

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
July 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on July 14, 2021 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: Eileen McClafferty, William Starna, Kate O'Donnell, Jon Anderson, Jim Devins, Dave Rowley, Mike Schmitt, Skyler Thompson, Andrea Lister, Michael Stolzer

PETITIONERS: Jim Devins approached the board. Jim stated that Thomas Thetford parks his truck in a no parking zone. Jim stated that he has spoken to the Constable and he doesn't do anything about it. Jim asked if a report was made when someone had an accident there. Jim also stated that if something isn't done he is going to get a lawyer and go against the town.

Andrea Lister stated she lives on the corner of Butler and Jefferson. There are people that are regularly pulling up at 3am in front of Justin Shaws house. Andrea stated that she is not sure if it is the Daily Star. Andrea stated that the stop sign has graffiti on it and is leaning.

Supervisor Wood recognized that two candidates for town board were in attendance and welcomed them to the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway/Water & Sewer – Motion was made by Riddell Kent to approve change order 5.2 for McCarthy Electric in the amount of \$9,075 and change order 3.3 for PS&V for the decreased amount of -\$2,115.58. Seconded by Mowers.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Progress on Sidewalks in West Oneonta- Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated that the project has been started. The first section will be poured in front of the church. It should be completed by the end of the month.

Councilwoman Riddell Kent stated that Highway Superintendent Hurtubise also completed the one way traffic pattern at the Plains that allows for a lane for pedestrians to walk in, in the absence of sidewalks.

Councilwoman Riddell Kent stated that Highway Superintendent Hurtubise has the speed sign. They have discussed putting it up by West Street in the neighborhood that has had speeding concerns for a long time. They are possibly looking at placing it by Job Corps as your heading down the hill. Highway Superintendent Hurtubise is open to input for the placement. Councilwoman Riddell Kent stated she will also reach out to the neighbors.

Supervisor Wood stated that for informational purposes in conjunction with the public hearing for the CDBG Grant, part of that was to send out RFP's for engineering services. Supervisor Wood stated that he did that and we received two responses, one from Lamont and one from Delaware Engineering.

Motion was made by Holleran to set a public hearing for the CDBG grant for July 28th at noon. Seconded by Mowers.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Miscellaneous –

Public Safety – Did not meet.

Facilities, Technology, Parks-

Guardrail Purchase- Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated that new guardrails are \$5231 and for an additional \$1750 you can get new ribbon rail. This is install price. Supervisor Wood stated that the only issue is that \$5,000 is the purchasing policy, we must have bids. Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated that he will get another price. The guardrails will go from the Kwanza Hut to the playground.

Councilman Holleran stated that the pool robot has broken and the replacement price is between \$3,500-\$4,000. Supervisor Wood stated that the pool budget has \$3900 left. The robot was purchased in 2016. Supervisor Wood stated that there is the option to repair the robot. Councilman Holleran asked about the option of vacuuming the pool. Supervisor Wood stated that when the pool people are there, they are busy. Councilman Holleran asked about hiring someone to come in at \$15/hr. Supervisor Wood stated that the robot has paid for itself rather than having someone stand out there for 8-9 hours. Councilwoman Riddell Kent stated we are halfway through the summer and asked if the guards could cover until labor day and then it can be put into the budget for next year. Riddell Kent asked if the place that the robot was sent to could keep it and sell it refurbished, and asked if they will they give us any return. Supervisor Wood asked if the desire is to not repair it. Councilman Holleran stated not for that price because if there are any other issues there will be no money in the budget.

Councilman Holleran stated that there was an email regarding Fortin Park. It was to the respect that there were absorbent amounts of Pidgeon droppings on the tables and some were in disrepair. Councilman Holleran stated that we will look online at getting something to deter the pidgeons.

Human Resources and Public Benefit-

Legislative-

Resolution Adopting Unified Solar Permit- Councilwoman Jacob stated that as part of the Climate Smart Communities we are adopting a resolution for the New York State Solar Permit Requirements and Expedited Solar Permit Process for Small Scale Roof Mounted Residential and Commercial Solar Electric. Michael Stolzer stated that the standardized permit that the state asks for is much more cleaner than the building permit and is more appropriate as far as information that could be consequential specific to solar panels that isn't required in the building permit and doesn't require experienced information that is required in the building permit. It will qualify the town for that designation. It will help with creating a climate smart community.

