

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2018

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on September 12, 2018 with the following members present:

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

Others present: Rob Panasci, Town Attorney; James Hurtubise, Highway Supt.; Steve Kent; Molly Swain; Andrea Lister; Dave Rowley; Dennis Higgins; Keith Shue; Danny Lapin; Tina Winstead; Carolyn Austin; Arley Lau; Katherine O'Donnell; Michael Stolzer; Rachel Soper; Virginia Lee; Walter Schmitt; and Michael Schmitt; Prue Stelling; and Suzy Winkler.

Supervisor Wood asked for a moment of silence in memory of Carleton Delameter who served on the Town Board from 1993 – 2011; and the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1979 – 1992.

PETITIONERS

Tina Winstead – Director of Huntington Library gave a summary of their 2017 Annual Report, as well as an overview of their programs and services. She said she hoped the town would increase their contribution to the library for 2019. Supervisor Wood commended her on the great job she's done since taking over; and that the board would do what they could.

Danny Lapin – Spoke regarding a proposal from the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) to provide training to the Town of Oneonta Planning Board on the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). It would be a two-hour training for a flat fee of \$500 per course. He said the training could be Town specific. Supervisor Wood said the town would consider the training as a 2019 budget item.

Dave Rowley spoke regarding his view on the energy issue. He said climate change is credible because of carbon production; we must move forward in renewables such as solar, wind and hydroelectric; the greatest obstacle is in storing the energy; NYSEG should have improved the DeRuyter line; we have a crisis now and the major issue is with both our electrical and natural gas supply; we need to continue to supply natural gas. He said he's not in favor of a \$17 million decompressed station. He urged the board to keep an 'open mind' in finding solutions to the problem; need a middle ground to protect the environment and protect jobs.

Supervisor Wood said he attended the County Intergovernmental Affairs committee meeting to discuss energy alternatives and that he and the town board are very interested in finding alternative energy sources.

Decompressor Station – Several people were present to express their opposition to the IDA's plan to place a decompressor station in the Pony Farm Industrial Park –

Rachel Soper – Very worried about this project and what it could become; worried that it could

go before another board without a public hearing and get approved; she submitted an article that says the Town of Fenton is considering a natural gas station that would fill trucks transporting gas to and from Oneonta; she urged the board to look into this and get facts; she asked for some sort of assurance that reasonable public notice would be given.

Supervisor Wood assured her that if and when a proposal is submitted to the town, he would notify them personally. We're on your side and we respect your opinion, he said.

Dennis Higgins – This project has to do with fracked gas; listed friends of the Otsego County IDA (all gas companies); said geo-thermal is a good direction to go in.

Kate O'Donnell – The IDA's plan for a gas plant violates the town's 2014 Comprehensive Plan; a survey conducted at that time indicated that 67% of residents did not support hydraulic fracturing, as well as a majority of town residents being interested in alternative energies; the findings were clear, residents want to protect our town.

Supervisor Wood stated that the town has passed laws to protect its residents.

Suzy Winkler, Burlington – Heard comments from the August meeting about non-residents speaking and this attitude is not fair; she supports Oneonta businesses by shopping here; in driving to Oneonta she almost always crosses the path of an XNG truck; she said conservation is also a solution to the energy problem.

Michael Stolzer – submitted a quote from Lou Allstadt that appeared in The Daily Star “A\$17 million permanent installation is an absurd solution and should be rejected.” He said finding the truth is critical; they're depending on the Town Board.

Dave Rowley - 'interruptibles' is the issue; businesses will not locate here; understands that people are passionate about this issue.

Keith Shue – There are challenges with renewables and we need to work toward a solution; there is a climate crisis; the IDA grant application is looming ahead and it is a concern; IDA needs to withdraw the application.

Andrea Lister – opposes a decompressor station; usually by the time people are given an opportunity to speak, it's a 'done deal'; there would be many impacts caused by a project like this; counting on the town board.

Ginny Lee – Spoke in reference to the town's 2013 Comprehensive Plan that spells out environmental regulations stronger than the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); supports investment in sustainable energies for businesses, as well as residents; need to work together to find a common ground; goal should be to cause no harm.

Councilwoman Jacob – the IDA submitted a grant application to place a decompressor station in the Town of Oneonta without the town's knowledge and with zero input from the public, this is a problem; conservation is part of the issue; tired of anti-fossil fuel people being labeled as 'emotional'.

