

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
May 8, 2019

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on May 8, 2019 with the following members present:

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

Others present: Rob Panasci, Town Attorney; Jim Hurtubise; Steve Kent; Sara Robinson; Molly Swain; Walter Schmitt; Arley Lau; Steve & Katharine Paranya; Andrea Lister; Mark Davies; Katherine O'Donnell, Dave Rowley; Kevin Kelly; Dick Breuninger; Jon Anderson; Tom & Pauline Gergel; Jack Ewen; Dennis Higgins, Keith Shue, Michael Stolzer and Rachel Soper.

Supervisor Wood read the following statement in recognition of Town Clerk Cheryl Shackelton's upcoming retirement:

"Tonight's meeting is a memorable one. This marks the absolute end of an era. Cheryl Shackelton will be retiring from her position as Town Clerk on May 30 and this is her last town board meeting.

She has served this community for more than 40 years. Her understanding of the position and the duties, the organization of materials and attention to details and the institutional knowledge she possesses is priceless.

I know that she does not want me to mention these attributes but they cannot go unspoken.

For the record we all wish her the best in the coming years allowing her the extra time she richly deserves to spend with her family and friends".

PETITIONERS

Arley Lau, 24 Schoolhouse Lane said that some of the sidewalks in Winney Hill Commons are in disrepair because they were damaged when the roads were put in. Supervisor Wood said the Highway Superintendent would look into it and determine if the damage was caused by contractors when some of the new houses were brought in.

Molly Swain suggested placement of the 'speed' sign at The Plains at Parish Homestead. Supervisor Wood said it is typically placed on roads with chronic speeders, such as Winney Hill Road and Southside Drive.

Dick Breuninger thanked the highway crew for their recent cleanup of winter tree limbs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway, Water & Sewer – Councilwoman Riddell Kent reported as follows:

MOU with Egg Geo LLC – Supervisor Wood said Egg Geo, LLC would bring in an ESCO (Energy Services Company) to investigate the possibilities for a geothermal loop on Southside.

However, he has been informed by the NYS Department of Health that a geothermal system cannot be associated with a public water line. He added that he believes the ESCOs will have more interest in the commercial area of Southside; and that it's important to not delay the Southside Water project.

Jon Anderson, Southside Drive – asked if the town was being sold an idea; most people can't afford to install a geothermal system; understands the benefit, but is it the right thing; and why not for all town residents.

Supervisor Wood said it would be ideal for Southside because the infrastructure would already be open.

Keith Shue and Andrea Lister thanked the Town Board for considering the geothermal.

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Oneonta and Egg Geo, LLC to facilitate outside funding and to provide feasibility, engineering and guidance: utilizing water utility and other infrastructure as an energy source and sink for heating and cooling.

Discussion: It was noted that the Town of Oneonta will incur no monetary charges, and the Town is not obligated to proceed with the project by entering into this MOU. Councilman Mowers stated that he wants all residents notified as to what's going on. Councilwoman Riddell Kent commented that the board works hard to be open and transparent, citing the recent mailing that went out to all affected electrical customers in the town regarding the CCA.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Plains Water District Repair & Reserve Fund – Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Riddell Kent to set a public hearing for June 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm to consider a resolution establishing the “Repair and Improvement of Facilities Reserve Fund of Water District No. 4 Plains Water District”.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Surplus Equipment – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Mowers to accept the following auction bids:

Ford F-250 with plow - \$12,900.00

Ford 1841 Tractor - \$2,425.00

VOTE - Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Pool Leak – The leak has been found and repaired. Supervisor Wood was able to negotiate a reduction in the sewer portion of the City water/sewer bill for the pool.

Public Safety – Supervisor Wood reported that the three unsafe properties (238 West Street, 14 Jackson Avenue, and 115 Valley Street) are going up for County auction. If they are not sold at the auction, the town will submit applications to the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank to take them over.

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

“Into the Streets” project – The SUNY Wrestling Team did a great job cleaning up winter debris in the town parks this past weekend.

Fortin Park - Councilman Holleran brought up issues that sometimes occur because of large recreational events at the park. He reported ruts in mowed grassy areas and garbage in various areas after this past weekends ‘Ultimate Frisbee’ tournament. He suggested that raising the

security/damage deposit might deter some of these issues. Park maintenance worker Steve Kent said he discussed Councilman Holleran's issues with the tournament organizer and he is agreeable to correct any issues, as well as work with the town to facilitate continued use of the park. Councilman Mowers stated that the park needs additional parking and rotting posts need to be replaced. Councilman Holleran also asked for the board's input on exempting non-profits from the use fee. Kate O'Donnell said the park fees justify costs to maintain the park. The committee will further discuss these topics at their next committee meeting.

