

Town Board Meeting
March 20, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Sennett, Councilor Greenfield, Councilor Murray, Councilor Brace, Councilor Howard, Attorney Taylor.

Also Present: Rob & Scilla Gadjoo, Jane Anderson, Bill Pavlus, Eric Sell, Sue Murphy, Joe Genco (Skaneateles Press), Allan Wellington, Jonathan Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal).

Department Reports

▪*Highway, Water, Transfer Station:* Allan Wellington reported that they plowed 13 times since the last meeting and patched pot holes. They are doing right-of-way work for the waterlines and have had several water problems due to the cold weather. The Water Quality Report has been submitted to the County, and is on the Town website and available at the Town Hall. At the Transfer Station Clifton Recycling is removing the large logs so that the Town will not have to grind them. They are selling a lot of hang tag permits.

Councilor Brace said she heard some extremely complimentary remarks about Joe Dwyer from department heads at the Village. She said the Town is lucky to have him.

▪*Parks:* Sue Murphy reported that the ice has been removed from the rink. When Gene LaForte returns from vacation they will start taking down the glass and dasher boards. She is working with Allan Wellington on ordering the netting to try to keep birds out of the pavilion. She submitted the Community Development Grant today for improvements to Skaneateles Falls Park. She gave thanks to Supervisor Sennett, Councilor Brace, Janet Aaron and Julie Stenger for all their time working on this grant with her. She said that the vendor applications for the farmers market are starting to come in. Interviews are being scheduled for PlayDay Counselors and Lifeguards and she is preparing the application for the Onondaga County Department of Health for approvals to operate the swim area and the PlayDay program.

Councilor Robinson questioned the size of the holes for the netting at Austin Pavilion as she was concerned that birds may get caught in it. Allan Wellington said the netting holes are about ¾". He said the netting is the kind used at vineyards and he was able to find a supplier that would provide it at a much reduced cost.

Supervisor Sennett said she is very excited about the grant application and said it is a big deal. She praised Sue Murphy saying that she worked very hard on this grant for a natural playscape. Councilor Brace said that while the concept is a natural playscape the Town Board wants to reach out to the Skaneateles Falls community for their input and involvement.

▪*Budget:* In Bridgett Winkelman's absence, Supervisor Sennett said that she and Bridgett met with the representatives of the NYS Comptrollers Syracuse Office regarding long range capital planning for projects such as water infrastructure. The Comptrollers provided a great Excel planning tool. They reported that the Town was up to date on all their annual financial reporting and that the Town was in good shape financially.

Report From Fire Chief, Eric Sell: Eric Sell submitted the 2013 fire log report for the Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department. He said this is the last year he will be Fire Chief and thanked the Town Board, and all Town Departments for their support. Supervisor Sennett said that Chief Sell would be missed.

Chief Sell said that in 2013 they had one more call than last year but the firemen put in 3059 personal hours more than in 2012. The largest structure fire they had was at the Camillus Cutlery where they provided mutual aid for 2 days and he was very proud that 27 of our firemen spent two nights there containing the fire. The Town did not have any fully involved fires in 2013 but has already had two this year. The firemen put in 8,984 hours just for fire calls and drills. This does not include meetings and training.

The Town Board thanked Chief Sell. Supervisor Sennett said that this report is very helpful so that the community knows the commitment that our volunteer firemen make on our behalf. Councilor Greenfield said he has been the liaison to the fire department for the past six years and he said we are fortunate to have the volunteers there when we need them.

