

TOWN BOARD  
Regular Meeting  
October 12, 2014

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on October 12, 2016 with the following members present:

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

Others present: Rob Panasci, Town Attorney; Steve Kent; Randy Mowers; and Kirt Mykytyn.

**PETITIONERS**

Kirt Mykytyn, Jefferson Ave. Ext., expressed his support for the creation of a recreational path in the Town. Councilwoman Jacob presented a conceptual drawing of path for the Upper East Street/Reservoir area. Mykytyn said it is unsafe to run on highway shoulders. Supervisor Wood said his only issue is the repurposing of private property. Councilwoman Jacob said her plan only impacts 3 homes. Mykytyn volunteered to help with additional planning and details.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilwoman Riddell Kent gave the following report and recommendations:

- Fall leaf and brush pick up has been scheduled for Mondays through Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>;
- Orchard & Elmwood drainage, and Courtyard Drive drainage projects have been completed;
- 15 MPH signs have been installed at The Plains

Supervisor Wood reported – Phil Bidwell from SUNY Facilities met with Supervisor Wood to offer the services of a graduate student who would like to fly a drone over the West End and thus enabling him to map elevations to within one inch. This will be done at no cost to the town (saving approximately \$50,000) and could start as soon as the leaves are off the trees. The Board agreed that this is tremendous opportunity for the town.

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

- Starting January 2017 the Recreation Committee will meet monthly at 3:30pm before Public Safety;
- OWL House & Grounds – Work continues on the Fortin House with work parties every Sunday

Community and Health - Councilwoman Riddell Kent gave the following update from the October 11, 2016 Fire Commissioner meeting:

- Consultant VFIS from York, PA was hired by the City and Fire Commissioners. The next meeting with the consultant will be Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11am at the City Hall and is open to the public;
- Preliminary Fair Funding Formula used: 1) Assessed value 2) Fire calls based on historical data 3) EMS calls based on historical data 4) Population (square miles N/A in our town);
- Fire District budget hearing scheduled for Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Elm Park Church.
- Gino Molinari announced plans to run for one of the upcoming vacant seats in Dec.

Councilwoman Jacob reported the following community bulletins:

- Coats for Kids – Bassett Healthcare Network is partnering with First Choice Cleaners to collect new and gently used children’s winter coats to clean and distribute to families in need. Coats and sweaters are being collected now through Nov. 1 at all clinic locations.
- Holiday Card Collection – Bassett Cancer Institute is seeking handmade holiday greeting cards for patients to enjoy. Children are encouraged to participate. Finished cards can be sent to Volunteer Services at the Bassett Cancer Institute.
- Blood Clot Awareness Webinar – A free educational webinar will be offered on Oct. 13, noon to 1pm. It is intended to increase public awareness of the prevention, early diagnosis and successful treatment of life-threatening blood clots such as deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism and clot-provoked stroke.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Training request – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Jacob to authorize the Code Enforcement Officer to attend the ‘ICS for Major and/or Complex Incidents’ training in Cortland, Nov. 1-2.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Abandon/Unregistered Vehicles – Councilman Holleran proposed a change to the Town Code Section 103-67 that would state “vehicles may not be stored or abandoned within 100’ of a public roadway” replacing “vehicles must be covered with an opaque plastic, canvas or cloth tarpaulin”. Adding: In the event property restrictions prevent the 100’, the vehicle must be in a garage, behind a fence, or under an approved car cover; farm equipment and vehicles would be exempt from this code; as well as a more aggressive option for code enforcement to be able to enforce such a code. He added that he would like to see a time period for correction before citation. Supervisor Wood stated that the present policy requiring a written complaint transpired after numerous complaints were coming in, many of which were generated by animosity amongst neighbors. The Town Board, at that time, felt if the complaint were severe enough, a person wouldn’t hesitate to put it in writing, thus cutting down on the false complaints. Councilman Stolzer suggested the following: to reevaluate the exceptions in the Town Code; large fines (City has a maximum fine of \$1,000); a complaint form and citation form that must be signed by the owner once the citation has been corrected. Councilwoman Jacob said the town’s present practice isn’t working. She suggested that a large fine, as well as a deadline be noted on the citation. Attorney Panasci stated that the \$1000 fine could be a solution. Supervisor Wood and the board agreed to meet with Code Officer Neske to review suggestions and get his input.

Vacant properties – At the Sept. meeting the Board agreed to direct Code Officer Neske to start a list of properties in three categories – vacant, seasonal and abandoned. Councilman Holleran inquired if this had commenced. Attorney Panasci suggested repealing the policy and drafting a different enforcement policy.

Solar – Councilman Stolzer said he would like to meet with Code Officer Neske to go over the ‘Expedited Solar Permit Process’ and discuss other criteria to meet the eligibility requirements for a \$100,000 grant. Supervisor Wood said the town is on its way to meet two of the four qualifiers, those being the purchase of the electric car and the CCA (Community Choice Aggregation). Stolzer volunteered to coordinate NYSERDA training and additional actions of benchmarking and energy training. Supervisor Wood commented that NYSERDA might view the town’s solar permitting process as more ‘user friendly’ than theirs.

