

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
September 14, 2016

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on September 14, 2016 with the following members present:

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

Others present: Rob Panasci, Town Attorney; Steve Kent; Randy Mowers; Diane Ray-Dewey; Nancy Fodero; Charlotte Georgia; Julia Rissberger; Rachel Rissberger; Bailey Roy; Sashe Dudek; Liv Robinson; Lyndsie Robinson; and Elaina Benjamin.

PETITIONERS

Girl Scout Troop 30132 – Julia Rissberger; Bailey Roy; Sashe Dudek; Liv Robinson; and Elaina Benjamin of Girl Scout Troop 30132 presented a proposal to create an interactive cancer memorial and survivor garden by the Fortin house as part of earning their ‘silver award’. Each girl spoke giving details of the project: they will meet with master gardeners and landscape architects on planning and selecting appropriate plants, most of which will be perennials because they come back every year and symbolize survival; the garden will feature a large arbor where visitors can add names of people they wish to honor; the arbor will also have infraction crystals that will catch the light and cast rainbows (working with a physicist to create this); will have places to sit in the garden; realize the garden will need maintenance and they plan to work well into the future to take care of it; hope the garden will be enjoyed by many people for many years to come. To cover costs they will be fund raising, applying for grants, and accepting donations. Supervisor Wood and the board applauded their great idea and efforts, adding that they will be anxious to see their preliminary plans. Councilwoman Jacob suggested they approach the Bassett Cancer Center for possible assistance.

Melody Village Mobile Home Park – Diane Ray-Dewey and Nancy Fodero were present to express their frustration with deplorable park conditions and the park owner’s complete unresponsiveness. They cited things such as junk and refuse in and around homes; lack of running water; sewer odors coming from the ground; refusing to replace street light bulbs; lack of road plowing and maintenance; owner’s lack of enforcing his own rules and regulations. Ms. Ray-Dewey said a ‘Condemned’ sign at Lot 6 has been removed and someone is accessing the structure. She said a few years ago a group of concerned residents attempted to purchase the park, but that didn’t work out. She submitted copies of correspondence to various agencies seeking assistance, showing that no one seems to be able to help. Supervisor Wood and the board agreed to have Code Enforcement Officer check on Lot 6, the light pole issue; Dept. of Health issues, Town Code issues, and uncorrected violations. Attorney Panasci suggested contacting an attorney, possibly through Legal Aid. Randy Mowers suggested that the Dept. of

Health conduct an inspection after a heavy rain because that's when the sewer odor will occur. He added that the park property is adjacent to protected wetlands.

Sharon Corrado said she was present to make the town board aware of what's going on with the 'Oneonta Refugee Resettlement' Committee. The committee of 14 is in the early stages of considering whether Oneonta could host a refugee family. After attending a City of Oneonta Common Council meeting where the committee presented its intentions, Corrado said she questions whether they can ensure employment, housing and access to social services. She believes the committee is setting them up for failure because after 90 days a refugee family would be on their own. She added that it will tax county and town services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Plains at Parish sign request – The Plains at Parish Homeowners Association requested that 15MPH signs or 'SLOW' signs be painted on their roads. Highway Supt. has ordered 15MPH to be installed soon. Supervisor Wood reported that a speed trailer was parked at the Plains and is now being moved to other areas of the town and ultimately the town will receive a report of activity in each area.

Lamont Engineers contracts – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Jacob to approve Lamont Engineers amendment proposal to add the NYS Revolving Fund Program Requirements Bid Packet in Exhibit A as an addendum to their Agreement for Engineering Planning Services associated with the Southside Water Project-District 5 and District 6, executed 5/4/16; and Short Form Agreement for Engineering and/or Planning Services for Southside District 5 and District 6.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - NYS Dept. of Transportation TAP grant – The \$98.7 million in funding will support transportation-related projects and programs, including bicycle, pedestrian, multi-use paths, and/or projects that will help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act by reducing congestion and vehicle emissions. Supervisor Wood reported that Lamont Engineers is surveying what town projects would be the best fit for this grant.

Outside User Agreement – Motion was made by Stolzer, seconded by Holleran to authorize the town to enter into an agreement with Randy Budine, at 4373 State Highway 7 (Tax Map # 299.00-1-15.00) as an 'outside user' in the West End Sewer District.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Highland Terrace – Councilman Holleran addressed residents' concerns regarding the deteriorating road and water issues on the lower portion of Highland Terrace. Overflow issues from a pond at 118 Highland Terrace has created and continues to create property damage to multiple houses and the road. Supervisor Wood reported that Highway Supt. Hurtubise feels the road condition isn't bad enough for immediate attention given the amount of traffic using it. He said Hurtubise prioritizes and budgets projects on the Highway Agreement which the board ultimately approves. Councilwoman Riddell Kent suggested addressing the water issue first and

then the road. The highway committee agreed to survey the paving and drainage issue for a resolution at some point.

Buildings & Technology – Councilman Holleran stated that if any Transportation funding comes through, he would like to see it used for a new highway building. Supervisor Wood said Lamont Engineer Judy Pangman is very familiar with those funding sources and continues to look for them. The town did have enough fund balance to commit to a \$1 million project, by putting half down and financing \$500,000 for 20 years. However, when the pricing came in at \$2.2 million the finance charges on a loan would amount to approximately \$100,000 per year for 20 years. Ultimately the town will need to consider this at some point, he said.

