

Town Board Meeting
November 3, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Lanning, Councilor Brace, Councilor Howard, Councilor Badami, Councilor Coville, Attorney Smith.

Also Present: Bridgett Winkelman, Julie Stenger, Beth Battle, Jonathan Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal), Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), John Walsh, Martin Cregg, *Allan Wellington. Rob Howard, Tara Covert.

Department Reports:

▪**Parks:** In Sue Greenfield's absence, Councilor Brace read Sue's report that the Parks Department repaired a basketball backboard at Austin Park, installed the Lea Whaley bench on the Charlie Major Nature Trail, closed the Sims building for the season, seeded parts of the soccer fields and took down the tennis and volleyball nets and windscreens. They are still mowing.

▪**Codes, Planning, Zoning:** Councilor Badami read the reports showing that the Codes Department issued 11 permits in October and that the Planning Board has 5 open projects and the Zoning Board has one open project. Supervisor Lanning asked Karen Barkdull if she had sent the newly adopted abandonment law to the three applicants with projects that could be impacted by the law. Karen said that she had not. Supervisor Lanning said he would like them to receive it.

▪**Budget:** Bridgett Winkelman said she had scheduled Cuddy & Ward in December and February to do the 2016 audit. She has been reviewing water accounts that have outstanding balances after November 1st. Those balances will be sent to County Finance to add to the home owners 2017 Town and County taxes.

▪**Historian:** Beth Battle reported that they will be having a dedication of an historic marker that is being installed at the end of the Charlie Major Nature Trail honoring Benjamin C. Cook, a Mottville resident and Civil War soldier who was the first to suggest that flags be placed on veterans' graves.

▪**Highway, Water, Transfer Station:** Supervisor Lanning reported that Allan Wellington is going to be late to the meeting. He read Allan's report. In the Highway Department they received a new 10-wheel truck equipped with a snow plow and outfitted three trucks for snowplowing. They made equipment repairs and repaired potholes. Three dead trees were removed from the highway right of way and they replaced a culvert extension on Heifer Road. CHIPS reimbursement for road repairs in the amount of \$109,920.70 was submitted. In the Water Department they started winterizing water hydrants, installed a new water service for an event center in Mottville and corrected a low pressure complaint for a resident at Windward Estates. At the Transfer Station they made welding repairs to a recycling compactor, replaced some damaged steel siding to the municipal garbage building and billed the last of the old mulch that was taken.

Public Comment: No one came forward to speak.

Resolution #16-254

Transfer Station Reserve Fund Transfer: On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board a transfer of not to

exceed \$20,000 from the Transfer Station Reserve Fund for the purchase of a new 35 yard self-contained compactor was authorized subject to the permissive referendum requirements of Town Law and General Municipal Law.

*Allan Wellington arrived

Resolution #16-255

Landfill Post Closure Monitoring Agreement: On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Plumley Engineers proposal to do the required NYSDEC annual monitoring and reporting for \$6,100 was approved.

Resolution #16-256

Correcting the Road Inventory and dedicating and recommending speed limit on Transportation Drive: Allan Wellington reported that correcting the road inventory with the Federal Highway Administration is important for funding through CHIPS. The Federal Highway Administration recently changed their GIS format for inventory and instead of naming the four roads in the Manor Heights Development they just called it Manor Heights Road.

In addition, Transportation Drive has never been a dedicated road and a speed limit has never been established. It currently does not show up on any maps. The school directs their bus drivers to not exceed 15 mph on this road and he agrees with that speed limit.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, it was declared that Transportation Drive shall be known as a Town highway; that the Town Board shall cause a map of Transportation Drive to be prepared and filed with the Town Clerk with a copy filed with the Onondaga County Clerk's Office; that Transportation Drive shall appear on all Town and County maps and be listed on the State and Federal highway inventory listings; that the Town Board authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to make an application to the Onondaga County Department of Transportation to establish a speed limit of 15 miles per hour and directs the Highway Superintendent to amend the local highway inventory to more specifically describe Manor Heights as Parliament Place, Lancelot Place, Sadler and Knightsbridge Roads.

Resolution #16-257

Revised Comprehensive Plan: Supervisor Lanning reported that Joel Russell revised the September 12, 2016 Comprehensive Plan to incorporate the Open Space Plan by reference. The new changes are highlighted in yellow on pages 11, 14, and 24. The new version is dated October 31, 2016.

Councilor Howard said she would like to see the Open Space Plan added to the Comprehensive Plan after each is adopted.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the October 31st revision of the Comprehensive Plan was referred to Onondaga County Planning, to the Village Board of Trustees and the Village Planning and Zoning Boards, and to the Town Planning and Zoning Boards.

