

Town of Austerlitz
Regular Town Board Meeting
May 18, 2023

Present: Robert Lagonia, Town Supervisor, Greg Vogler, Christopher Schober, Jere Wrightsman and Maureen Wilson, Town Board Members and Peter Fitzpatrick, Highway Superintendent.

Susan Haag, Town Clerk, absent due to conference.

Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the April 20, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to authorize payment of the May General Fund, #196-228 in the amount of \$33073.20 and Highway Fund, #92-102 in the amount of \$17356.81 was made by C. Schober and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement Report for the Month of April 2023 submitted.

Concerning the lighting issue in the park behind the Spencertown Academy, Supervisor Lagonia received an estimate from Leggett Electric for \$3290.00 to fix the problem.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to accept the estimate from Leggett Electric and go forward with the project was made by G. Vogler and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober : yes
M. Wilson: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

The Town Board discussed the condition of the tennis courts and the needed repairs and enhancements: sealing around posts and the addition of pickle ball. Supervisor Lagonia noted he received a bid from Copeland for \$13,900 excluding nets. In total, the bid is approximately \$16,000. Town Board Member Wilson asked about last time the tennis courts have been repaired. Supervisor Lagonia said they haven't been adequately maintained for approximately 7 years or so.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to inform the vendor (Copeland) to perform the work was made by J. Wrightsman, seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober : yes
M. Wilson: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

Supervisor Lagonia reminded members of the Town Board of the Ellsworth Kelly Town Hall dedication that is set for Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Lagonia has done further research on reinvesting \$1 million to be staggered by investment type (CDs and Money Markets), and timeframe, e.g, 3 months, six months etc. The goal is to maximize return while maintaining liquidity.

A motion to authorize the Supervisor to make these investments was made by C. Schober seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober : yes
M. Wilson: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that the County has been very busy with developing strategies in the event of a surprise surge of immigrants as has happened elsewhere.

Highway Report Peter Absent

Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick was absent and submitted the following report to the town board by email:

Apologize for my absence tonight. Though I am feeling tremendously better think it's best I keep my distance.

We have received a few very nice compliments and thanks for our recent work. Specifically on Mallory, Beaver Dam, Fern Hill and Fog Hill.

It was nice, thank you and You're Welcome.

Few weeks ago we needed a break from the rain and now we are begging for it to rain!! It's unusually dry out and dust control has begun.

Speed Sign has been dusted off and is out of its winter hibernation.

End of Report

Town Clerk Report for the month of April 2023 submitted.

Tax Collector Report for the month of April 2023 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of May 2023 submitted.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of April 2023 submitted. Town Board Member Vogler said that instead of CPOC, the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) continues to meet, and a summary of the recent town-wide survey will be posted to the town's website. Town Board Member G. Vogler discussed the survey findings as tabulated, noting that the Town received approximately 341 responses out of 850 households.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of April 2023 submitted.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of April 2023 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of April 2023 submitted.

No Dog Control Report for the month of April 2023 submitted.

Climate Smart Report for the month of May 2023 submitted. (Add report)

The Climate Smart Committee submitted a Climate Action Plan for Government Operations for the Town of Austerlitz. The Committee is asking that the Town Board approve the Climate Action Plan to be uploaded to the Town website for public review and to allow feedback. Included in the plan is an example of an anti-idling policy and a green fleet procurement policy enacted by a local law.

A motion to accept the draft CAP, and post it to the town website for public input for one month was made by J. Wrightsman, seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober : yes
M. Wilson: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

Resolution #30-2023, To Undertake a Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Community Climate Action Plan

A motion to adopt Resolution #30-2023, To Undertake a Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Community Climate Action Plan was made by J. Wrightsman and seconded by C. Schober removing the section concerning zoom meetings and adding ‘after approval by the Town Board’ at the end of the first resolved.

R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: yes
C. Schober : yes
M. Wilson: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 5:0.