Resolution #14-50

Establishment of Rails to Trails Committee: Councilor Brace reported that the Town became part of the Rails to Trails Program when the Charlie Major Nature Trail was created. The Town now wants to extend this trail north and south to connect it to the Village on the north end and Skaneateles Falls and the proposed playground at Skaneateles Falls Park on the south end. Five people have agreed to be part of the committee. The confirmed members are Allan Johnson, Bruce Kenan, Julie Stenger, Sandra Skiff, and Bill Stokes-Cawley. She said that she would like monthly meetings to accomplish the following the first year:

1. Identify existing ROW and easements available for trail development.
2. Layout potential trail locations and linkage for the hamlets and village.
3. Coordinate with Engineering Advisory Committee and the Town's proposed grant application for a trail culvert under Old Seneca Turnpike.
4. Coordinate with proposed Town park improvements in Skaneateles Falls.
5. Future coordination with proposed Skaneateles Falls redevelopment and planned release of Stauffer brownfield.
6. Coordinate with future economic development committee.
7. Identify and map "missing links" for easements, or acquisition.
8. Create a master plan and time-line for acquisition of easements, development, and construction.
9. Assist the Town in preparation of relevant grant applications, pursuit of funding sources, and community support.
10. Possible additional work to be determined: guide the execution of the plan.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the establishment of a Rails to Trails Committee was authorized to accomplish the tasks as outlined above with the following members: Councilor Brace, Allan Johnson, Bruce Kenan, Julie Stenger, Sandra Skiff and Bill Stokes-Cawley.

Resolution #14-51

Request to Use Austin Park – PRIDE Program: Rob Gadjó, representing the Pride Program for boys and girls ages 10 to 14, said that he ran this program for the first time at the park last year. He would like to hold the program for 3 hours a day from July 7th to July 11th. The program involves building minds and bodies with physical and mental training. They have guests each day such as the firemen and policemen to talk to the kids. They have a range of instructors including teachers and pilots. Last year the program took place next to the Austin Pavilion but because of the Methodist Church Antique Show they would like to move north of the Pavilion toward the American Legion. They will provide the necessary insurance. Mr. Gadjó said they also had a request to land a helicopter in the park for this program. He would need the Marine Corps approval for this as well.

Supervisor Sennett thanked Mr. Gadjó for working with Sue Murphy to accommodate the antique show. She said the helicopter approval would be conditioned upon contacting and receiving approval from the local emergency services. She said that the landing of the helicopter will attract attention and may require some type of crowd control.

Mr. Gadjó said he would make the necessary arrangements with emergency services. Last year they had 15 kids participate and he hopes to double that this year. Councilor Brace asked about the ratio of instructors to kids. He said about 6 kids to one instructor. He said that they work on getting kids to step up to lead the group so they in turn learn how to be leaders.

On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the PRIDE Program was approved three hours a day from July 7th to July 11th at the field on the north end of the Austin Pavilion, subject to contacting all emergency services and providing a certificate of insurance naming the Town as additional insured.

Resolution #14-52

Minutes: On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of March 6, 2014 were accepted as presented.

2014 Schedule for Hamlet Meetings: Supervisor Sennett said that the following Hamlet Meeting have been scheduled for 2014:

7 p.m. April 14th – Skaneateles Falls Legion

7 p.m. May 21st – Mottville Fire Department

7 p.m. June 9th – Pavilion at Conservation Area – Weather Permitting – Rain Date June 11th

7 p.m. June 23rd – Mandana Fire Department Sub Station

The first hamlet meeting on April 14th will primarily discuss the grant for the playground and the committee looking into the Rails to Trails possibilities.

Eric Sell said there may be a problem having the meeting at the Mandana Fire Department as they are having some issues with the leach field there. Councilor Greenfield said he would check with the Carroll's to see if we could use their barn as a backup if the Mandana Fire Department was not ready for us to have it there.

Resolution #14-53

Reserve Fund Transfer: Supervisor Sennett said that she did not believe that the cost of the netting and installation will require the full \$5,000 but supports transferring this amount in order to have enough if there is an unexpected expense.

On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Greenfield and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, authorization was given to transfer not to exceed \$5,000 from the General Recreation Reserve Fund for netting at Austin Pavilion, subject to the Permissive Referendum requirements of Town Law and General Municipal Law.

