

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
April 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on April 14, 2021 via ZOOM with the following members present:

Councilman: Brett Holleran
Councilwoman: Patricia Jacob
Councilman: Randy Mowers
Councilwoman: Patricia Riddell Kent
Supervisor: Robert Wood
Town Clerk: Sara Robinson

Others present: Rob Panasci, Town Attorney; Leonard and Virginia Pudelka, Taylor Bolton

PETITIONERS

Supervisor Wood recognized the Pudelkas who were inquiring about the West St. speed reduction request. Supervisor Wood stated the request was denied by the state. Supervisor Wood also stated that two new speed monitoring signs were budgeted for this year. The committee will determine if we can put one on West St.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion was made by Riddell Kent to purchase lockers for the new highway garage for \$1,671. Seconded by Mowers.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Bridge NY Grant App-Riddell Kent and Highway Superintendent Hurtubise have been working on a submittal of a pre review for a grant application to Bridge NY for box culverts in the West End of Oneonta on Butler Creek, Winney Hill Road, Blanchard, Richards and Jefferson. Riddell Kent stated that the pre-submittal is due today. Riddell Kent and Highway Superintendent Hurtubise reached out to Lamont Engineering. There was engineering done for this in 2009. The application pre-review requires input from an engineer. Riddell Kent stated that Francois stepped in for Jody who is out of town on an emergency. Riddell Kent stated that if we get the grant our fees would be covered under the grant and we would be reimbursed for any fees that we incur. Holleran asked if these will increase the diameter of the current culverts. Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated yes, the most recent design requirements require almost an 18 ft. wide culvert the whole width of the road. It is larger than they originally recommended but the DEC has a 1 ½ times the required channel width for a box culvert. The current culverts are 8 ft. wide. Riddell Kent stated that this is phase two of the west end drainage mitigation plan. The first phase was the work that we did at Westgate Plaza. The second phase is these box culverts. This is an effort to help reduce the flooding that the West End is experiencing.

Riddell Kent reported that the highway road tour is coming up May 4th at 1:30.

Southside Water-Councilman Holleran stated that he has been getting questions from people that live on Old Southside Drive regarding the water hookup. They read what we have on the project. The people that spoke with Holleran were unclear that they were responsible for the hookup to the house. Riddell Kent stated that they did tell people that they would have to do their own hookup from the house to the road. Supervisor Wood stated that we are unable to give anyone a quote because everyone's situation is going to be completely different like, where they want it to enter the house. Holleran stated that people are asking whether the town will give guidance on approved contractors, do they have to have an approved contractor or will they be responsible for a shutoff. Supervisor Wood stated that the shutoff is put in at the curb box and that's where our responsibility stops. There will be a meter installed in their home and there will be another shutoff around that. There are specifications for that. Councilman Mowers stated that they have to have back flow preventers, pressure reducers and a test port. Each one will have to be inspected to make sure everything is installed correctly. Councilman Mowers stated that maybe we should send out a letter. Councilman Holleran stated that the contractors have been going around knocking on doors asking where they want the hookup to go in to the house and people are now asking questions. Holleran asked if we are going to have an official response or are we going to give an approved contractor list. Supervisor Wood stated that we usually do not give recommendations about the quality of work of any contractor. Supervisor Wood stated when the connections are about to be made there will be contractors in the area. Riddell Kent stated that

they were sure to address questions and made sure to have a level of interaction with the town before they signed paperwork.

Public Safety – Supervisor Wood reported that he and Councilwoman Jacob met with the Teamsters Union on Monday morning. They meet again on May 3rd.

Facilities, Technology, Parks Councilman Mowers reported that they cleaned up the ball field. Councilman Mowers Rototilled the ball field and Highway Superintendent Hurtubise flattened it out. The baseball league should be able to get started.

Human Resources and Public Benefit – Nothing to report.

Legislative – Nothing to report.