Supervisor Wood reiterated that the board is concerned, as well; is listening and will work to find solutions.

Keith Shue asked if the board had addressed the resolution submitted last month to reroute the XNG trucks.

Councilwoman Jacob said residents along the current XNG route should fill out a form that is available and mail to the State.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Surplus 2008 F350 – Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Holleran to surplus the 2008 F350 with plow.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Purchase 2019 F350 – Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Holleran to purchase a 2019 F350 w/plow from VanBortel (to replace 2013 F250), at a cost not to exceed \$40,972.50.

Discussion: Councilwoman Riddell Kent stated that she respects the highway department's maintenance of vehicles and their request, but that she is concerned with other budget items such as the new highway building and keeping costs down for taxpayers. Councilmen Mowers and Holleran both agreed that 5 years on a plow truck is enough. Supervisor Wood said he would look into trading every three years to see if it would be more cost effective.

VOTE – Ayes 4, Nays 1 (Riddell Kent) Motion Carried

New Highway Hire – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran to approve the hiring of Kevoy Howard to the highway crew.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Public Safety – Supervisor Wood reported as follows:

Unsafe properties –

14 Jackson Ave. – Supervisor Wood spoke with the county attorney regarding a procedure to take over and ultimately turning over to the land bank; need commitment from the county then town can proceed.

238 West St – Supervisor Wood will try to connect with Kevin Mulholland to advise that the board agreed to give him an additional 30 days to complete the required work; and to attend the next public safety meeting on Oct. 1st. The property is in arrears on taxes and unless they are paid by May 2019, the county will take ownership.

Swart Hollow Road – Attorney Panasci advised the public safety committee to refer the person complaining about 1031 Swart Hollow Road to Code Officer Neske. This is the Code Officer's decision. Supervisor Wood will direct Code Officer Neske to take pictures on a regular basis (15 day intervals) from the same three locations.

Facilities, Technology, Parks - Councilman Holleran reported that the new roof for the Town Hall has been completed.

Human Resources and Public Benefit – Nothing to report

Legislative – Councilwoman Jacob asked for guidance in drafting an amendment to the zoning law that would require a public hearing for certain site plan reviews. She said it would be for business/commercial areas that abut a residential area. Attorney Panasci suggested she look at the zoning map first and then proceed. Supervisor Wood offered his assistance in drafting the

amendment.

ATTORNEY

Nothing to report

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Training – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran to approve the following training for Code personnel:

- Basic PIO (Public Information Officer) at no cost - Sept 25-26, Cortland, NY
- STBOA training, at a cost of \$35 - Sept 19, Oxford, NY

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

MISCELLANEOUS

Court grant application – Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Jacob to approve the Unified Court System grant application to replace air conditioning units in the court offices and courtroom; remodeling of the courtroom; a surveillance monitor for the courtroom and a larger computer monitor.

Discussion: Supervisor Wood will look into replacing all units since they are 26 years old.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Possible Litigation – Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve litigation against the Town of Oneonta Fire District Commissioners, should it be necessary.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

2019 Budget Presentation – Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to set a special meeting for October 1st at 2:45pm to present the 2019 budget, with workshops to follow.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Informational:

- Municipal Budget Training by the Office of the State Comptroller – Sept. 18th, Utica

- Shared Services Report – Supervisor Wood reported that he met with the County to discuss shared services in the areas of highway, asset management plan, email sharing, shared public works equipment, and shared public safety records.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to approve the August 8, 2018 minutes.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

BILLS

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to approve the following bills:

General	\$40,964.28	612,617,618,622-624,626,627,637,639,641-653,660,665, 671,672,677,678
Highway	\$233,253.36	612,654-670,678
Street Lights	\$3,806.15	671,672,679
Highway Gar.	\$2,651.75	626
Town Hall		
R&I	\$70,279.11	625
Trust &	\$4,334.80	608-611,614,615,620,621,676

Agency

DISTRICTS:

WESD	\$165,650.88	607,613,616,619,630-633,635-638,640,673,674
WSSD	\$34,735.98	607,613,619,635-638,640,674
SSD	\$91,819.93	607,613,616,619,635-638,640,673
WWD	\$7,677.77	607,613,616,619,634,635,637,638,640,673,675,680
PWD	\$395.18	607,613,619,635,640
SS Water Dist.	\$9,700.55	628,629

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton
Town Clerk