

Town of Austerlitz
Regular Town Board Meeting
April 20, 2023

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

Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano present.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the March 16, 2023 Workshop/Regular Meeting minutes was made by C. Schober and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : abstain

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: abstain

Motion carried 3:2.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to authorize payment of the February General Fund, #131-165 in the amount of \$36301.54 and Highway Fund, #68-91 in the amount of \$22215.35 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.

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement Report for the Month of March 2023 submitted. Supervisor Lagonia noted that there is a mistake in the account totals on the financials which he will discuss with the accountant. Supervisor Lagonia is working with Fidelity discussing investments for the Town's extra money. Investments will be staggered and the total investment will be \$1,000,000.00. No investments will be finalized until interest rates are secured and Supervisor Lagonia lets the Town Board know.

On a County level, Supervisor Lagonia is following the wellness hub. Cheryl Roberts is one of the persons heading this up. This is a first of its kind mental health hub for those in crisis

working with housing issues, etc. There is an aggressive plan that needs a lot of capital; it is a \$5,000,000.00 project. Many organizations and individuals looking to give money or help to get grants. Five acres of land were given for this project in Hudson behind the jail. This will be a model for NYS. Kudos to all those involved.

Supervisor Lagonia had an appointment with Copeland to discuss fixing the tennis courts. Unfortunately, they did not show. The summer recreation program, as well as, others have asked for pickle board lines to be drawn on the courts.

Supervisor Lagonia is trying to find a contractor who will look at the lighting in the park behind the Spencertown Academy. The fixtures are so old that the lens can not be replaced.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town Board needed to discuss what to do with the ballpark. There needs to be a Town wide meeting to figure out what to do with this area. Maybe an informational meeting to throw around ideas held in June or July. Information about this meeting needs to go out to the residents.

Town Board Member Vogler asked about the Austerlitz Park. R. Lagonia noted that maybe the meeting can be to discuss both areas.

Town Board Member Wilson asked if a permanent toilet can be put at the park. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the porta-potty can be there longer than just the 6 weeks of the Summer Recreation Program. Member Vogler noted that there were comments on the Comprehensive Plan Update survey to this. Residents want to see better lighting and a potty in the park area. The survey results will be distributed at the next meeting. Town Board Member Schober questioned the status of the little library that was supposed to be put in. The understanding is that the library on the end of Beale Road will be done over instead.

The Ellsworth Kelly Foundation 100th Celebration will be May 20, 2023. The Town Hall dedication will be at 11:00 a.m. No refreshments and at least 200 people are expected. The banners are done and will be placed on the poles along the roadways. There is a permit that is needed.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick submitted the following report:

A crazy month with both weather and time!!
Seems like we skipped spring and had a week of summer. Unusually warm it was last week!

Things are drying out nicely allowing us a slightly early start on some grading but it's still early. Sure, we will see some frost and soggy days over the next month?
Pothole touch ups continue and starting to grade as the weather allows it.

We are almost done but still cleaning up debris from the winter, mostly from the last storm. Literally had brush and debris on every road from that storm.

Ditch cleaning of trouble spots has started and will continue over the next month.

The transition of our trucks from winter to summer has started with the washing and pulling of sanders and plows.

We will finish putting plows and sanding equipment away for summer storage soon.

The other LED shop lights were received and finished being installed.

They work well and the crew greatly appreciates the light output.

In the future we will look into upgrading the other light fixtures in the storage and office areas of the garage.

Work on Mallory Rd will be picked up where we left off last fall soon.

There is ditch cleaning and a few culverts to be addressed as well as more material to be added.

The Grader is in need of tires and having two moldboard pins replaced. I anticipate that they will need to be line bored and re bushed.

I have begun looking into pricing and options with the intent of performing the repairs this summer between primary grading seasons to minimize the disruption.

We have received our first salt delivery toward refilling the barn and will begin hauling sand between things soon.

The daffodils are out and the sun is high, enjoy the smell of spring, it's here!

End of Report

Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick noted that he lost a furnace circulator at the highway garage, but it has since been replaced.

Superintendent Fitzpatrick asked to put the old LED lights from the highway garage out to auction.

P. Fitzpatrick will be attending the annual highway school in June. He is also looking to have the highway crew take harassment training through the County. Supervisor Lagonia noted that this training needs to get done.

