willingness to help everyone who came to the Transfer Station. Councilor Legg also commended Highway Superintendent Wellington for his extra work at the Transfer Station and the Highway Department.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the Town Board approved the payment of an additional \$800 for each Transfer Station employee; Dana Pickering, Jim Rusin and Robert Pickering, for their extraordinary work during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

July 4th Holiday Schedule – Transfer Station: Supervisor Aaron stated the July 4th Holiday falls on a Saturday this year. The Transfer Station is open on Saturdays. Due to the Holiday the Transfer Station will be closed Saturday July 4, 2020. This will be posted at the Transfer Station and on the Town website.

Transfer Station Bid Opening: Supervisor Aaron stated the Board is scheduling a bid opening for the collection of household garbage, recyclable materials, and tires to be collected from the Town’s Transfer Station and hauled off site by the successful bidder.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the Town Board scheduled a bid opening for the collection of household garbage, recyclable materials and tires to be collected from the Town’s Transfer Station and hauled off site by the successful bidder on June 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the Town Board scheduled a Special Meeting to review and award the bid on June 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

- *Comp Alliance Workforce Reduction Program:* Supervisor Aaron announced a refund in the amount of \$740 for the reduced workforce during COVID-19.
- *Letter from Christine Buff:* Supervisor Aaron announced a letter was received from Christine Buff regarding the application for outdoor speakers at The Sinclair wedding venue. The letter was also submitted to the Planning Board. She stated Mrs. Buff is a concerned neighbor and she forwarded the letter to the Town Board.

Public Comment: Christine Buff commented stating the letter was intended for the Planning Board and thanked the Town Board for reviewing the letter. Supervisor Aaron thanked Chris Buff for her help in hanging the Flag at the Town Hall for Memorial Day.

Budget Amendments – No budget amendments.

Abstract #20-11: On a motion of Councilor McCormack, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #20-0330-20-0379 were authorized from the following funds:

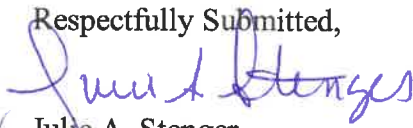
General Fund:	\$ 10,495.94	Highway:	\$ 23,746.43
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Water:	\$	165.63	Part Town:	\$	1,105.86
T & A:	\$	65.00			
TOTAL:		\$ 35,578.86			

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 7:35 p.m. for Attorney Advice .

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Alexander the meeting was returned to open session at 9:25p.m. and immediately adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk