

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 22, 2014
7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Hubbard, Trustees Angelillo, Jones, Lanning and Stokes-Cawley, DMO Harty, Police Chief Perkins, Village Historian Batlle, Clerk to the Boards Dundon, Village Atty. Byrne

Others: Jonathan Monfiletto Skaneateles JOURNAL
Jason Gabak Skaneateles PRESS
Andy Ramsgard 61 East Genesee Street
Christine Buff 3908 East Street

Mayor Hubbard thanked everyone for attending. He said the holiday season is when one takes more appreciation of things and he'd first like to recognize the staff for their efforts during this time of year when it is typically more difficult to get things done. He said he had an opportunity to walk around the Village yesterday and the DPW was out picking up garbage, the Village looked good, and the Police drove by twice. Mayor Hubbard said he appreciates everyone's efforts.

Minutes – Mayor Hubbard noted that the Minutes were distributed and asked if anyone had any changes. Trustee Lanning said he has two corrections. One, on the first page within the paragraph beginning "Trustee Lanning noted that the Agenda...", the minutes state that the majority of the Village Board wanted to exhaust all other options, but it doesn't state who. Trustee Jones recognized that the email polling was a way to provide a faster reply to the Chamber of Commerce. With the meeting on Thursday evening, they would not have received an answer until Friday and wouldn't have had time to respond. Trustee Jones said email is a way to communicate quickly and a great way to give feedback. Trustee Lanning said the second correction is on page 2 within the paragraph relative to the Lions Club fun run/walk. He said he did not say "after which a vote by email could be taken" and wants those words deleted. Mayor Hubbard said that topic was discussed because Trustee Lanning was unprepared and brought the subject up when it had already been discussed and approved at the September 11, 2014 Meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Couch said, "Respectfully Trustee Lanning, you did say that or I would not have put it in the Minutes". Trustee Lanning made a motion that Minutes be verbatim. Trustee Jones recognized that would be cost prohibitive. Mayor Hubbard asked for a second motion; there being none he noted no action. **Resolution #2014-230:** On the motion of Trustee Stokes-Cawley, seconded by Trustee Jones, it was resolved and carried (3-1 in favor with Trustee Angelillo abstaining from the vote as he was not present at the meeting and Trustee Lanning opposing) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2014 as presented.

Correspondence & Announcements – Mayor Hubbard reviewed the following:

- Receipt of Glens Falls National Bank LOSAP Statement for November, 2014
- National Grid announcement that they will be increasing its transmission rates. Atty. Byrne said Municipal Board Advisor Ed Dienst sent an email this morning explaining that starting in January there will be an increase in a portion of what the village gets charged for transmission service which is often offset by variable components. Advisor Dienst estimated a very modest impact on customer bills and the Municipal Board will continue to monitor it. Trustee Jones praised Advisor Dienst's ability to analyze the rate increase. Mayor Hubbard said Advisor Dienst is an amazing wealth of knowledge and is very helpful to the Village.
- Email from Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency Director Andrew Maxwell advising that new aerial photography of Onondaga County is now available for use by municipalities.

*** Other Matters That Have Come Before the Board since Posting the Agenda ***

- Thank you letter from Assemblyman Gary Finch for the food donations collected for the local food pantries
- Verizon Notice of Intention to Install/Upgrade Cable Television Facilities and Service at 55 Jordan Street which we sent onto Housing Authority Chair Fran Sheehan. Atty. Byrne noted the mid-February

work date and agreed to contact the Christopher Community, the management company tomorrow to get the background, such as whether or not this resulted from residents' request. Atty. Byrne advised that this will require formal approval by the Village Board, but should be held until the January 8, 2015 Meeting.

Director of Municipal Operations – DMO Harty commenced her report informing the Board that a Gayle Road resident called about a sewer issue. The DPW investigated and found roots in the line; Duke's Sales & Services will re-treat the line for us. DMO Harty further reported the following:

- Masonic Temple public restrooms – the protective seat liners were removed; Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tara Lynn observed that gentlemen used the port-a-johns and this last weekend was the first of the Dicken's weekends that didn't have any issues with the public restrooms. DMO Harty said maybe this is a good balance.
- DPW – assisting Bartlett Tree Service with tree trimming and dead tree removals; sludge removal.
- Water – winterizing hydrants – 50% complete
- WWTP – all is good
- Electric – annual circuit testing – Fennell Street circuit is done; recloser controller replacement

Village Historian – Village Historian Jorge Batlle began his report explaining how this Historic Moment came about. Before Thanksgiving, an email request to put together a report about the traditions in Skaneateles was received by him and his wife, Beth, the Town Historian. Although the deadline was missed, subsequently a separate article appeared in the PRESS. Therefore, some of this report may sound familiar, with a few "tweaks". Village Historian Batlle read aloud the following:

Christmas Traditions in Skaneateles

In spite of the on-going war, December of 1943, the Waterbury Felt Company of Skaneateles Falls, gave a Christmas bonus to about 190 of its employees. The newspaper stated that those who had worked for the company for 20 years received a \$35.00 bonus; those with ten or more years received \$25.00; and those who had been with the company for more than one year received \$15.00.

