

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
March 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on February 10, 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, Dan Baker, Art Rigas

PETITIONERS

Supervisor Wood recognized Art Rigas from Oneonta Baseball as a petitioner. They were present to discuss the agreement to lease the Fortin Park field. Art stated they were awaiting approval from the town so they can begin fundraising. Supervisor Wood stated that they already gave approval. Art stated that they were waiting for it to be official.

Motion was made by Jacob. Seconded by Mowers to pass a resolution that the Oneonta Town Board supports the Oneonta Travel Baseball leagues use of the field in Fortin Park and to authorize the town supervisor to enter in to an agreement with them for the use of the field after review by the town attorney.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway, Water & Sewer- Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated that he worked with Hummel's Office Supply to price out office furniture for the two offices at the new highway garage and a new break table with chairs. The pricing includes a 10ft break table with 8 chairs, office desk with a cushioned rolling chair and a guest chair on the other side with a bookshelf, a supervisors L shaped desk, a bookshelf, a roll back high top desk chair and two guest chairs. The price came in on state contract pricing at \$8,000 or a little over. Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated that the furniture is designed to last.

Supervisor Wood stated that the money would come out of the following districts;

General Fund- \$4,326

West End Sewer- \$1414

West Street Sewer- \$ 415

Southside Sewer- \$1164

Woodland Water- \$831

Plains Water District- \$166

Motion was made by Mowers. Seconded by Jacob to approve the purchase of the furniture from Hummels Office Supply for \$8319 with the cost to be apportioned to the districts.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried.

Councilwoman Riddell Kent asked Highway Superintendent Hurtubise for an overview of other garage purchases and what we might be looking at. Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated that the furniture and the tool box were the big items. The other stuff is miscellaneous items.

Highway Superintendent Hurtubise stated that the three tool boxes that they have are 15-20 years old. They want to consolidate the tools from these boxes into one tool box so that the tools can be in one uniform location. They will use the three smaller tool boxes throughout the garage for duplicate tools and general tool storage. That pretty much completes the outfit.

Highway Superintendent Hurtubise priced out an industrial type tool storage, snap on tool storage, high grade and then evaluated use. He priced out mid-grade stuff also. 60-72" tool box with upper and lower was about \$7,000. He got a quote today for \$6769 through Beaton Industrial. He went through a local tool and parts vendor, Rowe's Auto. They priced out a high end extreme 72" inch with upper and lower tool box which came in at \$7200. They priced out a mid-grade tool box and that came in at \$4695. He compared the specs and both can store the same amount of tools. They are not using the bottom tool box as a bench. They are going to set an upper tool box primarily just for tool storage. Highway Superintendent Hurtubise thinks that the mid-grade will be adequate.

Motion was made by Holleran. Seconded by Mowers to approve the tool box for \$4695 from Rowes Auto.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried.

Human Resources and Public Benefit-Supervisor Wood was approached by Mark Calcano. Mark came in and did a presentation. He is interested in working part time for the town as a Constable, not paid. Supervisor Wood stated that he has not had the chance to contact the insurance company. He also would like to check with the association of towns. Mark has offered to do training for us before. Attorney Panasci stated that this would be very complicated.

Motion was made by Riddell Kent. Seconded by Jacob to approve the hire of Sierra Bullis at \$13/hr. Rate to be reviewed in 2 months subject to 1 year probationary period.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Legislative- Nothing to report.

Attorney - Nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT -Motion was made by Jacob to approve the purchase of a label maker for \$140. Seconded by Holleran.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Carried

MISCELLANEOUS –

Motion was made by Jacob to pass a resolution recognizing Film Coop. Seconded by Riddell Kent.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COOPERSTOWN, ONEONTA, OTSEGO COUNTY FILM PARTNERSHIP, INC. AS THE OFFICIAL FILM COMMISSION OFFICE FOR (MUNICIPAL NAME)

WHEREAS, since 2011 the State of New York experienced an estimated \$29.5 billion dollars in spending from the movie and television industry; and

WHEREAS, many regions of New York State have established film commissions to promote their areas for this lucrative sector of economic development; and

WHEREAS, these regions have benefitted by the establishment of these film commissions in creating good paying jobs, filling local hotels and restaurants, creating additional businesses and enhancing existing businesses by spending millions of dollars in local economies; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo-Niagara Film Commission in Western New York State estimated that a recent film shooting there used 12,000 hotel nights in a 6-month period and caused a “staggering” amount of money to be spent in their local economy; and

WHEREAS, the movie and television industry provide an intangible benefit by exposing their audience to community attractions which leads to increased tourism and notoriety; and

WHEREAS, movie-making is a clean industry that provides rapid infusion of dollars into the communities they choose to shoot in; and

WHEREAS, “Film COOP” otherwise known as the Cooperstown, Oneonta, Otsego County Film Partnership, Inc. is an organization which has the capacity and desire to promote our region to the movie and television production industries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ONEONTA TOWN BOARD HEREBY RECOGNIZES “FILM COOP” AS THE OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION TO PROMOTE OUR AREA TO CONTENT PROVIDERS FOR MOVIES, TELEVISION SHOWS AND ALL FORMS OF MEDIA.