Motion was made by Jacob to adopt the Resolution for the Unified Solar Permit. Seconded by Riddell Kent.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

At a Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Oneonta held on July 14, 2021 at 7:00PM

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD FOR THE TOWN OF ONEONTA

In the Matter of Adopting the New York State Solar Permit Requirements and Expedited Solar Permit Requirements and Expedited Solar Permit Process for Small Scale Roof-Mounted Residential and Commercial Solar Electric

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta seeks to maintain a business friendly atmosphere while protecting its natural beauty, and way of life of its residents, and

WHEREAS, the solar energy industry is creating jobs at an unprecedented rate, and

WHEREAS, a survey conducted in the Town of Oneonta has shown that nearly 70% of the town's residents favor a shift to renewable energy, and

WHEREAS, the unified solar permit is designed to cut costs by creating a uniform permitting process in municipalities across the state, and streamline the approval process for installing solar in the community, and

WHEREAS, installers and communities alike will save time and resources permitting solar electric systems, and an expedited process will save time for all involved parties, still allowing non-standard systems the necessary time for detailed review, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board for the Town of Oneonta unanimously approves to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit (expedited solar permit process for small-scale photo voltaic systems) for the Town of Oneonta.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TOWN BOARD MEMBER Jacob so moved. Town Board member Riddell Kent seconded said motion, and the Town Board voted as follows:

Town Board Member Jacob	AYE
Town Board Member Holleran	AYE
Town Board Member Riddell Kent	AYE
Town Board Member Mowers	AYE
Supervisor Wood	AYE
Ayes 5	Nays 0
Motion Carried	

OCCA Letter of Support- Supervisor Wood stated that OCCA has requested a letter of support for an update to the towns' comprehensive plan, it needs to be less than ten years old. Supervisor Wood stated that they are asking for specific matching fund amounts. Councilman Holleran stated that last time it was volunteer. It was conducted and arranged for by the town. In this instance is OCCA looking to be the lead agency. Supervisor Wood stated that they are looking to be the Coordinator. The grant would allow them to come down and coordinate with us on what we need to do to create a sustainable component to our comprehensive plan. The letter demonstrates our financial commitment. Supervisor Wood stated that this is just a component of the comprehensive plan, we are not doing a whole new comprehensive plan. This is just targeting what we can do to become more sustainable. Supervisor Wood proposed a number of \$7,000 to be provided through in kind services.

Motion was made by Jacob to authorize Supervisor Wood to send a letter of support in the amount of \$7,000. Seconded by Holleran

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Councilwoman Riddell Kent stated that she is an OCCA Board Member which is volunteer and a non-paying position. She has no financial interest in the matter.

Community Solar- Councilwoman Jacob stated that we are trying to get the Bronze certification which is 120 points. Councilwoman Jacob stated that there is a community solar project that can be offered to town residents that can be opt in and is entirely voluntary. We had explored several others. Ambien, Citizens Energy and Nexplore and in exploring all of them Citizens Energy seems to be the most efficient and reasonable. It is not for profit. Michael Stolzer stated you get 20% discount on credits. There are several communities around here that utilize this. They are focused on social justice issues. They look at low income communities. There are no fees to join. Most of them are 10% credit which is industry standard. Citizens Energy guarantees 20% savings based on your credits. Your credits are based on your last year's usage not current year usage. They designate what you need to the solar panel so that they don't over subscribe it or undersubscribe it. Citizens Energy started almost 40 years ago. They started out helping low income families heat their homes with gas. They have three more solar fields that are planned for NYS. They should be open this time next year which is before any of the other ones have any available. Councilwoman Jacobs stated that we need to promote it. Jacobs stated that she would

like to hold a community informational. Supervisor Wood stated that we can hold an informational. Supervisor Wood stated we can promote the educational part.

Andrea Lister stated that she has neighbors that are very interested. They get mailings on solar but do not know what is legitimate and what's not. She looks at this as we can facilitate something that is going to be helpful.

CODE ENFORCEMENT-

MISCELLANEOUS-

Motion was made by Riddell Kent to approve the purchase of a check scanning machine in the amount of \$389. Seconded by Jacobs.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

PETITIONERS-

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mowers to approve the July 9th, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Jacob.

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 #	491-558
	General	\$ 34,281.70
	Highway	\$ 103,706.44
	St Lighting	\$ 2,304.85
	Highway Garage	\$ 122,340.79
	Fire Protection	\$ -
	WESD	\$ 1,052.73
	WSSD	\$ 320.38
	SSD	\$ 981.58
	WWD	\$ 397.56
	PWD	\$ 75.85
	SSWD	\$ 348,532.38
	T&A	\$ 1,427.07
	CDBG	\$ -
		\$ 615,421.33

Adjourned at 8:15 PM

The Town Board entered executive session at 8:17PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Robinson
Town Clerk