ATTORNEY County EMS Proposal-The County is planning on providing EMS service to residents of the county. The Town and City already pay for this service. Supervisor Wood has asked Attorney Panasci to do some research on this issue. Supervisor Wood stated that he did contact the city mayor and had a discussion. The mayor is going to refer to the city attorney. Supervisor Wood stated that his concern is it will come out of the committee and go to the county board and be approved. Attorney Panasci asked if they know what the cost will be. Supervisor Wood stated that they are looking at purchasing 4 ambulances and then the staff would be the substantial cost. Supervisor Wood stated that another town supervisor has been very involved with this. Several other towns, New Lisbon and Pittsfield receive services from New Berlin fire department. Some towns have paid under the contract and some have not. New Berlin is getting ready to dis-band their department which leaves the rest of our county unprotected. It's coming to a crisis point because of the un-availability of volunteers. Supervisor Wood stated he doesn't think there will be a big impact on the tax bills. It's a service that the Town of Oneonta and City of Oneonta already pay for. Residents are already paying substantially for it. He just doesn't want to see it be applied to our county tax bill when we are already are paying for the service. Councilwoman Jacob asked if there is a way to get a deduction or opt out since we are already paying. Supervisor Wood stated no, not the way they're planning. He spoke with a county representative and the ideal situation would be establishing districts. It would be a special benefit district and the City of Oneonta and Town of Oneonta would not be included in the district. We would already be covered.

CODE ENFORCEMENT –

MISCELLANEOUS

Motion was made to appoint Pat Jacob as the Climate Smart Community Coordinator and to establish the Climate Smart Community Task Force by Riddell Kent. Seconded by Mowers.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Creation of the Town of Oneonta, New York Climate Smart Community Task Force and designation of Climate Smart Communities Coordinator

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta New York adopted the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge by Resolution on 04/14/2021 and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta New York wishes to obtain certification under the Climate Smart Communities Program to build community resilience; and

WHEREAS, the task force can provide government decision makers with information about establishing and implementing climate smart initiatives, propose new ideas to the local government, and can identify funding sources for projects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the establishment of the Climate Smart Community Task Force for the Town of Oneonta, which is composed of representatives from the local government and community.

BE, IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THE Town of Oneonta appoints Patricia A. Jacob. Councilmember, as the Climate Smart Community Coordinator to oversee registration, action submission and coordination of all activities of the Climate Smart Task Force.

Riddell Kent thanked Councilwoman Jacob for keeping it moving forward. They break up the

action items to get things done. Riddell Kent stated that if they get four high impact items completed, we will get a \$5,000 grant. Riddell Kent stated that we are close to that.

Revaluation for the town for 2022-Supervisor Wood stated that he sent Rich Maxwells response which detailed why he thought we needed to do a revaluation. Supervisor Wood stated that he thinks the best way to serve our residents is to ensure that the tax base is fairly distributed among the people. Rich will do the revaluation himself after he uses a consultant to review the models and ensure the models are up to date and also to look at the heavier commercial properties. The \$3,000-5,000 will cover that.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wood to approve the revaluation for the year 2022 with an expected cost of \$3,000-\$5,000. Seconded by Jacob.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Casella-Motion was made by Supervisor Wood. Seconded by Mowers to approve the Casella contracts. It will lock us in for three years and it is a lower rate than what we are paying now. It will save \$20 a month on the town hall and about \$12 a month on the Fortin Park contract.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Jacob to approve the minutes from March 10th. Seconded by Riddell Kent.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

BILLS

Motion was made by Jacob to approve the following bills. Seconded by Mowers.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Clerk:	Approved Expenses / Voucher #	206-294
	General	\$ 60,778.80
	Highway	\$ 49,014.36
	St Lighting	\$ 2,408.05
	Highway Garage	\$ 56,976.30
	Fire Protection	\$ -
	WESD	\$ 1,573.49
	WSSD	\$ 221.96
	SSD	\$ 385.32
	WWD	\$ 2,856.99
	PWD	\$ 5,952.33
	SSWD	\$ 311,653.65
	T&A	\$ 2,981.12
	CDBG	\$ -
		<u>\$ 494,802.37</u>

Supervisor Wood stated that there was one other bill that he got which was the settlement from Cooperstown All Star Village. The town’s portion of the pay back of the return of taxes is \$5,196.66. The Plains Light District repayment is \$349.15. Supervisor Wood stated it is not clear whether the town pays or the county pays.

Motion was made by Riddell Kent. Seconded by Mowers to approve the repayment to the All Star Village.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Motion to adjourn made by Jacob. Seconded by Riddell Kent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Robinson