There is no news with the Dugway Bridge Replacement project. The bid was accepted, easements are done and in place. Just waiting for the time to roll around to complete the project.

Town Clerk Report for the month of March 2023 submitted.

Tax Collector Report for the month of March 2023 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of April 2023 submitted. The Town Board discussed the project for the Spencertown Store.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of April 2023 submitted. Member Vogler noted that the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee has completed the compilation of the survey results, with 341 out of 850 households participating which is around a 40% response rate. The results are being analyzed. Once analyzed, a summary will be compiled that is easy to understand and will be made available to the public.

Supervisor Lagonia discussed using moratoriums with Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano. There are a number of gaps in the Town Code that the Town needs to shore up and moratoriums stop certain projects in Town allowing the Town Board time to slow down and really look at the issues. Supervisor Lagonia and Member Vogler noted that the Comprehensive Plan will need to be in the mix for this discussion.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of March 2023 submitted. Member Wilson noted that there is an entity on State Route 203 with a sign that says 'eggs for sale.' M. Wilson was wondering if this is a business or just someone selling some eggs. If it is a business, do they have to go before the planning board? Online, it appears this is a business. Member Wilson will follow up with Building Inspector E. Reis.

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

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

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

Climate Smart Report for the month of April 2023 submitted.

Supervisor Lagonia advised that he will sign a letter for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant that the Town would like to be awarded.

It was asked if the Town Board would approve \$100.00 to be set aside in the budget to purchase parts for certain repair café projects. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the 2023 budget can not be changed at this point, but these purchases can come out of the Town Board contractual line item.

A motion was made by M. Wilson and seconded by J. Wrightsman to allow \$100.00 of the Town Board contractual line-item money to be used for purchases for the repair café projects.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

Member Wilson notes that she is no longer on the Climate Smart Committee.

A motion to accept the monthly reports 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.

Correspondence

Lisa Futtner: Use of the Town Hall for the Town of Austerlitz Democratic Caucus on June 3, 2023 from 10:30-12:30 p.m. The consensus of the Town Board is to approve this request.

Spencertown Academy: Use of the Spencertown Green for the Spencertown Academy's Annual Hidden Garden Tour on Saturday, June 24, 2023. The Town Board consensus is to approve this request noting that they might need a permit.

Unfinished Business

Tobacco-Free Action of Columbia and Greene Counties: Changes to Program.

Changes include vaping devices and legalized cannabis use. New signage is available for the Town to choose. Town Board Member Wilson will head up getting new signage.

Electronic car Charging Station

Town Board Member Vogler noted that last year the Town Board discussed the increased cost of software for the Electronic Vehicle Charging Station. The plan was to revisit this issue this year. After discussions with PlugIn, the Town can swap in a new charging station at no cost, although there is a minimal installation charge, without having to pay exorbitant software fees. If the Town does make this switch, it means that the Town can not charge users for their use of the station. When comparing what the cost of what the software charge would have been if the Town chose the software change instead of the new installment, with what the Town would make in user fees, the new installment is a much less expensive way to go. Currently the Town earns about \$10.00 month. If usage should increase a lot, the Town can always go back and get the software change which would cost about \$400.00 per year. The software cost for the existing ChargePoint Electronic Vehicle charging station is about \$1000.00 per year.

A motion was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Wilson to get a new charging station with a contract that Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, will review before being signed.

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

New Business

Updated 2023 Highway Form 284

Now that the cost for the Dugway Bridge project is known, Highway Superintendent Peter Fitzpatrick has updated the 2023 Highway Form 284. The Town Board discussed projects, money available and made a tweak in the Highway Form 284 presented.

A motion to accept the updated 2023 Highway Form 284 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.

Town of Austerlitz
2023 Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Funds

This agreement is entered into by the Town of Austerlitz Highway Superintendent and the undersigned members of the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz pursuant to section 284 of the Highway Law as set forth below and shall be effective for the fiscal year of 2023:
We hereby agree that the monies levied and collected for the repair and improvement of the Town highways, and those monies received from the State of New York for the repair and improvement of Town Highways, shall be as follows:

1. General Repairs: The sum not to exceed of \$348,000.00 may be expended for general repairs and maintenance upon 61.7 miles of Town highways including sluices, culverts, drainage ditches and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or renewals thereof.

