



Town of Oneonta
TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 09, 2022
07:00pm

The regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on March 09, 2022, @07:00pm, with the following members present:

Supervisor: Randal I. Mowers (RM)
Town Board Member: Kim Fierke (KF)
Town Board Member: Skylar J. Thompson (ST)
Town Board Member: Patricia Riddell Kent (PRK)
Town Board Member: Brett Holleran (BH)
Town Clerk: Ryan F. Pereira

Others present: Robert Panasci, Town Attorney; James A. Hurtubise II, Superintendent of Highways; Jody Zakrevsky, Otsego County IDA; Walt Schmitt; Michael Schmitt; Dale Webster; Luke Yetto, IOXUS; Aimee Vogel, IOXUS; Michelle Catan, County Representative; Steve Kent.

2022-20 ~ Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Fierke to open the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant as relates to the application of said grant funding for Systematic Power Systems, LLC (dba loxus).

VOTE - Ayes 5, Nays 0 RK KF Motion Carried

Discussion: Jody Zakrevsky of Otsego Now, Industrial Development Authority, spoke on behalf of the applicants, Systematic Power Systems (dba IOXUS), outlining the expenditure and course of the funding request. Two representatives from loxus were present to field questions from the full Board.

2022-21 ~ Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Riddell Kent to close the Public Hearing.

VOTE - Ayes 5, Nays 0 BH PRK Motion Carried

2022-23 ~ Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Thompson to approve the resolution to authorize submission of application.

VOTE - Ayes 5, Nays 0 BH ST Motion Carried

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RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A CDBG SMALL CITIES GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF SYSTEMATIC POWER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta has held a public hearing to solicit comments on the Town of Oneonta's community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant {CDBG} applications for the 2022 program year; and

WHEREAS, Systematic Power Systems (dba loxus) is looking to expand its manufacturing operations in the Town of Oneonta and would provide additional employment at it Oneonta facilities which would be made available to persons of low and moderate income; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board fully supports Systematic Power Systems' (loxus) efforts; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Oneonta Board authorizes the submission of a grant application to the NYS Division of Homes and Community Renewal in the amount of \$750,000 for the expansion of Systematic Power Systems (loxus); and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and Otsego Now are hereby authorized to act on all matters related to the submission of the grant application on behalf of the Town.

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Highway, Water and Sewer:

Jim Hurtubise posted the 2014 Ford Taurus Constable Vehicle on Auctions International. Bidding ended March 8, and the final highest bid was \$6200.

2022-24 ~ Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Thompson to accept the bid.

VOTE - Ayes 5, Nays 0

PRK ST Motion Carried

Riddell Kent requested the board discuss the upcoming Southside Water District Change Order increase of \$141,679.75. Supervisor Mowers suggested it be put to on the agenda for the next full board meeting. Riddell Kent asked where the money is going to come from, and wanted to discuss ongoing concerns with the Town's principal engineering firm (Lamont Engineers P.C.).

After some board discussion, Attorney Panasci suggested the Board Members write out questions and present them to the firm.

West Oneonta Water & Sewer discussion: Riddell Kent said Supervisor Mowers asked her to take the lead on exploring municipal water and sewer districts. She stated since Supervisor Mowers cancelled this month's Committee meeting, it worked out well because she would really appreciate full board participation before proceeding. Riddell Kent began by giving a brief history of what was done 2013, prior to her arrival on the board, and stated she and Councilman Thompson had reviewed paperwork from 2013.

PRK: "At that time, the Town mailed 185 survey letters to West Oneonta residents. There were 65 responses with 34 No's to both water and sewer, with which the Town Board determined insufficient public interest in both water and sewer. The cost projections were \$5.3 million for water and \$6.428 million for sewer, totaling approximately \$11-12 million."

PRK: "There is currently discussion of an online survey, as well as going door to door polling residents." Riddell Kent emphasized the difficulty of discussing without current tangible numbers and data. "Tangible bond repayment cost for 30 years, usage fees, and hook-up costs need to be included information for residents' consideration."

PRK: "Since the current fiscal year budget does not have any engineering costs included, and since our Southside Water District is going well over budget; I would like to propose an RFP put out to several engineering firms for a Feasibility Study, with preliminary design, cost estimates, and a project time line. Applying for a CFA when grant opportunities open in May; to cover a Feasibility Study seemed the best way to get more up to date, and tangible data to present to residents, and businesses for their consideration."

PRK: "We cannot give an engineering firm a blank check to do work, since it's not a budgeted tangible project. So applying for a CFA to do feasibility study, to obtain updated data would seem like a reasonable approach. Having a feasibility study puts us in a better position to discuss with residents & businesses, and to apply for grants, if we find a need to move forward with the project."

Attorney Panasci pointed out that using estimated data from the current Southside Water project, in speaking of any expansion, would likely be the most expedient and cost effective manner for collecting data points, as costs generally fluctuate.

Southside Water pump house update: Councilwoman Riddell Kent spoke with the engineering firm responsible for the pump, and was informed that work is not complete on the pump house design. The firm estimates the design will be finished by end of March, after which, it must be reviewed by EFC and DOH before it can go out to bid.

“Why is this taking so long if pump tests were completed last summer?” posited Councilman Holleran.

Supervisor Mowers stated the engineering firm had to wait for Susquehanna River Basin Commission to give their go ahead. Riddell Kent expressed her frustration and disappointment with the lack of communication from the engineering firm.

An update was given by Supervisor Mowers in regards to the creation of an East End Sewer and Water district, and while still in the exploratory phase, great consideration will be given to businesses need for services in the auspice of job creation.

Riddell Kent thanked Supervisor Mowers and Highway Supervisor Jim Hurtubise, and anyone else who got the generator going so Court could be held on Thursday during the widespread power outage.

Facilities, Technology, Parks:

Board members discussed possible exemption of Fortin Park rental fees for organizations with 501(c) (3) status.

Attorney: – nothing to report

Building and codes: – nothing to report

Miscellaneous:

2022-25 ~ Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran to approve the Town Clerk’s attendance to the NYSTCA conference, April 24-27, 2022.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 PRK BH Motion Carried

2022-26 ~ Motion made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Fierke to pay the bills.

VOTE - Ayes 5, Nays 0 PRK KF Motion Carried

2022-27 ~ Motion made by Fierke, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve the minutes from the February 12th, 2022 meeting.

VOTE - Ayes 5, Nays 0 KF PRK Motion Carried

Petitioners:

Dale Webster spoke on the matter of water district expansions, and felt that the public should have all possible information available to them, in order to make an informed decision.

Michelle Catan, Otsego County Representative, spoke on the availability of grants from the County, i.e. Community Events Grants program.

2022-28 ~ Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Thompson to adjourn.

❖ Meeting adjourned 09:00pm. PRK SJT Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan F. Pereira
Town Clerk