

Town of Austerlitz
Regular Town Board Meeting
January 19, 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.

Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes

A motion to accept the December Public Hearing/Regular Meeting minutes and the January 3, 2023 Organizational Meeting minutes 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.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to authorize payment of the January General Fund, #1-16, 18-51 in the amount of \$38855.49 (there is no G#17 voucher) and Highway Fund, #1-26 in the amount of \$26145.49 was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

2022 Budget Amendments:

A motion to approve the following budget amendments was made by G. Vogler and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

General Fund

**Increase to
Appropriations**

**Decrease to
Appropriations**

1320.4	ACCOUNTANT	1,000.00	
1355.1	ASSESSOR	250.00	
1420.4	ATTORNEY	10,796.00	
1620.4	BUILDING	36,871.00	
1910.4	INSURANCE	170.00	
5010.4	HIGHWAY SUPER	1,959.00	
5182.4	STREET LIGHTING	499.00	
5132.4	GARAGE	3,443.00	
6772.4	AGED PROGRAMS	955.00	
7140.1	PARKS	874.00	
7310.1	YOUTH PROGRAMS	6,456.00	
7510.1	HISTORIAN	244.00	
1990.4	CONTINGENT		63,517.00
3120.4	POLICE	5,813.00	
3510.4	DOG CONTROL	780.00	
3620.11	BUILDING INSPECTOR CLERK		6,593.00
9010.8	RETIREMENT		11,045.00
9060.8	HOSPITALIZATION		386.00
8020.4	PLANNING	2,943.00	
8025.4	JOINT PLANNING BOARD	8,169.00	
8020.11	PLANNING CLERK	319.00	
	TOTALS	\$ 81,541.00	\$ 81,541.00

Highway

		Increase Appropriations	Decrease Appropriations
5130.2	MACHINERY EQ	75,646.00	
5110.1	GEN REPAIRS (PAYROLL)		22,539.00
5110.41	HIGHWAY REPAIRS & MAINT		51,207.00
5110.42	DUST CONTROL		1,900.00
5130.4	MACHINERY	20,018.00	

5140.1	BRUSH & WEEDS	6,497.00	
9010.8	RETIREMENT		14,676.00
5142.4	SNOW REMOVAL		11,839.00
9090.8	UNIFORMS	1,030.00	
9060.8	HOSPITALIZATION		1,030.00
		103,191.00	103,191.00

Reports

Monthly Cash Disbursement and Supervisor Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement Report for the Month of December 2022 submitted.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that there is roughly \$2.228 million in the bank at the end of the year. The AUD will be completed and submitted by the end of February. Financially the Town is in good shape. Once the AUD is done and filed and the Highway Form 284 is signed, the Board will have a solid understanding where the Town is financially and what monies are going to be used for Highway purposes this year. Then it can use any additional money available for other projects.

Supervisor Lagonia noted the following projects that he would like to see completed during the coming year:

New Town Hall: downstairs painting, repair of doors and installation

Old Town Hall: windows replaced, touch up painting and trim around windows when complete, repair steps to the basement

Austerlitz Town Park Trails: finish the trail system, need a parking area and some signage, maybe put in a gazebo and picnic tables

Spencertown Park: upgrade tennis courts

Highway Department: purchase 1 tandem truck and major road repairs

Town Wide Meeting: on the future of the Spencertown ball field: fencing, dugouts, field and lighting. The lighting is currently being worked on.

On a County level, the Town of Austerlitz needs someone to sit on the Senior Advisory Council. Barbara Smith was the last resident to hold this position and currently is not interested in being reappointed. There is a new health director and youth director. There is a good chance the Town might be able to be reimbursed for our bussing for the Summer Recreation Program. There will be a meeting that Austerlitz Summer Recreation Director Debbie Oleynek should go to.