Request to use Austin Pavilion for Off Ice Hockey Practice: The Town Board requested that the Mr. Lopiccio, Skaneateles Youth Hockey Association President attend the next Town Board meeting in order to answer the questions that the Town Board has. This was tabled to November 17th.

Resolution #16-258

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing – 2017 Preliminary Budget: Supervisor Lanning noted receipt of the Affidavit of posting dated October 21, 2016 and the Affidavit of publication dated October 26, 2016.

With no one requesting that the public notice be read, Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board opened the public hearing.

Supervisor Lanning asked if anyone wished to speak in favor, in opposition or had any comments regarding the preliminary budget.

No one came forward.

Supervisor Lanning said that the Town Board worked diligently on this budget. Every department spent a great deal of time, effort and energy to conservatively estimate the expenses they would have in 2017. The result is a small tax rate decrease. Increased assessments certainly help.

Councilor Brace thanked Bridgett Winkelman who educates the Town Board with her years of experience.

Councilor Badami said he greatly appreciates Bridgett's openness, honesty and frank discussions.

The entire Town Board applauded Bridgett for the excellent support she provides to them and the education they receive reviewing the budget.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Howard asked to add \$10,000 to the budget to be put in a reserve fund dedicated to support preserving open space and purchasing development rights, conservation easements and preserving farms and our rural character.

Supervisor Lanning said that right now an applicant to the Planning or Zoning Board may increase density on a receiving parcel by voluntarily making a financial contribution to the Town's Land and Development Rights Acquisition Fund so that the town can purchase land or development rights for conservation purposes on a sending parcel of the Town's choice. He would be against making this a mandatory tax that our taxpayers would have to contribute to.

Bridgett Winkelman said that there is \$20,000 in the 2016 budget for the purchase of land. This could go towards a new Town Hall or a water tower. It could be earmarked to go toward a

reserve for land for conservation purposes. The reserve would just need to be established. The 2017 budget also has \$20,000 budgeted and encumbering the \$20,000 from 2016 would bring the total that could be allocated to \$40,000. Reserves could be established that would have a clear description of their purpose.

Attorney Smith said there are two types of Reserves. One is general and one is specific. Bridgett Winkelman said all of our reserves are general. They are not subject to permissive referendum when established but are subject to permissive referendum when transferring funds from the reserve.

Councilor Brace said that the farmers believe in preserving land. She would like to think that there are other sources of funding to protect the lake and the character of the community. The Open Space Plan and the Comprehensive Plan all support this.

Supervisor Lanning said there are State and Federal grant opportunities for funding. He hesitates adding a mandatory taxation to residents who would not agree.

Councilor Howard said there is a big return for everyone if open space is preserved. Farmers need to continue to farm. If open space is not preserved we all suffer. Taxing to keep what we value in this community will bring a return above and beyond the tax dollars spent.

Councilor Howard made a motion to amend the budget adding \$10,000 to create a reserve fund for the purchase of conservation easements.

Bridgett Winkelman said that funds that are already in the budget could be reallocated. The Board agreed.

Councilor Howard withdrew her motion stating that she hopes the Town Board will support this. This was tabled to discuss at the November 17, 2016 meeting. Bridgett Winkelman said that she would send to the Town Board language from our current Reserve Fund.

On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the 2017 Preliminary Budget was adopted.

Resolution #16-259

Map, Plan and Report – Proposed Water District #6: Attorney Smith reported that the Town Board was in receipt of the Map, Plan and Report prepared by C & S Engineers for the proposed Water District #6 which covered the area on Kane Avenue, Andrews Road and on County Line from Andrews Road to Route 20. The district does not include construction costs as the purpose right now is just to create the district. The Town Board would be required to hold a public hearing.

Supervisor Lanning displayed the report showing the fire flow chart. Of the 20 areas represented in the Town and Village, 15 fall below the gallons per minute fire flow requirement. The water tower on East Street was added in 1951 and has leaks. A tower is needed on the west side of town that would help not only with Town fire flow but Village as well. The highest

elevation is at Andrews Road. Residents there have failing wells. The tower must be in an established water district in order to be considered.

Councilor Brace said that they have had several reports considering a water tower and the evaluation of the costs. Supervisor Lanning said that the studies were not based on the map, plan and report.

Councilor Badami said it should be clear that the water district is only paid for by the residents in the district. Not by taxpayers.

Councilor Brace said if the water tower benefits the village residents as well would they also contribute to the cost. Supervisor Lanning said if we are successful in negotiating with the Village.

John Walsh, a resident of Andrews Road asked to speak to the water issue that his family has experienced. He said that they have a house on East Lake Road and purchased this historic house on Andrews Road 12 years ago. He spent over a million dollars renovating the historic barns and home. He keeps 35 horses in the barns during polo season. He buys hay from local farmers and has to buy water because he does not have a pond or a hydrant or enough water in his wells. He said the fire department is one-quarter mile from his house but he knows without sufficient water he could lose everything in less than a half an hour. He said that Marty Cregg has dug 14 wells to try to have enough water. Marty is also willing to give his land for the water tower.