Monarch Butterflies – Upon Oneonta Middle School Science teacher Lisa Meschutt's request, the town agreed to not mow high grass at Fortin Park the months of May and June to allow migrating Monarch butterflies to nourish themselves on the milkweed there. Highway Superintendent Hurtubise suggested that a sign be placed nearby explaining the habitat of the Monarch butterfly.

LED street light conversion – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Jacob to authorize the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with NYSEG to convert the town's street lights to LED while continuing to pay the maintenance charges on the lights.

Discussion: Supervisor Wood said the projected savings would be approximately \$25,000 per year in reduced electrical usage and lower maintenance costs charged by NYSEG.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Legislative – Councilwoman Jacob reported that she is still awaiting Code Officer Neske's input on the proposed amendment to the zoning law that would require a public hearing for certain site plan reviews.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application (HMGP)

Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Riddell Kent to authorize the Supervisor to sign the necessary applications, contracts, etc. to allow Cynthia Marino-Burgess, 107 David W. Brenner Rd. TMP 300.00-2-6.00, to raise the elevation of her home to mitigate potential damages from future flooding.

Discussion: The town will work with Karen Sullivan at the County Planning Dept. to assist in the process.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

ATTORNEY – Nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS

Letter from Thomas Wisner, DOT Regional Director acknowledging receipt of Town's 'Sidewalk Resolution' – Mr. Wisner and Senator Seward have agreed to meet on May 17th at noon at the Town Hall to discuss sidewalks for Southside/Route 23.

Court Clerk training - Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to authorize Court Clerks Victoria Robbins and Shannon Harrington to attend mandatory court training on June 17th, Binghamton, NY.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Holleran to approve the following lifeguards and salaries:

<u>Lifeguards</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Year Hired</u>	<u>WSI</u>
-------------------	-----------------	---------------	-------------------	------------

Madison Miller	Head Guard	\$13.00	2013	Yes
Abigail Picinich	Assistant Head Guard	\$13.00	2014	No
Stephanie Havens	Lesson Supervisor	\$13.00	2011	Yes
Michelle Rossi	Lifeguard/Lesson Aide	\$ 12.10	2018	No
Frank Microni - Part Time Lifeguard/Lesson Aide		\$13.00	1992	No
Taylor Microni – Lifeguard/Lesson Aide		\$12.10	2016	No
Theresa DiMartin - Part Time Lifeguard		\$11.50	2010	No
Cole Platt - Part Time Lifeguard/Lesson Aide		\$11.10	2018	No
Kylie McKee - Part Time Lifeguard/Lesson Aide		\$11.10	2018	No

***Minimum wage is \$11.10 because of costs of certifications and time of getting certified, we have deemed it important to pay lifeguards above minimum wage as long as they are not a sub. My three top guards make the max salary, plus Frank since he has been an employee for 25 years.

Subs \$11.10

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded By Riddell Kent to approve the above lifeguards and salaries.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve the April 10, 2019 minutes.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

PETITIONERS

Dave Rowley asked for an update on the proposed new highway garage. Supervisor Wood said the board is currently reviewing engineer drawings; have tweaked a few things; have reduced the elevation of the building to save money; are moving along.

BILLS

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to pay bills as follows, with the addition of the principal payment on the bond in the amount of \$4500.00.

General	\$103,207.15	270,276,277,284-286,288,290,293-301, 303-306,308,309, 324-328,335-338,340,342-345,350
Highway	\$11,852.17	277,310-317,319-321,328-332,342,346-349
Street Lights	\$3,896.78	338-340
Trust & Agency	\$2,550.69	269,272-275,280,281,283
Highway Gar. Fire Prot. Dist.	\$25,612.25	291
	\$384,544.34	287
DISTRICTS:		
WESD	\$10,545.30	271,278,279,282,302,307,322,323,333,341,351
WSSD	\$2,405.85	271,278,279,302,307,333,351
SSD	\$3,445.67	271,278,279,302,307,318,341,351

WWD	\$3,134.31	271,278,279,282,302,307,334,351
PWD	\$909.04	271,278,279,302,307
SS Water		
Dist.	\$3,806.50	289,292
VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0	Motion Carried	

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton
Town Clerk