Resolution #14-54

Transfer Station Residential Permit Fee: Allan Wellington proposed that the Town Board consider changing the fee structure of the residential Transfer Station permit. The \$20 fee would remain the same but it would become a fee for the calendar year rather than a 12-month fee. In other words, whether you purchase your tag in January or March, it will be good for the remainder of the calendar year. He said that this would make it easier for the employees at the Transfer Station so that each January they know that everyone should be using a new color hang tag. He said they would still have to monitor to make sure that the plate matches up with the car the tag is on.

On a motion of Councilor Murray, seconded by Councilor Greenfield and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board it was agreed that starting January 2015 and for every January thereafter, everyone would be required to purchase a new Transfer Station tag for the year.

Bids

Resolution #14-55

▪**Mulch Bid:** Supervisor Sennett said one bid was received from Anthony DeMarco & Sons that would pay the Town \$1 per cubic yard. She said that the Town still has the ability to reserve several hundred yards for residents to use. Councilor Murray said she liked that the bid specs said that the mulch was sold “as is”.

On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Anthony DeMarco & Sons bid in the amount of \$1.00 per cubic yard was accepted subject to providing the required insurance naming the Town of Skaneateles as additional insured and signing the contract as provided by Attorney Taylor.

▪**Garbage, Recyclable & Scrap Wood Bid:** Supervisor Sennett said that the contract for garbage, recyclable and scrap wood removal expires April 30, 2014 and that the Town Board will have to authorize going out to bid for a new contract.

Councilor Howard said she would like to see the recycling expanded and to pursue more composting and less garbage. She said our recycling is all single stream and asked what the company does with the recyclables. Allan Wellington said that composting is done now at the Transfer Station and stays onsite. The company takes the recyclables to their Albany facility where it is separated. Councilor Howard believes it shouldn't be the lowest bid but one that is the most responsible with recyclables.

Allen Wellington said he met with OCRRA and they were impressed with how the Town did business at the Transfer Station. They wanted the Town to bring their garbage to them but could not meet the cost of what we are currently paying.

Attorney Taylor said he will finalize the bid packet for the April 3rd Town Board agenda.

Resolution #14-56

HRA Plan Document – EBS-RMCSO: Councilor Murray made a motion, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board to authorize Supervisor Sennett to sign the modification to the Town of Skaneateles Health Reimbursement Account to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

Proposal for the Town to Move to Village Building: Supervisor Sennett reported that the Town Board toured the new Village and Police offices and the apparatus bays at the Village building.

Councilor Brace said there are two routes to follow. First is to figure out how much square footage the Town will need and the square footage of the apparatus bays, and then determine the cost per square foot to renovate the apparatus bay to meet our needs. She said the feasibility proposal submitted by C & S Engineers goes into more detail on the layout and she doesn't believe we are there yet. She believes that more could be done internally for the needs assessment.

Councilor Greenfield said that since we have now toured the building he would like to go back to the table with Peter Wiles. The Town Board agreed.

Supervisor Sennett said she would contact Peter Wiles to set up a date for our next meeting.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

▪**Earth Hour:** Councilor Brace said that Sustainable Skaneateles participated last year for the first time in earth hour. This year the date is Saturday, March 29th and across the world people will be turning off their lights at 8:30 p.m. for one hour. Sustainable Skaneateles will be showing "The City Dark" between 6:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. on that date and friends will be gathering at Thayer Park to view the night sky. The Skaneateles Environmental Club will be providing hot chocolate. She said Baltimore Woods will also be holding an event for Earth Hour. The Village is turning off part of their street lighting and they are changing their bulbs to LED bulbs.

▪**Update on Onondaga County Planning Symposium:** Supervisor Sennett said that she attended the Onondaga County Planning Symposium with Councilor Howard and many other people from the Town Planning and Zoning Departments. Councilor Howard said there were about 200 to 250 people who attended and the presentations were wonderful and she learned a lot. She said they met with representatives from NYSERDA who said there are funding opportunities.

