

TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
February 13, 2019

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on February 13, 2019 with the following members present:

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

Others present: Rob Panasci, Town Attorney; James Hurtubise, Highway Supt.; Steve Kent; Walter Schmitt; Robert Albrecht; Dave Rowley; Michael Stolzer and Rachel Soper.

PETITIONERS

Robert Albrecht of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank (GMVLB) discussed the function and how the land bank works. He said: Land banks are independent not-for-profit corporations created to redevelop vacant, abandoned, tax delinquent or tax foreclosed properties that have a negative effect on their communities. They acquire blighted properties and either rehab, stabilize, recycle, or demolish the property, then put it back on the market. GMVLB includes Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties and the Cities of Rome and Utica. The hardest part is gaining title to the property. Their main focus is to take care of properties and build up communities. They will look into three properties in the Town of Oneonta to see if they can help us with them.

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to adopt the following resolution in the matter of the engagement of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank, pursuant to the New York State Land Bank Act in the Town of Oneonta:

WHEREAS, the New York State Land Bank Act allows multiple Foreclosing Governmental Units (FGUs) to establish a land bank; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank was established in 2016 through common resolutions from FGUs including the Counties of Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie as well as the City of Rome and the City of Utica; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank is currently processing properties in each of the participating FGUs; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank is eager to work with municipalities in each FGU, including the Town of Oneonta in the County of Otsego to better understand each community's needs regarding difficult properties; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank only works in those communities that have

chosen to partner with it;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Town of Oneonta that the municipal government of the Town of Oneonta and Otsego County, New York, endorses the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank and expresses its desire to enter into conversations with the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank to discover mutually beneficial elements of collaboration between the two parties.

This resolution shall take effect upon passing hereof by the Town of Oneonta.

VOTE – Ayes 4, Nays 1 (Mowers) Motion Carried

Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve the following 5/50 resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York State Land Bank Act of the New York State Nonprofit Law, 1610 (c) states the following: “Upon the adoption of a local law, ordinance, or resolution by a municipality, school district, or any taxing district, fifty percent of the real property taxes collected on any specific parcel of real property identified by such municipality, school district or any taxing jurisdiction may be remitted to the land bank, in accordance with procedures established by relations promulgated by the department of taxation and finance. Such allocation of real property tax revenues shall commence with the first taxable year following the date of conveyance and shall continue for a period of five years”; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank (GMVLB) includes Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties and the Cities of Rome and Utica; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta is committed to the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank’s efforts to reduce blighted properties in the Town of Oneonta and throughout the greater Mohawk Valley region;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Oneonta that fifty percent of the real property taxes on properties within the Town of Oneonta purchased from the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank be remitted to the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank. Such allocation of real property revenues shall commence with the first taxable year following the date of conveyance and shall continue for a period of five years.

This resolution shall take effect upon passing hereof by the Town of Oneonta.

VOTE – Ayes 4, Nays 1 (Mowers) Motion Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway/Water & Sewer – Councilwoman Riddell Kent reported as follows:

2020 International truck – Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve the purchase of a new tandem dump/plow truck with a repurposed Henderson stainless steel flow body as follows:

Per Onondaga County Contract #8996 (Ref. ID 8LL) –

- 2020 International HX520 SFA 6x4 (8LL-Cummins)

Truck - \$116,988.00

Per Onondaga County Contract #7823 (Quote #121380)

- Henderson Stainless Steel Munibody II (existing installed w/ upgrades)
- Henderson Plow and Wing w/ controls and installation

Equipment - \$54,061.00

Total - \$171,049.00

Total aggregate cost not to exceed \$180,000.