Mr. Walsh said he pays his taxes and he loves this community but for many reasons including health, safety, and quality of life, they need public water. He said he and Marty are ranchers and an asset to the community. Teams come from all over the country to play polo here and spend money in the stores and at the restaurants. He wants it to be a horse community for generations to come but he is very concerned that the barns would catch fire and they would not be able to get the horses out in time because of lack of water. He said the entire community will benefit from an added water tower.

Councilor Badami said he was glad that they intend to keep the farms and open space. Councilor Brace asked if he would consider a conservation easement on his property.

John Walsh said he would have to consult with his attorney to review the pros and cons and asked if everyone in the district would have to put their property in a conservation easement. Councilor Brace said it would offset the concerns.

Councilor Howard said it is a wonderful way to keep land open. She is very sympathetic to their need for water and she is 100% behind the water tower which is a great opportunity to improve water pressure for both the Town and Village water customers and her only reservation is what happens to the land years down the road. She would also like to see a conservation easement.

Supervisor Lanning asked if there would be an expansion of equestrian facilities. Mr. Walsh said that Wellington, Florida, an equestrian community, is a model for the country. They did it

right and laid out the community beautifully. They have strict zoning and clean lakes. He can envision the same for Skaneateles.

Supervisor Lanning said that polo is part of the character of Skaneateles. Forming the district is the first step but it will be a long journey. He said the Board needs to pass a resolution to form the district because a water tower has to be within a water district.

Attorney Smith said that in the future when infrastructure is added the Board would have to authorize another Map, Plan and Report.

Councilor Howard said she wished she could go along with it but feels this is another step to creating a water district without a guarantee that the properties will not be developed in this beautiful area. She asked to have it tabled to work with the residents regarding conservation easements before moving forward.

Councilor Brace said that this is an opportunity to have a dialogue and suggested addressing both simultaneously.

Councilor Badami said that he is concerned that someone could lose their life because they didn't have enough water. He believes concerns should be addressed but the Board should not stop because these concerns have not been resolved yet.

Councilor Howard said that many residents are in the same boat.

Councilor Brace questioned the boundaries of the district and asked why the lot at the southeast corner of Andrews Road was not in the district. Supervisor Lanning said that Mr. Weitsman owned that property and he is not interested in developing the property and therefore was not interested in obtaining public water.

On a motion of Supervisor Lanning seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board a public hearing was scheduled for 7 p.m. on November 17, 2016 to consider proposed water district #6.

Mr. Walsh submitted a letter for the record (attached).

Request from the Fire Department for Assurance from Town Board on their use of Austin Pavilion and Austin Park: Councilor Brace said there are several things that the Town will need assurance on as well. She said that the pavilion is rented for other uses and this year because of the late request from the fire department to hold their casino night on a different date than previous years, a wedding event had to be cancelled to accommodate the firemen. She suggested that the Town receive timely notice that is coordinated with the Parks Manager in order to avoid this situation again.

Supervisor Lanning said that the firemen have agreed to remove their items from the Pavilion within 7 days from the date of their event. He reminded the Board that this is a volunteer

organization that has events to purchase fire trucks so that the taxpayers do not have to fund that expense.

Attorney Smith stated that further discussion on this issue should be done in Executive Session.

Resolution #16-260

NYSDEC Boat Launch Contract: Janet Aaron explained that the Town Board did approve the boat launch contract on July 7, 2016; however, the State changed some boilerplate language on the contract. The contract is basically the same and the scope of work and the amount of the contract is the same as the one approved in July. The Town will receive an additional \$1,000 over the four year contract.

On a motion of Councilor Badami, seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board Supervisor Lanning was authorized to sign the 4 years contract with NYSDEC with the following terms; 2017-2018 \$4,200; 2018-2019 \$4,300; 2019-2020 \$4,300; 2020-2021 \$4,400.

Resolution #16-261

Authorization for Supervisor to sign \$80,000 DASNY Grant Application: On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Lanning was authorized to sign the DASNY grant application for the renovation of the Simms Building restrooms.

Resolution #16-262

Minutes: On a motion of Councilor Howard seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the minutes of October 20, 2016 were accepted as presented.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

▪*Austin Park Transfer Update:* Attorney Smith stated that he would update the Board in Executive Session.

▪*Skaneateles Falls Playground Update:* Supervisor Lanning reported that the playground would be installed on Saturday, November 12th weather permitting.