The Spencertown Academy has presented a proposal for the Town Board to consider. The Academy would like to sponsor a free library in Town, located on Town property. The Academy

will design, build and install a drop-off and pick-up station, preferable at the Town Hall or the Town Park behind the Academy because of parking. The Academy will take full responsibility for cost, maintenance and management. Supervisor Lagonia will follow-up with the Academy to get a plan and bring that to the Town Board. This may replace the library at the end of Beale Road. The consensus of the Town Board is to allow this project.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that an interview is set up for tomorrow for the empty clerking position.

Supervisor Lagonia advised the Town Board that Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, thanked the Town Board for the opportunity to continue to serve the Town of Austerlitz as Attorney. J. Catalano appreciates the Board's continued confidence.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick submitted the following report:

Winter is sliding by, so far with minimal snow and surprisingly high temperatures!

There have been Several Storms to deal with but all have melted and disappeared almost as quick as they arrived!

With rollercoaster temperatures and rain between snows there is no or minimal frost in the ground,

Giving us some wet almost spring like muddy conditions in several areas.

All things considered our roads are holding up fairly well but definitely causes concern!

We have already begun putting up the spring weight signs due to the unusually warm weather causing soft roads!!

Between Storms we have been cleaning culverts of obstructions to keep the water moving.

We have also been cleaning up fallen branches and cutting trees.

A new pair of Forks we purchased for the one loader has already proven their worth in moving and loading logs as well as other things.

We had one incident where Truck 7 slid on Stonewall Rd during a storm and then a resident slid into the truck.

Nobody was hurt but we did have to replace some leaf springs on the rear of 7, the truck was down for a few days while we did this but was back together for the next storm.

I have been in contact with one of the residents of Mallory Road who signed the letter we received last month.

He agreed to be a point of contact and forward our communications with the rest of the group.

The conversation was good, he thanked us and complimented what we got done in the fall,

Is happy to hear the plan for continuing the improvements and looks forward to them.

End of Report

Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick advised the Town Board that one of the loaders has a hydraulic leak. The price to fix from John Deere is \$3000.00, but P. Fitzpatrick is looking to see if there is some place cheaper, but does not think he will find anything. In addition, the primary haul truck is the tandem and this is old and needs to be replaced. Town Board Member Wilson would like to see the Town move away from purchases that involve the diesel component. P. Fitzpatrick noted that for larger hauling trucks, this is not a possibility, but for some other types of trucks, the Town can investigate. The Town Board discussed what machinery uses diesel and what the Town can change in the future.

Superintendent Fitzpatrick advised the Town Board that he has spoken to the residents on Mallory Road concerning the letter they wrote. The residents of Fern Hill have also been in touch with P. Fitzpatrick thanking him for what was done last summer saying the road is holding up well.

Town Clerk Report for the month of December 2022 submitted.

Planning Board Report for the month of January 2023 submitted.

No Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee Report for the month of December 2022 submitted.

Town Board Member and Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Chair, Greg Vogler, advised that the Comprehensive Plan review continues to move forward with a Townwide survey set to go out in March. It is currently in development.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of December 2022 submitted. The Town Board discussed different situations in Town that are happening including people living in campers. Supervisor Lagonia will investigate as to whether or not this is allowed in the State Code. The Town Board is also looking into code enforcement policies. There is a possibility of giving current Code Enforcement Officer/Building Officer, Erin Reis, more time and help for clerical work so she can be out in the field more.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of December 2022 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of December 2022 submitted.

Dog Control Report for the month of January 2023 submitted. Member Wilson noted that Dog Control Officer Kyle Miller does a great job on Facebook getting the word out concerning lost dogs.

Climate Smart Report for the month of December 2022 submitted.

Member Wilson would like to have a Repair Café here at the Town Hall. The Town Board discussed this noting that this event needed to be protective of the building. The consensus of the Town Board was to allow making sure the building was protected. Event to be held March 4th from 10:00-2:00 p.m.

Member Wilson also discussed a waste collection day. The waste would just be collected and the collection could be done up at the Highway Garage.