Discussion: Councilman Holleran asked if this purchase was absolutely necessary given the ever-increasing expenses of the proposed new highway garage. Highway Supt Hurtubise said it is definitely needed if the town wishes to maintain its' current quality of services. Councilman Mowers stated the truck is a safety hazard and 'it's done'.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Southside Sidewalks – The board was in agreement to decline the DEC grant and plan for another grant next year. The award is \$250,000 with 50% being town funds. Supervisor Wood expressed concern that the town's share would cost too much at this point. Councilman Holleran asked if 'bike paths' versus sidewalks would be an option for Southside. Attorney Panasci said DOT would have to approve that. Councilwoman Jacob said 'bike paths' are dangerous without a barrier. She added that the town's Complete Streets Policy would help the project. Councilman Mowers said pressure should be put on DOT. Councilwomen Riddell Kent and Jacob encouraged continued discussions regarding sidewalks on Southside and want the town to continue to seek funding for them. Supervisor Wood will notify DEC that the town declines the grant.

New Highway Garage – The board discussed the following:

- Highway department can do much of the ground prep work saving approximately \$77,000;
- Why engineering costs are so high for a basic box building; and the need for plans and a price;
- Obtaining a quote for geo-thermal with radiant floor heat;
- Possibly applying for a NYSERDA grant;
- Shared services.

MOU w/Otsego Co for participation in the Highway Asset Management Program – This MOU is to establish a partnership for the advancement of the Otsego County Highway Asset Management Program. This partnership will afford municipality's access to an ArcGIS Online license hosted by Otsego County to collect and maintain a highway asset database. Supervisor Wood said this is the 'wave of the future' and a continuation of the GIS data collection the town has already started.

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to adopt the MOU with Otsego County for participation in the Highway Asset Management Program.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Facilities, Technology, Parks. Councilman Holleran requested authorization to write an RFP (Request for Proposal) and advertise for new air conditioners at Town Hall. Current units are 25 years old and parts are not available. New units will be more energy efficient.

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran authorize RFPs for new air conditioners at Town Hall.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Human Resources and Public Benefit.

Tobacco-Free Policy – Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Riddell Kent to add Town Hall to the Town’s ‘Tobacco-Free Policy’.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

‘Into the Streets’ event – Councilman Holleran will once again coordinate a one-day service project for a team of students and community volunteers.

Legislative. Councilwoman Jacob is continuing to work on an amendment to the zoning law that would require a public hearing for certain site plan reviews and will consult with Code Officer Neske for his input.

CODE ENFORCEMENT –

Purchase request – Motion was made by Mowers, seconded by Jacob to authorize the following purchase requests:

- STOBOA/ICC Training, Feb. 27th for Paul Neske and Dave West - \$70;
- NYSFMA Conference registration - \$350;
- BAS – IPS Annual Software Support & Maintenance - \$1,440.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

MISCELLANEOUS

LED lighting options – Supervisor Wood reported that he had a conversation late this afternoon with Casey Mastro from the New York Power Authority. They discussed options to have all of our current 3374 street light converted to LED technology and to have the Town of Oneonta purchase those lights from NYSEG. NYPA would put together bid specs for all of the work necessary to do this and to finance the project. NYPA reps will provide the town with a basic estimate of costs for this conversion and purchase and help us determine if it is cost effective.

Constellation contract – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to renew the town’s contract with Constellation for a fixed electric rate of \$.4639 (down from current rate of .4707), with end date of 11/24/2020.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

New Phone Service – Supervisor Wood stated that in November of 2018 our current phone service provider, Magna5, had instituted a new line charge of \$20 per line increasing our phone bills by about \$200 per month. He obtained three proposals for new phone service to reduce costs for the town. The proposals were from:

Vonage- VOIP phone system with new phones for \$415.57/month. All of this phone system is cloud based, except for an initial cost of \$2609 for the phones themselves.

Applied Technology Solutions- SIP phone system \$8697, plus monthly fee for SIP lines.

Otsego Telephone Co. – SIP phone system \$6474, financed at 0% for three years, plus SIP line monthly fee.

ISD, a reseller of Spectrum SIP lines provided a quote of \$120/month for three SIP lines with a \$250 installation cost.

Discussion was that new phones and service lines would cost \$280/ month with increased services resulting in cutting the phone bill in half. Once the new phones were paid for the phone bill would be just for the current cost of the SIP lines.

Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Mowers to award contracts to Spectrum and Otsego Telephone for new phone service.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

Informational:

- Hazard Mitigation Workshop, 2/19, 5-8pm, County Office Building

PETITIONERS

Michael Stolzer asked if the town has considered the potential use of geo-thermal for homes and businesses in the Southside area. He has information that he will forward to the Town Board. Supervisor Wood said the town is currently looking into this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Riddell Kent to approve the January 9, 2019 organizational minutes and the January 9, 2019 regular minutes.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

BILLS

Motion was made by Holleran, seconded Riddell Kent to approve the following bills and budget modifications; and the final transfer to reserves:

2018 Bills:

General	\$26,282.57	987,990,996-999,1001,1002,1005
Highway	\$45.15	990
Street Lights	\$837.90	1002
Highway Gar.	\$467.50	992
Trust & Agency	\$5.50	988,989
DISTRICTS :		
WESD	\$1,363.69	991,994,1000,1003
WSSD	\$467.14	991,994,1000,1003
SSD	\$4,480.44	991,994,1004
WWD	\$1,503.35	991,994,1000,1003
PWD	\$10,707.93	986,991,994

SS Water Dist.	\$18,328.08	993
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2019 Bills:

General	\$55,597.66	32,33,36,37,44-50,54,56-59,61,62,64-72,77,82,97-99,101
Highway	\$35,765.21	33,73-82,84,85,90-96
Street Lights	\$3,300.77	69
Trust & Agency	\$104,436.15	28-31,35,39,41-43,83
DISTRICTS :		
WESD	\$3,331.45	34,40,55,60,63,89,2018-994
WSSD	\$777.79	34,40,55,63,2018-994
SSD	\$1,423.48	34,40,55,63,89,2018-994
WWD	\$3,308.37	34,38,40,51-53,55,63,86-88,2018-994
PWD	\$409.59	34,40,63,2018-994
SS Water Dist.	\$28.50	100

Budget Modifications:

General Account			Highway Account		
	11101.01.014	55		51104.03.415	2,333
	11104.01.419	-55		51104.03.416	-1,070
	13301.01	-5,408		51104.03.417	237
	14101.01.019	-3,970		51104.03.418	-1,500
	14204.01.023	11,618		51124.03	47,435
	14401.01	-5,000		51301.03	11,814
	14404.01	-6,250		51302.03	-5,065
	14404.01.027	21,760		51304.03.418	539
	16204.01	2,004		51304.03.463	2,904
	16804.01.419	-770		51304.03.464	1,622
	16804.01.442	20		51421.03	-25,156
	16804.01.470	750		51424.03.413	14,180
	19904.01	-13,090		51424.03.414	2,084
	31201.01.028	277		51424.03.419	114
	31202.01	196		51424.03.446	-3,036
	31204.01	-425		3501.03	47,435
	36201.01.038	-2,326	WSSD	81101.09.043	12
	51124.01	376,455		81301.09.034	-12
	51824.01	614		90108.09	3
	54104.01	-20,000		90308.09	-3
	71801.01.043	75	SSD	90108.10	-33
	71804.01	-75		90308.10	-39

	90108.01	23			90608.10	72
	90308.01	-837		WWD	83101.11.034	593
	90608.01	814			83101.11.043	2,100
	3089.01	295,437			90108.11	-12
	599.01	61,018			90308.11	195
SL1	51824.07	932			90608.11	12
	1081.07	932			2140.11	2,888
SL2	51824.14	162		PWD	83101.12.043	-487
	599.14	162			83104.12	-1,503
SL3	51824.15	717			83404.12	5,025
	599.15	717			90108.12	-26
SL4	51824.16	29			90608.12	26
	599.16	29			99019.12	-814
WESD	81101.08.43	-131			2140.12	2,221
	90108.08	30				
	90308.08	-152				
	90558.08	-4				
	90608.08	257				

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0 Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton
Town Clerk