Public Safety

Ammunition – Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Stolzer to approve the purchase of ammunition, in the amount of \$400, for Constable training.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Vacant properties – Councilman Stolzer proposed legislation that would require any owner of any vacant residential structure located in the Town of Oneonta, within 45 days of the structure becoming vacant, register said structure with the Code Enforcement Office. Attorney Panasci said the concept is fine, but the law is useless because irresponsible owners will not register. Supervisor Wood and the board agreed to direct Code Officer Neske to start a list of properties in three categories – vacant, seasonal and abandoned – to better assess the depth of the problem.

Parks & Recreation – Councilwoman Riddell Kent gave the following report:

- Highway crew moved the stacked cider blocks out of Fortin Park, eliminating a potential safety hazard;
- A low spot in the ‘Little’ soccer field was filled thanks to Mike Ianelli;
- Committee members will keep watch over parking for large events;
- Riddell Kent will work on sign for Fortin Park to be placed on Youngs Road.

Fortin House: OWL House & Grounds committee update

- Old flooring was removed; will be replaced with Core Tech flooring which is waterproof, kid proof and provides sound insulation
- Working to meet code requirements such as smoke detectors and emergency lighting; also prepping to heat the house;

Councilwoman Riddell Kent expressed her pleasure in seeing the improvements that OWL workers and their children have done.

Community and Health - Councilwoman Riddell Kent gave the following update from the Sept. 13, 2016 Fire Commissioner meeting:

- Passed resolutions to exceed the tax cap and to accept the proposed budget;
- Budget hearing scheduled for October 18th;
- Will meet with the City soon to choose one consultant

Councilwoman Jacob also reported as follows:

- The Otsego County Highway Dept. is giving away free evergreen trees, 9/16, 9/17, 9/23, and 9/24 at 1223 County Highway 11, Laurens. (For further information contact the Otsego County Planning Dept. at 547-4225
- Bassett Healthcare Network is offering the Narcan kit to patients and non-patients who feel they are at risk for witnessing a drug overdose.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Purchase request – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Stolzer to authorize the purchase of a thermal image camera, in the amount of \$375.

Discussion: Supervisor Wood said the camera would be beneficial when working with the new energy code.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Training request – Motion was made to authorize two Code personnel to attend the STBOA training on Sept. 14th in Oxford, NY.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

MISCELLANEOUS

2017 Preliminary Budget – Motion was made by Stolzer, seconded by Jacob to schedule a special meeting for Oct. 3rd @ 3pm to present the 2017 Preliminary Budget.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Court purchase – Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to authorize the purchase of a 3-month subscription to the ‘Been Verified’ program, at a cost of \$78.67.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Electric car – Motion was made by Stolzer, seconded by Riddell Kent to purchase a 2017 Chevrolet Volt (Model 1RF68 5dr HB LT), at a cost of \$33,220.00, through the Office of General Services aggregated mini-bid.

Discussion: Supervisor Wood said this electric car might satisfy a portion of the TAP grant qualifications. The board agreed that it demonstrates the town board’s interest in ‘green’ innovations.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Memorial bench – Supervisor Wood proposed the idea of a bench in front of Town Hall in memory of Rich Murphy, who served as a Town Councilman and County Representative. The board was in agreement.

Solar – Councilman Stolzer proposed to adopt the ‘New York State Solar Permit Requirements and Expedited Solar Permit Process for Small-Scale Roof-Mounted Residential and Commercial Solar Electric’. Supervisor Wood said the Town Code already has a section on solar permitting (Section 103-72) that is less restrictive and that handles permits on a more timely basis for residential construction than what the state law suggests; felt it would not be advantageous to further restrict residents. Attorney Panasci recommended a review of current law with the Code Officer Neske and decide whether a modification is necessary. The board agreed.

Facebook discussion – Councilman Stolzer entertained the idea of a Town of Oneonta Facebook page last month. He suggested a town Facebook ‘group’ on a 45-day trial; would be used only as an information medium to post town events, public notices and meetings; would block comments; prefers to be notified by Facebook about issues rather than having to check the website; volunteered to assist anyone setting up the page; and logistics would have to be figured out. Attorney Panasci said there are many issues with a municipal Facebook that have not been figured out as yet. He said the board would have to establish a written policy first. After much discussion as to who would manage the Facebook page, it was decided that possibly the website provider could do so under the town’s monthly allotment. Supervisor Wood will inquire.

Informational:

- Letter from Senator Seward acknowledging receipt of Town’s resolution regarding the promotion of renewable energy technologies
- Letter from NYS DOT announcing the availability of \$98.7 million in funding for transportation-related projects

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve the August 10, 2016 minutes.
VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

BILLS

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

General	\$54,238.33	620-622,624-626,630,633-638,643,647-653,655,657-662,669,672,673,679-681,695,697-699
Highway	\$23,935.71	622,644,660,663-668,670,678-680,682-694
Street Lights	\$3,748.96	672,673
Trust & Agency	\$3,397.86	615-618,629,640-642
DISTRICTS:		
WESD	\$213,393.41	619,620,623,627,628,631,632,639,654,656,671,674-676,696
WSSD	\$55,303.44	619,620,623,639,654,656,671,674,676,696
SSD	\$125,653.61	619,620,623,639,654,656,671,696
WWD	\$2,277.81	619,620,623,627,628,639,645,646,654,656,671,677
PWD	\$561.27	619,620,623,639,656,671

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton
Town Clerk

