



Town of Oneonta TOWN BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2023

07:00pm

The regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on May 10, 2023 with the following members present:

Town Board Member:	Kim Fierke
Town Board Member:	Brett Holleran
Town Board Member:	Patricia Riddell Kent
Town Board Member:	Skylar J. Thompson
Supervisor:	Randal I. Mowers
Town Clerk:	Ryan F. Pereira (absent)
Deputy Town Clerk:	Cheryl L. Shackelton
Town Attorney:	Robert Panasci

Others present: James A. Hurtubise, Supt. of Highways; Michele Catan, County Rep.; Dale Webster; Walter Schmitt; Michael Schmitt; Tom Armao; Richard Harlem; Gary Maffei; Andrea Lister; Steve Kent; Theresa Cyzeski.

Petitioners "Privilege of the floor"

Gary Maffei was present urging the board to reinstitute weekend hours for the town's green waste site. Having it open weekends became a problem because of people dumping materials other than 'green waste', Supt. Hurtubise said. Supervisor Mowers said the Highway Committee will discuss this, but in the meantime will reopen the site Saturdays with limited hours, noon – 4pm.

Michele Catan, County Representative said the county is continuing to look at solutions for the County Highway 8 bridge; and that the county has finalized the 'Community Events' grant. She said they continuing work on the homeless problem is our area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway/Sewer/Water – Councilwoman Riddell Kent reported as follows:

- Sidewalk work continues in Winney Hill Commons

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Fierke to extend the 2022 contract with American Concrete to include work done in 2023.

Ayes 5, Nays 0

Motion Carried

- TAP Grant – Met with the City to discuss the TAP Grant that would establish a pedestrian lane along Lettis/Foster; and a sidewalk west to Home Depot and east to Lantern Hill Mobile Home Park. Presently the City is accepting proposals from engineering and architect firms. Supervisor Mowers stated that we must deal with the safety issue of 'foot traffic' in this area.

- Southside Water Update – Supervisor Mowers announced that May 17th the Southside water valves would be turned on. Also, that the new well house has been completed. Supt. Hurtubise discussed water tap applications and pertinent information needed. Councilman Holleran suggested that an ‘information packet’ be posted on the town’s website.
- The Bridge New York has been submitted
- Stewart’s project – Attorney Panasci explained that the town is awaiting a Performance Bond from the owner of the property (HEG Properties) for work that will be done on the roads. A building permit will not be issued until the town receives the bond.
- East End Water & Sewer update – Supervisor Mowers stated that the town could possibly receive \$450,000 - \$500,000 in funds from the state. Congressman Marc Molinaro has assisted in this effort.

- Surplus highway equipment – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran to accept bids from the online auction held 4/25/2023 through 05/09/2023, totaling \$7800.00
 Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

- West Oneonta Water/Sewer – The board discussed the availability of grant monies through Governor Hochul’s \$425 million ‘Critical Water Infrastructure Projects’ Environmental Bond Act. Applications are due by July 28th. Attorney Panasci suggested using the engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice to write the grant.

Motion was made by Fierke, seconded by Thompson to inquire of Barton & Loguidice their services to write a grant for the Map, Plan and Report of the West Oneonta Water/Sewer District.

Discussion: Attorney Panasci said the engineering costs come out of the grant, if awarded.

Ayes 4, Nays 1 (Riddell Kent because of fiscal concerns) Motion Carried

Public Safety

Constable Body Cam – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Thompson to approve the purchase of a body camera on state contract, for a cost not to exceed \$600.00.

Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Smoke shop violations – Supervisor Mowers reported that the Code Office has sent out violation letters to the two smoke shops in the town. It was suggested that letters of violation be reissued along with letter from Attorney Panasci and personal delivery be made to the store manager, as well as the realtor managing the property, and the property owner via certified mail.

Facilities, Technology, Parks – Supervisor Mowers reported as follows:

- Fortin Park – A new asphalt road and new gates have been installed at Fortin Park; these are huge improvements.

Councilman Holleran suggested that a calendar of public Fortin Park events be posted on the town’s Facebook page and website. He also said that the committee needs to create criteria for large gatherings that would address parking and emergency vehicle access. Councilman Thompson reported that the disc golf design is proceeding.

- JCAP grant – Supervisor Mowers said the town has been granted \$8900.00 in JCAP grant monies for a new surveillance system with 12 new cameras.

Legislative – Councilwoman Fierke reported that two City Aldermen would work with the town to address the ‘homeless’ situation. County Representative Michele Catan said it would be ideal if the town, city and county work on it together.

Human Resources – Nothing to report

ATTORNEY

Councilman Holleran brought up the issue of zoning map amendments and the Comprehensive Plan. Attorney Panasci explained that if multiple people in the same area request a zoning change then the Comprehensive Plan would need updating. However, the town board could address a single zoning change without amending the Comprehensive Plan. He suggested that the town get a planner to look at this. He also said that OCCA and MVEDD lean toward ‘sustainability’ and ‘climate smart communities’. Andrea Lister commented that OCCA and MVEDD people were simply offering suggestions last month; it is ultimately the Town’s decision. Councilman Thompson asked if Riddell Kent should recuse herself from one or both boards since Councilwoman Riddell Kent is an OCCA member. Attorney Panasci remembered the discussion when the board voted to authorize proceeding with the grant; and he remembered Riddell Kent asking if she should vote and he said she could. Supervisor Mowers questioned how much is the Town’s share. Riddell Kent said it is a \$28,000 grant with the Town’s match being in kind services such as use of space and reimbursement to the Town Clerk for services. She also added that the grant is between DEC as the Grantor and the Town, not OCCA. Councilwoman Fierke stated that she supports continuing work on the Comprehensive Plan with community involvement.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Attorney Panasci said he forwarded information to board members regarding illegal smoke shops and how New York City deals with it.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Travel Policy – Tabled until the policy is updated.

- Carpet Plus payment – Motion was made by Thompson, seconded by Riddell Kent to pay Carpet Plus \$2480.38 for replacing the flooring in the men’s bathroom.
Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Carpet Plus submitted an estimate to replace all remaining floors, with the exception of the Assembly Room, at a cost of \$9021.96. The board was in agreement to hold off on this.

PETITIONERS

Richard Harlem commented on last month’s Town Board meeting, saying that everyone was respectful in expressing their opinions. He applauded the board for having the insight to have Barton & Loguidice look into a grant for safe water in West Oneonta. He added that it’s important to have safe water, plus the fact that a pressurized water system is better for fighting fires, thus bringing down homeowners insurance many times.

BILLS

Motion was made by Fierke, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve bills as presented.
Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

MINUTES

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Fierke to approve the April 12, 2023 minutes with the following addendum:

Comprehensive Plan Update with Sustainable Elements Grant was awarded to the Town. The DEC is the Grantor. Amy Wyant, OCCA Executive Director attended. OCCA hired MVEDD Planners to handle the Comprehensive Plan update. Anthony Marris-Swann, planner from MVEDD attended and gave an overview to the Town Board as work begins. A steering committee will need to be formed to begin work. He will return to the Town Board in June. Wyant stated from an abundance of caution Councilwoman Riddell Kent will recuse herself on the OCCA end of this process.

Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Supervisor Mowers recognized and thanked West Oneonta Fire Chief Walter Schmitt for his 50 years of dedicated service to West Oneonta residents, as well as neighboring communities.

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton
Deputy Town Clerk