MEGA (Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance) - Supervisor Wood gave the following update: will send a letter to The Daily Star and the Town’s website explaining MEGA; will also contact the radio station as another way to notify residents’; working on dates for public meetings to be held at Town Hall and Foxcare; could possibly have 5-6 more municipalities signed on to MEGA soon. Supervisor Wood said Mayor Herzog and Alderman Southard informed him that the City wants nothing to do with MEGA.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

2017 Preliminary Budget – Motion was made by Stolzer, seconded by Riddell Kent to set a public hearing for Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm to address the 2017 Preliminary Budget.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Court grant – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Jacob to authorize the Court to apply for Unified Court System grant funds to carpet and paint three court office rooms; and purchase two foot rests.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Southside Sewer bond interest payment – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran to authorize the Southside Sewer bond interest payment of \$850.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Board of Assessment Review appointment – Tabled until the November meeting.

Health Insurance Policy – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Jacob to approve the following Health Insurance Policy:

#### **Eligibility Policy**

All full time employees working at least 30 hours a week year round will be eligible to participate in the Town of Oneonta’s health insurance plan. Employees will be eligible for coverage on the first of the month following their date of hire. In the event that the employee terminates service, the health insurance coverage will be carried to the end of the month of said termination.

#### **Health Insurance Coverage**

The Town of Oneonta carries one health insurance plan. Open enrollment for this plan is the month of November for a December 1<sup>st</sup> effective date.

Employees who enroll in health insurance will pay 11% of the premium.

All premiums will be withheld from the employee's paycheck on a pre-tax basis unless the employee opts out of the Section 125 plan.

The Town of Oneonta reserves the right to make revisions to the aforementioned as needed.

### **Health Savings Account**

Employees enrolled in the health insurance will have an HSA contribution at the rate of 80% of the annual deductible.

Payments into the HSA will be made in installments, 50% January 1 and the balance June 1<sup>st</sup>. Should this prove to be a financial hardship on an employee due to expenditures from the deductible exceeding available funds, the Town of Oneonta may issue payment of the remaining HSA funds earlier.

It is understood that any unused funds in the HSA at the end of the coverage period will be the assets of the employee.

The Town of Oneonta reserves the right to make revisions to the aforementioned as needed.

### **Retirees**

Employees of the Town of Oneonta who retire and surviving spouses will be eligible to continue their health insurance coverage through the town. The retiree or surviving spouse will be responsible for paying the entire premium. There will be no contribution towards the premium from the Town of Oneonta. There will also be no HSA contribution. Premiums are due from the retiree or surviving spouse by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for the upcoming month's coverage.

A retiree is defined as an employee that has been employed by the Town of Oneonta for at least 14 years and has attained age 62.

Discussion: Supervisor Wood said this policy would make our reimbursement policy consistent when we have changes in deductibles.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

ATT bill – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Jacob to authorize the Supervisor to start paying the town's monthly cell phone bill using the Community Bank Visa credit card.

Discussion: Supervisor Wood explained that Community Bank is offering insurance coverage for the first five phones listed on the statement against damage and theft, with up to \$1000 per 12-month period, or \$600 per claim occurrence (subject to a \$50 deductible).

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Sect. 94-2 (Town Board Established Committees) – Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Jacob to set a public hearing for Nov. 9, 2016 at 7:15pm to consider a local law that would repeal Sect. 94-2 of the Town Code.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

2016 Personnel Management School – Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Holleran to authorize Supervisor Wood to attend the 2016 Personnel Management School, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> in Albany.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Traffic Assessment reports – the Otsego County Sheriff’s Dept. submitted traffic assessment reports from use of their speed trailer at several locations in the town. The Sheriff’s Dept. will set up radar in the identified problem areas. Supervisor Wood said he would provide a spreadsheet analysis using the report.

Informational:

- Elm Park United Methodist Church Centennial Celebration – All are invited to the Harvest Dinner on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>.

County Representative Report – Co. Rep. Andrew Stammel reported as follows:

- Strategic Plan is moving forward;
- Solar site in Laurens is almost completed; and
- The county board voted down natural gas study.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Riddell Kent, seconded by Jacob to approve the September 14, 2016 and October 3, 2016 minutes.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

**BILLS**

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

General	\$40,984.41	705,713,714,716,717,719,724-727,730-732,734,735,737-745, 766,768,769,773-776,778
Highway	\$61,304.90	714,727,744,746-760,771,772
Street Lights	\$3,886.85	768,769
Trust & Agency	\$6,618.18	701-704,706-712,722,723,777
DISTRICTS:		
WESD	\$3,745.55	700,715,721,728,733,736,761-763,766,767,770
WSSD	\$861.46	700,715,721,728,733,736,761,763
SSD	\$2,977.95	700,715,721,728,729,733,736,761-763,766,767,770
WWD	\$2,775.91	700,715,718,720,721,728,733,736,761-764,770
PWD	\$7,381.21	700,715,721,728,736,761,763,765

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Shackelton  
Town Clerk