Revaluation for the town for the year 2022-Supervisor Wood stated that we dropped below the 100% equalization rate for this year. We have been at 100% for about 6 years. Our equalization rate dropped to 98% this year. We have been at 100% for about six years. Town Assessor Rich Maxwell believes he can do a complete revaluation of the whole town for \$2,000-\$5,000. Councilman Mowers asked Supervisor Wood if he thought this was a good time to do this as the governor already stated that he was going to raise taxes. Supervisor Wood stated that there is no increase in taxes from a revaluation. Attorney Panasci stated that this actually equalizes, making it more fair. Attorney Panasci stated that if you don’t keep up with the process and it goes down the revaluation cost would be in the \$100,000 range. Attorney Panasci stated that he thought this was great news, he has seen in other towns when you don’t have a 100% equalization rate, eventually you are supposed to do a revaluation, and it could cost you a couple hundred thousand. Councilwoman Riddell Kent asked if any other bids have been entertained for this. Supervisor Wood stated no, we can put it out to bid. Supervisor Wood stated when we did our other revaluation Maxwell Associates was the low bidder. Councilwoman Riddell Kent stated that she would like it to go to bid so that we do our due diligence.

Emergency Operations Plan- NYS is requiring us to pass a Public Health Emergency Operations Plan. The plan requires public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease. The plan includes identification of essential employees. Facilitation of remote work for non-essential positions, provision of personal protective equipment and protocols for supporting contact tracing.

Motion was made by Jacob to approve the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan. Seconded by Riddell Kent.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Motion was made by Riddell Kent to approve the purchase of the floor buffing machine. Not to exceed \$1,500. Seconded by Jacob.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

CCA- Councilwoman Jacob stated that she sent CCA some questions. She wanted to know if people if people opted out the first time, did they have to opt out again? They stated no, once they are opted out they can call and re-enroll if they want too.

Jacob stated that she is firmly in favor of the green option. The difference is \$2.25-\$3 a month. Supervisor Wood stated that he thinks it will be less. Mowers stated that a law was made a few

years ago that everyone had to get in. If they didn't want to get in they could opt out. We would save money and it would be a level playing field. Mowers asked what the outcome was the last two years. Supervisor Wood stated that compared to plain market rate, the average home owner paid about \$20 extra over the course of the year. Supervisor Wood stated that for the last 25 years he has always gotten his heating oil at a fixed price because he knew the rate he was going to be paying. Councilman Mowers stated it is not saving money, when he buys something and he pays more for it, he doesn't buy it again. Supervisor Wood stated that if we chose the green option it would be 100% solar and hydro. Supervisor Wood stated that he was reluctant to pick the 100% renewable rate last time because he didn't feel it was acceptable to force the town residents to pay the differential for the green energy. The modification they came to this time was that if we select the 100% renewable rate and someone objects to paying the extra for it they can drop back to the brown or grid mix rate by opting down. Supervisor Wood stated that he opted up last time to the green rate but now the people would have the option if we select the 100% renewable rate than they can opt down to the grid mix rate. Riddell Kent and Mowers stated that they have been getting a lot of complaints. Holleran asked Supervisor Wood about the green option, are we purchasing energy credits or are we actually purchasing green energy, Supervisor Wood stated that is 100% renewable energy and in order to get that price they had to purchase the renewable energy credits. Through the renewable energy credits, they are purchasing enough energy to cover our load.

Motion was made by Jacob to re-join CCA with the green option. Seconded by Riddell Kent.

Wood-Aye

Holleran-Nay

Jacob-Aye

Mowers-Nay

Riddell-Kent-Aye

Ayes 3 Nays 2 Motion Carried

MINUTES- Motion was made by Jacob. Seconded by Riddell Kent to approve the February 10, 2021 minutes.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Carried

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

Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Carried

| Clerk: | Approved Expenses / Voucher # | 2019 1070-1072 / 2021 108-201 |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | General \$ 48,022.10 | |
| | Highway \$ 29,967.13 | |
| | St Lighting \$ 2,468.23 | |
| | Highway Garage \$ 94,444.34 | |
| | Fire Protection \$ - | |
| | WESD \$ 2,715.97 | |
| | WSSD \$ 171.31 | |
| | SSD \$ 853.17 | |
| | WWD \$ 191.49 | |
| | PWD \$ 615.00 | |
| | SSWD \$ 83,241.39 | |
| | T&A \$ 1,912.77 | |
| | CDBG \$ - | |
| | <u>\$ 264,602.90</u> | |

Motion was made by Mowers to enter into executive session concerning the Tax Certiorari at 8:30PM. Seconded by Riddell Kent.

Motion was made by Wood. Seconded by Jacob to settle the tax case with Cooperstown All Star Village at a value of 4,875,000.00 with refunds.
Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Carried

Returned to open session at 8:54PM

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Robinson
Town Clerk