The Lions Club began selling Christmas trees in 1952. They started on a lot on East Genesee Street just east of the present Sailboat Shop. They moved into the Village and sold trees on the lot behind the Masonic Lodge, which is now the outdoor dining area for Doug's Fish Fry. The club members continued this tradition until 2007, when competition from other sellers became too great. One Lion told me that then, "just about everyone was selling trees."

December of 1955, the members of the Skaneateles Garden Club presented the crèche nativity scene to the people of the Town and Village of Skaneateles. The crèche was set up on the front lawn of the Library. It had 20 figures, some of which were 32 inches in height. The Rotary Club, and Chamber of Commerce, the Lion's Club and the VIA (Village Improvement Association) provided shelter for the figures. The Garden Club members maintained and supervised the crèche each year. The display was put onto a wagon with a Plexiglas front, after a camel figure disappeared in 1969 and the Jesus figure went missing in December 1971. (Village Historian Batlle noted that he was unable to find anything stating that the Jesus figure was ever found.) Mrs. Joseph Hubbard of the Garden Club said, "It is too bad that we will have to protect the crèche by fencing or some other method. The children won't be able to touch the figures – and after all, the crèche is put up basically for the enjoyment of our children."

Another tradition in the Village of Skaneateles is the lighted Christmas tree on the end of the lake pier. This started in 1986. The Skaneateles Merchants' Association sponsored the project. Representatives from other service clubs such as the Lions and Rotary, assisted in the placing of the trees. Power for the tree's lights was provided by the Village Electric Department. The tradition continues today, adding cheer to the cold December nights.

The lighted garlands on the ornamental street lights in the business district started December 1987.

In 1995, the merchants of the Village began a celebration known as the Dicken's Christmas. This is a step back in time to Victorian England, when Charles Dickens was a popular author. It takes place on weekends starting the weekend after Thanksgiving. This event is still on-going and very popular.

Police Department – Chief Perkins reported that after Christmas and the first of the year, they will pull some meters on the east end to recondition them during the winter months. The vacant meter locations could be left vacant or replaced with two-hour parking signs. Chief Perkins said the east end parking meters generate very little revenue during this time of year, so it is a good time to remove them. He said road salt is very corrosive and the meters in that area are hit with a lot of salt (which is more corrosive than the salt used in the past) from the State Department of Transportation. Chief Perkins said the Police Department plans to cycle through all village meters and recondition machines on both sides of Genesee Street. We did so two years ago and, although labor intensive, it is a lot less expensive than buying new meters. Trustee Jones suggested first starting with no signs (limiting parking to two hours); should we see a lot of abuse, signs could be posted. Chief Perkins noted that if there is a lot of snow, it is tough to get to the meters. Work on the meters will be done in the truck bays and hopefully Jim Brown (currently also a Street Crossing Guard) will get involved. Chief Perkins suggested that the Village purchase body cameras and stun guns as a way to provide a cost-effective means of security for the Police Department and its officers. We have cameras mounted in our police cars and those cost \$5,000 each. Depending on the model and features, the body-mounted cameras are between \$110 and \$600-\$700.00. Chief Perkins said all police departments are looking at the body-mounted versions and a number of issues as well. For instance, how long footage would be saved on the cameras, particularly if footage was requested through the Freedom of Information Law, and how portions of the recording are redacted. He noted benefits of the body-mounted cameras include more professional officers and better public interactions with the officers – it makes a positive difference when people know their actions are being recorded. Trustee Jones asked if every officer would need a camera. Chief Perkins answered that would depend on how much grants offer. Chief Perkins said the department is also looking at stun guns (Tasers) – we are one of the only agencies in the area that doesn't use them. Stun guns reduce police officer injuries as well as to the public that wants to resist arrest. Had stun guns been used in Staten Island and Ferguson, Missouri, as opposed to lethal tactics, no deaths would have occurred and thus we wouldn't even know about the incidents. Chief Perkins concluded his report advising that Officer Sean Ennulat completed Instructor Development training.

Status of new Village Hall Project – No report.

Status of NYSERDA Grant – No report.

Status of Village's Cable TV Franchise Agreement with Time Warner – Atty. Byrne said there has been no word from Time Warner.

Status of Additional Lake View Cemetery Board Member – Trustee Jones suggested that Rob Gray, son of Bob Gray, would be perfect for the Cemetery Board. Mayor Hubbard asked Trustee Jones to broach that with Rob and the appointment can be at the Annual Meeting.