• Highway Staff Payroll – General Repairs	\$157,000.00
• Highway Clerk Payroll	\$11,000.00
• Highway Repairs and Maintenance	\$165,000.00
• Dust Control	\$15,000.00

2. Improvements. The following sums shall be set aside for the improvement of Town highways as described below:

- a) Strawberry Hill Bridge: There shall be expended the sum, not to exceed, of \$225,000.00, provided that at least 100% of said amount is to be taken from the NYS CHIPS funding program.
Type: Culvert Repair, C.H.I.P.s.
- b) School House Road: There shall be expended the sum, not to exceed, of \$150,000.00, provided that at least 100% of said amount is to be taken from the NYS CHIPS funding program.
Type: Blacktop Project, C.H.I.P.s.
- c) Slate Hill Road: There Shall be expended the sum, not to exceed, of \$150,000.00, provided that a portion of said amount is to be taken from the NYS C.H.I.P.s funding program and the remainder from Town reserve funds.
Type: Blacktop Project, C.H.I.P.s.and Town Reserves

3. It is hereby acknowledged that the foregoing is best estimates based upon information of road conditions and pricing that the Highway Superintendent has at the time this agreement is executed. It is also hereby acknowledged that the foregoing is best estimates of revenue for the above projects based upon information that the Town Board has at the time this agreement is executed regarding revenues and expected NYS C.H.I.P.s funding that the Town of Austerlitz expects to receive in the fiscal year 2023. If there are changes in the scope of work, available materials, or pricing, and/or revenues or NYS C.H.I.P.s funding amounts, this agreement may be modified in writing by the parties hereto.

This agreement shall take effect when approved by the Town Board and executed by the Highway Superintendent and at least a majority of the members of the Town Board.

This agreement shall be effective from April 20, 2023 and shall remain in effect through December 31, 2023.

Town Board Member Vogler asked Highway Superintendent if any work on a Road Plan has been done. Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick noted that he will work on this.

History Center Heating/Cooling Bid

Bids were received from the following:

Tibbitts Heating and Cooling LLC

Rec. Via tibbittsheatingandcooling@gmail.com

Installation of 2 24k BTU high heat indoor units to one outdoor unit. HVAC Deig2-1 Mini Split high heat pump. This is a cold climate heat pump that is used for AC as well as primary heat. This quote includes all low voltage wiring and drain pipe needed as well as a wall mount for outside unit.

Bid: \$14500.00

Rycor Heating and Cooling

135 North Chestnut Street

New Paltz, NY 12561

Mitsubishi High Efficiency Heating, Cooling, Dehumidification, Air Purification System. Install Mitsubishi Hyper-Heat Heat Pump 15000 in historical center, install Mitsubishi Hyper-Heat Pump 12000 in historical center, Install Mitsubishi Hyper-Heat Heat Pump 6000 in document area. \$3750 Provide line voltage between condensing units and main breaker panel.

Bid: \$24450.00

\$20495.00 once a NYSEG mail-in-Rebate of \$3955.00 is submitted and approved.

Member Wilson believes this is way to much money for a building that is hardly used. Supervisor Lagonia agrees, but this was included in a grant proposal for the Climate Smart Community Committee. The bids were discussed noting that one bid includes a NYSEG mail-in rebate. The Town Board tabled awarding this bid until it was ascertained if this NYSEG rebate was available across the board and could be used for both bids.

NYMIR Insurance Proposal

NYMIR has made the cyber policy a stand-alone policy this year. There is an increase of 3% which is below most other municipalities of 6-7%. Supervisor Lagonia filled out the online application for this. If the Town Board has any questions, let him know.

New Town Website

Town Board Members Wilson and Vogler are working on the new Town website and have been meeting with Civic Plus. A mock-up of the home page has been sent for review understanding that details are still being worked out. Things are moving along.

NYSDOT Speed Limits

Member Wilson discussed an email she received from the NYSDOT concerning the speed limit on State Route 203. M. Wilson will be meeting with the Columbia County NYSDOT Representative to discuss the speed reduction on State Route 203 and asks that other members of the Town Board attend this meeting, or give her their concerns to share.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by G. Vogler.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0. Executive Session entered at 7:57 p.m.

A motion to exit Executive Session 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. Executive Session ended at 8:13 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by 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 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Haag, Town Clerk

DRAFT