▪*Letter from Sandra Nichols:* Supervisor Lanning said that a survey of Austin Park was recently done which showed part of the Nichols property that they thought was theirs and that they have maintained for 37 years was actually part of Austin Park. The Nichols want written assurance from the Town that the use of the property will not change once the Town becomes the owner. Attorney Smith said that if the Town Board wants they could issue a revocable license for the Nichols. Supervisor Lanning stated that he would write a letter to the Nichols regarding this.

▪*Email from Tacie Anderson:* Tacie Anderson submitted an email regarding the runoff of soil into their creek and then into the lake from a hillside property across the street from them on East Lake Road. Supervisor Lanning said he would talk to Ms. Anderson regarding programs that Onondaga County Soil and Water have for bank retention.

▪*Letter from Tara Lynn Exec.Dir. Chamber – Look for volunteers for ringing the bells for the Salvation Army during the Dickens Christmas celebration. 90% of the money raised will stay right in Skaneateles.*

▪Dedication of Historic Marker honoring Benjamin C. Cook at Mottville Park at 10 a.m. November 11th.

Resolution #16-263

Budget Amendments/Adjustments: On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following budget amendments and adjustments were authorized:

General Fund

\$ 660.00	Increase	019304.01.004.00	Judgements and Claims
\$ 660.00	Decrease	019904.01.004.00	Contingency

Home owner storage units

Water Consolidated

\$ 700.00	Increase	090308.08.008.00	Water Admin – Social Security
\$ 700.00	Decrease	083104.08.004.00	Water Admin – C/E

Additional P/S provided by other Town workers

Resolution #16-264

Abstract #16-21: On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Badami and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board voucher #16-1502 to #16-1568 from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$100,322.48	Part Town:	\$16,183.40
Highway:	\$186,236.61	Highway P/T:	\$47,559.59
Lighting:	\$ 1,481.99	Water:	\$19,300.77
Water #5:	\$ 6.25	Sewer:	\$ 2,211.01
Sewer #6:	\$ 291.11	T & A:	\$14,894.22

Total: \$388,487.33

Public Comment: Beth Battle said they were having the dedication for Benjamin Cook now so that there was not a conflict with Memorial Day.

Rob Howard questioned if solar panels could be placed on the site of the landfill closure. Supervisor Lanning said that there are concerns that the lining could be punctured.

Resolution #16-265

Executive Session: On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss litigation and contract negotiations.

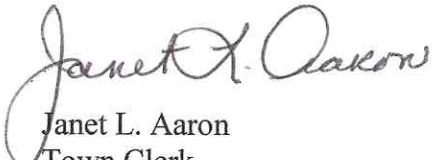
The meeting returned to open session at 8:45 p.m.

Resolution #16-256

Delano Settlement of Claim: On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Coville, Supervisor Lanning was authorized to sign a check in an amount not to exceed \$13,000 to settle a claim with John and Carol Delano.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet L. Aaron
Town Clerk



Revé and John Walsh
881 Andrews Road
Skaneateles, NY 13152

3 November 2016

To the Skaneateles Town Board;

We are writing the town board to express our need for public water. Revé and I own the farm at 881 Andrews Road, and maintain a home and our horse operation there. We purchased the farm to connect to the wonderful equestrian area in Skaneateles, and have invested heavily in the farm to upgrade the aging facility for long term use and access to the riding areas and polo fields here. We keep horses in the summer months we use for polo, fox hunting and pleasure riding in a barn that was built in the early 1900's, and employ a number of grooms and maintenance staff to keep the farm up and care for the horses. *Revé*

Ever since we purchased the farm, water has been in short supply through the wells on the property. We drilled an extra well to serve our needs, and we still do not have enough water for the barn or the house. If we wash and water the horses, we can't shower or do laundry for hours, or perhaps till the next day. The situation has worsened over the last 4 years, and we expect it will continue to deteriorate. We will be faced with a significant problem running the farm if the water supply continues to dwindle.

In addition, we very much worry about fire protection, given the age of the house and barn. In a conversation with the fire department, they indicated an old barn like ours will go up in a matter of minutes, and without substantial water they may not be able to save the horses, let alone the structure. We need adequate water supplies to protect our farm operation, should a fire ever happen, to keep it from becoming a tragedy. We love our horses, and hope to provide them protection as well, and we always worry that a spark in an old barn with hay and horses can create severe danger for the animals and those who care for them.

Last, the quality of water we get from the wells is not good, it can vary over the year from clear, to cloudy, to having a strong odor, and the water treatment does not completely make the water acceptable for drinking and clean laundry.

It seems a crime that in a community with endless water in our lake, that the community doesn't have access to that same resource. We are only asking for the opportunity to be served, we will seek the support of our neighbors to fund the district. We ask you to consider connecting our farm to the proposed water district, it is a must if we are to continue operating our farm there. Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely;

John and Revé Walsh