

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on September 13, 2017 with the following members present:

Supervisor: Robert T. Wood
Councilwoman: Patricia Jacob
Councilman: Randal Mowers
Councilwoman: Patricia Riddell Kent
Councilman: Brett Holleran
Town Clerk: Cheryl L. Shackelton

Others present: James Hurtubise, Supt. of Highways; Steve Kent; James McCue; Johna Peachin; Fernando Volpe; Ron Peters; and Dan Baker.

PETITIONERS

John Peachin, Town of Oneonta Fire Commissioner read a statement updating the Town Board on the status of negotiations regarding the Fire District contract, (per document on file in the Town Clerk's office). She asked for the support of the Town Board. Supervisor Wood requested that the Town Attorney and Fire District Attorney consult on the issue of billing. He also stated that he disagreed with many of Ms. Peachin's comments (rebuttal comments attached to document).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway/Water & Sewer - Councilwoman Riddell Kent gave the following update and recommendations:

- Authorization to expend \$20,000 from 2017 budget to purchase plow wing and rear flail mower put on hold until October meeting to allow further price comparisons;
- Orchard Street drainage and paving project has been completed;
- Councilwoman Riddell Kent will explore IRT (Innovative Readiness Training) as a means to save the town money for large-scale capital projects (possibly the new highway building);
- Surplused Malibu – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran to accept the online auction bid of \$2800.00 for the 2007 Malibu.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Public Safety- Supervisor Wood reported as follows:

133 Southside Dr. – There were no bids at the bank foreclosure auction of the property. Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to advertise RFP's to have the garage and shed demolished and debris and junk on the bank and property cleaned up at 133 Southside Drive (Tax Map #300.14-1-20.00).

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Taser training – Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Holleran to authorize the Town Constable to attend a 2-day laser training in October 6th and 7th in Delhi, NY.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Facilities, Technology, Parks – Councilman Holleran reported as follows:

Roof bids – One RFP was picked up, but no bids were submitted for the Town Hall roof project. Discussion followed regarding readvertising or holding off until next spring. Supervisor Wood said he and Code Officer Neske looked at the roof and it's in bad shape, but would last one more winter. The board was in agreement to readvertise as soon as possible in The Daily Star and Hometown Oneonta newspapers.

Town Hall boiler – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Riddell Kent to advertise RFP's (Request for Proposals) for a new Town Hall boiler in both The Daily Star and Hometown Oneonta newspapers.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Fortin Park recreational events – Parking issues at large athletic/recreational events was discussed. The board discussed various solutions including: laminated 'No Parking' signs; large event applicants providing parking personnel; additional parking application being implemented, along with a fee; closing off pavilion rentals during large events for safety reasons; and possibly widening the road. The committee will look into these suggestions. The Town Clerk expressed her appreciation for the work Steve Kent, Maintenance Worker does to coordinate and oversee large events.

Highway Superintendent Hurtubise will order a set of forks for the Fortin Park tractor that was approved at the Nov. 6, 2016 meeting.

Human Resources and Public Benefit – Supervisor reported and recommended as follows:

HRA account – Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to authorize Supervisor Wood to open a new 'Health Reimbursement Account' at a cost of \$500, plus a \$5/month charge for a town employee.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Personnel Handbook – Will have the revised Personnel Handbook available soon.

Legislative – Councilwoman Jacob reported as follows:

Sign Law – The committee updated the law by addressing electronic signs and variances making it more user friendly for businesses. Councilwoman Jacob said she delivered the draft law to local businesses for their input.

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to set a public hearing for October 11, 2017 at 7:00pm to consider a local law amending the sign ordinance (Chapter 76 of the Town Code).

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Complete Streets – Councilwoman Jacob said she needs input from the Town Attorney and Highway Superintendent Hurtubise on the 'Complete Streets' law. She said the law pertains primarily to new projects and would make the town eligible for state/federal funding. She said many people are in favor of this and it's important to move forward. Hurtubise said his only concern is in slowing the progress of a project and possibly over complicating it. Supervisor Wood stated that the town's streets and roads are very diverse, but that it would help with a

project such as the Southside project. He suggested that future highway projects under the Complete Streets policy be subject to review by the Town Highway Committee and Town Planning Board.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

STBOA training – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to authorize Code Enforcement personnel to attend STBOA (Southern Tier Building Officials Association) training in Oxford, NY, Sept. 20th, at a cost of \$70.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

MISCELLANEOUS

Court grant – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Mowers to approve the submission of Unified Court System grant application to purchase a camera surveillance system and taser gun for the Town Constable.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Informational:

‘Natural Disaster Awareness for Community Leaders’ training, Oct. 18th, 5:30- 9:30pm in Cooperstown.

Fire Commissioners – Supervisor Wood gave the following report from the Sept. 12th meeting:

- Discussed tentative budget; they removed from their revenue stream the anticipated \$24,000 from a \$200,000 SUNY public safety grant given to the City; this leaves their budget flat for 2017 so there will be a slight tax decrease (even though there is a \$50,000 increase in their budget);
- No action to appoint a new commissioner;
- Authorized Fernando Volpe to negotiate with the City, along with Johna Peachin;
- Went into an Executive Session to discuss a potential lawsuit.

2018 Budget – Supervisor Wood distributed the 2018 budget meetings schedule and asked for input from the Town Board on how to stay under the mandated tax cap of 1.84% with the following figures in mind:

- Can increase the tax levy by \$35,800;
- Have a loss of revenues of \$12,300;
- Net decrease of \$15,000 in health benefits, but retirement benefits are up;
- Have approximately \$14,000 to the good for the 2018 budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to approve the August 9, 2017 minutes.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

BILLS

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Mowers to approve bills as follows:

General	\$129,198.27	617-619,621,623,624,626,630-635,639,643,645,647-661,681,684-688
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Highway	\$50,368.91	619,659,661-677,680
Street Lights	\$3,678.52	639,647
Trust & Agency	\$3,305.45	613-616,622,628,629
DISTRICTS:		
WESD	\$231,035.66	612,620,625,627,636,637,640,644,646,678,679,683
WSSD	\$55,327.36	612,620,627,636,637,644,646,679,683
SSD	\$139,781.38	612,620,625,627,636,637,640,644,646,683
WWD	\$3,798.61	612,620,625,627,637,638,640-642,644,646,682,683
PWD	\$571.02	612,620,627,637,646,683
VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried		

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton
Town Clerk