WHEREAS, the Town of Austerlitz pledged to take part in the NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Certification Program that includes the preparation of a Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report and Community Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, these publications are developed using 2019 baseline data with no cost assistance from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) through a NYS DEC Climate Leadership Coordinator Services grant toward completion of the following action items toward Climate Smart Communities certification:

- 1) Pledge Element 2- Develop a Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory; and
- 2) Pledge Element 2.5- Develop a Community Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Smart Task Force, comprised of town officials and environmental volunteer community leaders, will collaborate with CDRPC in the development of these publications, reviewed drafts, and provide valuable feedback on iterations that result in final draft; and

WHEREAS, the task force will present a summary of the inventory results, target reduction plan and components of the draft community climate action plan to the Town Board regular meeting...

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Austerlitz hereby undertake a Community Greenhouse Emission Inventory Report and the Community Climate Action Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes submission of these documents to the NYS DEC Office for Climate Change for consideration of points toward Climate Smart Communities certification for the Town of Austerlitz after approval by the Town Board.

The Town Board discussion centered around the air conditioning at the Historic Center at 812 Route 203. A presentation on what options are available and how much they will cost (and what is the net cost to the town), and what is the Climate Committee recommendation will be made to the Town Board at the June Town Board meeting.

A motion to accept the monthly reports was made by M. Wilson and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Correspondence

Teamsters Local 294: Requests that the Town Board enact Juneteenth as an observed holiday for the Town of Austerlitz.

Resolution #31-2023, Juneteenth Holiday for 2023

A motion to adopt Resolution #31-2023, Juneteenth Holiday for 2023 was by C. Schober and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

WHEREAS, this coming June 19th marks the 157th anniversary of Juneteenth, when the official announcement was made in the State of Texas, more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, that slavery was abolished in the United States and that all of the enslaved African Americans in Texas were free; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Juneteenth was designated a federal holiday when President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day into law and the following year New York State Governor Hochul proclaimed June 19th as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, as a reminder to reflect on this inhuman aspect of our country's history and in furtherance of honoring the history, perseverance and achievements of the African American community, the Town Board desires to honor the significance of this date and what it means in order to continue to strive for full realization of the American principles of freedom, equality and justice for all people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz hereby establishes June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth in the Town of Austerlitz and a paid holiday for all Town employees.

Perma

Perma requests that the Town Board supports via letter to the Town's local State Legislators, 2 bills concerning the Alternative Contribution Program designed for large public entities and municipal pools that prefer to absorb the initial cost of a claim in return for a savings on their annual contribution. In effect, these provide members with a large deductible option that is customized to the Town's needs.

A motion authorizing Supervisor Lagonia to send a letter on behalf of the Town Board supporting bill numbers NYS A.52A and S.6410 was made by G. Vogler and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Unfinished Business

Spencertown/Austerlitz Parks

Tabled for June.

History Center Heating and Cooling Bid

Tabled for June.

New Business

Updated 2023 Highway Form 284

Tabled for June.

Comprehensive Plan Update Survey Results

See above.

Moratorium

The Town Board discussed that there should be a workshop soon to discuss possibilities. Before then, Attorney for the Town, Joe Catalano, will query the Planning Board, Building Inspector and ZBA for their input.

Town of Austerlitz No Smoking Policy

Town Board Member M. Wilson discussed whether the Town's policy on no smoking extends to vaping and cannabis. Attorney Catalano said the policy says no smoking at all on public properties. But does this include vaping, and should we have a sign at the Town Parks that include cannabis and vaping? Further discussion will be held at the June Town Board meeting.

Public Comment

William Cully asked a question re immigration preparation, wondering how possible that is here. The Supervisor stated that the probability is low but we don't know for sure and we need to be prepared.

William Cully also asked about CPAC survey input. He was informed that there was multiple outreaches to residents including press releases, a physical mailing to every household, use of the town sign outside the town hall, and two email notices from the town website. Still, there will be additional opportunities by the public as we approach public hearings (to be scheduled).

Deb Oleynek asked about funding for the parks. The Supervisor said that there will be a meeting setup to solicit public input on how to use the parks.

Tom Sternall asked a question about what CPAC survey posting. A summary of the survey results will be posted to the town website shortly.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made J. Wrightsman and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Meeting adjourned 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Vogler