▪**Follow Up Discussion on Western Gateway Landscaping:** Councilor Murray said that the landscaping plan was originally adopted to accomplish several factors. Some of these included slowing traffic, providing for a clear vision when entering or exiting businesses, safety and cost. She understands that the Town Board may want to eliminate the grasses

in the islands but said these really don't require a lot of maintenance as they lie down during the winter like a blanket and pop back up in the spring. She said she is working with Pam Schroener at the Chamber of Commerce seeking donations and asked the Board to consider putting this out for bid.

Councilor Brace said she did not think the Town Board had fully decided if there would be changes to the current plan and whether or not to plant just trees or trees, shrubs and grasses.

Councilor Murray said that if the types of trees are changed, we would have to go back to NYSDOT to seek approval. There is enough money in donations right now to purchase approximately 16 trees. She plans to meet with all property owners to make sure they understand they have to maintain whatever is planted.

Councilor Brace asked if grasses were added would mowing be eliminated in the islands. Councilor Murray said, yes.

Supervisor Sennett said that after the article was in the paper Dessa Bergen, President of the Skaneateles Garden Club contacted her and offered their help with the decision. Supervisor Sennett said she would arrange a meeting that she would attend along with Dessa Bergen and Councilor Murray.

▪*Update on Rescue Mission:* Supervisor Sennett said at the last meeting the Town Board decided just to stay with St. Pauley's at the Transfer Station since the Rescue Mission was going to remove their trailer. St. Pauley's kept their previous proposal the same and the Rescue Mission submitted a new proposal.

The Town Board agreed that they did not see a problem keeping both agencies.

On a motion from Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, it was agreed to continue with the past proposal from St. Pauley's with reimbursement to the Town at 4 cents per pound of clothing and to also accept the Rescue Mission Proposal to remit to the Town 5 cents pound for all textiles received.

▪*Letter from Dave Laxton – Regarding Move to Village:* Supervisor Sennett noted receipt of Dave Laxton's letter that gave some good suggestions on the proposal to move to the Village building.

Resolution #14-58

▪*Town Board Meeting Change:* On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting of July 3, 2014 changed to 7 p.m. on July 7, 2014.

▪*Meeting with Town Supervisors on Skaneateles Lake:* Councilor Howard reported that at the invitation of Supervisor Sennett, 13 people attended a meeting this morning to talk about the protection of Skaneateles Lake waters. Represented were the towns of Skaneateles, Niles, Spafford and the City of Syracuse. Four members of the Skaneateles Lake Association also attended, along with Town Planning & Zoning Board Attorney, Scott Molnar. Scott Molnar helped everyone understand the jurisdiction of the navigable waters of Skaneateles Lake and the implications for future development along the shoreline. The Skaneateles Lake Association leaders spoke about the lake steward program and the efforts

to protect our lake from invasive species. The Town of Skaneateles Open Space Committee will be sponsoring a public education event in May featuring a presentation by Finger Lakes Land Trust Executive Director, Andy Zepp on the preservation of our rural farmlands and properties within the watershed. She said there was a shared sense of dedication at the meeting to preserve and protect our precious natural resource, Skaneateles Lake. The group will meet again in June, and in the meantime work will be done by the five towns' zoning board on reaching a lake zoning consensus.

Supervisor Sennett said that the Town of Scott was not in attendance at this meeting but agreed to participate. She said that the State's Navigation Laws preempt Town's zoning laws and she was glad that there was an agreement among the Towns on the Lake that we have to work together to protect the lake. Councilor Brace thanked Supervisor Sennett for initiating the meeting.

Resolution #14-59

Abstract #14-6: On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Board voucher #14-0271 to #14-0359 were paid from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$ 46,467.54	Part Town:	\$ 3,166.91
Highway:	\$ 32,235.25	Highway P/T:	\$ 9,107.03
Water:	\$ 12,876.58	Water #5:	\$ 55.61
Sewer:	\$ 1,246.52	Sewer #6:	\$ 556.34
Limeledge Water:	\$ 488.83	T & A:	\$ 2,201.78
Total:	\$108,402.39		

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet L. Aaron
Town Clerk