Member Vogler advised that Tim Stalker is working on an RFP for a heat pump to be purchased and installed at the old Town Hall. The Town Board discussed the type of available units to use. The Climate Smart Committee has the money for this project from a grant.

A motion to accept the above 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

Ellsworth Kelly Foundation Broadband Donation: The Ellsworth Kelly Foundation donated \$200,000.00 to make up for the deficiency left by the State in awards for the broadband project.

NYS Department of Ag and Markets: December Dog Control Officer Inspection: Rated satisfactory.

NYS Department of Ag and Markets: December Municipal Shelter Inspection: Rated satisfactory.

NYS Department of Ag and Markets: January Dog Control Officer Inspection: Rated satisfactory.

Unfinished Business

Procurement Policy

Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, advised via report to Supervisor Lagonia that the Town's current procurement policy follows New York State so the Town Board does not need to update this policy. There will be changes coming later in the year, but these changes do not affect the threshold dollar amounts so the policies as ratified at the Organizational meeting are fine.

Contracts

The Town Board would like some follow-up on the escrow it has been holding for a Planning Board project by Dale Hartka. This escrow has been hanging out there for years and needs to be resolved.

Sexual Harassment and Work Place Violence Prevention Training

Sexual harassment and work place violence prevention training is required on a yearly basis. Supervisor Lagonia has spoken with the County and there is a training video with a quiz at the end to check for participation that will satisfy this requirement. A link will be given to all Town employees as this is a mandatory yearly training.

Mid-Hudson Broadband Master Services Agreement

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the Mid-Hudson Broadband Master Services Agreement 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.

This project is well on the way. Consolidated Communications is further along than Mid-Hudson.

Dugway Bridge Project Update

Engineer for the Town, George Schmidt, has sent out bid packages to a number of contractors in the area for the Dugway Bridge Project. The bid opening is set for February 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Attorney for the Town Catalano is updating the needed easement paperwork for this project.

Columbia County 2023 Shared Service Agreement

This shared service agreement is for IT.

A motion to authorize Supervisor Lagonia to sign the Columbia County 2023 Shared Service Agreement was made by M. Wilson and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: yes

C. Schober: yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 5:0.

2023 Drug and Alcohol Testing Agreement

A motion to authorize Peter Fitzpatrick to sign the 2023 Drug and Alcohol Testing Agreement with Partners in Safety 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.

Climate Smart Committee Member Appointments

Attorney Catalano advised, by way of report to Supervisor Lagonia, that any appointments to any citizens committees must be made by the Town Board. Attorney Catalano also noted that no more than 2 Town Board members should be on any committee, otherwise it would become a Town Board meeting. Attorney Catalano further suggested that it is best not to have more than 2

Town Board members participating in non-Town Board meetings. The general rule is that anytime a quorum of the Town Board is present at a meeting discussing Town business, that constitutes a meeting of the Town Board and must be advertised and noticed as such. The resolution that created the Climate Smart Committee should be reviewed to see if any adjustments need to be made.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that committee members on the Climate Smart Committee need to be formalized. The Town Board discussed the structure of this committee and will bring this back to the February Town Board Meeting.

Radar Sign

Member Wilson has been researching radar signs that sit on top of speed signs. These require no NYSDOT approval or permit. The Town of Ghent has these. These signs are movable and the Town can put them wherever they want. The cost is about \$2500 with \$250 extra for a data package. This would be battery run. Supervisor Lagonia will call and get more specifics so the Board can move forward next month.

Columbia County Senior Advisory Council Appointment

See above.

Families In Need

Member Wilson noted that she has discovered that there are 19 families in the Town of Austerlitz that are living at poverty level and would like to see if there is something on a Town level that can be done, although who they are is unknown. Supervisor Lagonia advised that there is so much that can be done on a County level. Member Wilson noted the Columbia County Recovery Kitchen is available if the Town can ID people who need food.

Public Comment

None

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 8:01p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Haag, Town Clerk