Discussion of vote on Village Hall Restrooms – Trustee Lanning said he asked that this item be on the Agenda. He alleged that the Board of Trustees violated the Open Meetings Law when they voted by email to decide whether or not to allow public use of the village hall restrooms for the remainder of Dickens. Trustee Lanning said that while he is not comfortable with email voting, he has participated, regrettably. After the Chamber's request to use the restrooms was removed from the Agenda, he phoned the Committee on Open Government's Director Bob Freeman about the email vote relative to the public restrooms and others. Mr. Freeman said email votes are a clear violation of the open meetings law; Trustee Lanning read aloud a section of the Open Meetings Law provided by Mr. Freeman. Trustee Lanning said the purpose of our business is to do it in public – as clear and transparent as possible. Trustee Jones said she did not consider it a vote, but rather a method to easily poll the trustees to measure their feelings of the Chamber's request so that we could provide a timely response. Atty. Byrne addressed Trustee Lanning saying that this conversation is beyond silly. The email exchange was to get the Trustees thoughts and opinions because there was not time to call a special meeting. Atty. Byrne noted that the word "vote" doesn't appear in the email message because it was just a way to get your

feedback, not your vote. Specifically, the email sent to Trustees on December 10 requested your "thoughts, opinion, or concerns" regarding the issue. With another Dicken's weekend only two days away, there was only 48 hours to get something done. Trustee Lanning stated that he had evidence of other emails about hiring another part-time DPW foreman. Mayor Hubbard heatedly told Trustee Lanning to produce what you just referenced; adding that discussion of alleged votes will be on the January 8, 2015 Agenda. Mayor Hubbard said you are a study in hypocrisy. Atty. Byrne gave credit to Mayor Hubbard, DMO Harty, and Dick Perkins for coming up with a cost effective solution on short notice, adding that he is entirely comfortable with the process used to find a solution. Mayor Hubbard said this issue is without merit and offered copies of the email exchange to the press which he hopes will be covered.

NEW BUSINESS

Intermunicipal Agreement – Mayor Hubbard said this is the formal paperwork related to future drainage work on East Lake Street. Atty. Byrne advised that the agreement, which he read and is comfortable with, needs to be executed to receive the funds. **Resolution #2014-231:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) authorize Mayor Hubbard's execution of the County of Onondaga Intermunicipal Agreement for reimbursement of infrastructure improvements, as specified in our application for funding assistance, in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Consider Opportunity to Complete AMR – Mayor Hubbard said we are now more than seven years installing the automatic meter reading (AMR) system and it is still a long way from completion. There is an administrative component that Clerk to the Boards Dundon is willing to be tasked with to final completion. Our staff spends considerable time manually reading meters and manually making billing entries that wouldn't be necessary if AMR was fully up and running. Mayor Hubbard said he'd therefore like the Board to consider taking advantage of this opportunity to get the job done. Trustee Angelillo agreed - completion is way over due and there are some issues that Clerk Dundon could address. He noted that Clerk Dundon is already doing some administrative work and said he'd be in favor. Trustee Lanning asked if Clerk Dundon would be installing the meters. Atty. Byrne said Clerk Dundon would set up a process to get the meters installed, particularly where no one is home. Trustee Jones said she endorses the concept of getting AMR done. Atty. Byrne suggested that Clerk Dundon could also look at the billing software as well and determine if it could be improved. Mayor Hubbard clarified that Clerk Dundon offered his services. Trustee Jones recognized that Clerk Dundon would have more billable hours. AMR completion would get the crew away from meter reading. Trustee Angelillo said we can get an idea at our next meeting of the hours that might be involved. Trustee Jones said the idea has her full support and she has faith that Clerk Dundon would be helpful. Mayor Hubbard recognized that Clerk Dundon currently bills for professional services and expects he'd continue to do so in the same way. Atty. Byrne noted that we already have a relationship with Clerk Dundon. This proposal would simply add another task. Trustee Jones said DMO Harty and Clerk Dundon should work out a plan. Trustee Lanning said in general he is in support, but wants specifics. **Resolution #2014-232:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Angelillo, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to approve up to twenty additional hours for Clerk Dundon to work with DMO Harty to develop a proposal for the January 22, 2015 Village Board Meeting.

NYS Building Officials Conference (NYSBOC) – **Resolution #2014-233:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to authorize Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Crompt's attendance at the NYSBOC Central Chapter 10th Annual Education Conference March 31-April 3, 2015 at the Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY 13088. Trustee Jones recognized that CEO Crompt undoubtedly has to attend to maintain certification.

Skaneateles Central School 2015 Commencement – Trustee Jones said commencement in the park is a

long-standing, beloved tradition. However, there have been issues with trucks on the lawn, so she suggested that DMO Harty be the point person. Skaneateles Central School personnel should work with DMO Harty to her satisfaction; the mayor shouldn't be dragged into it. Trustee Angelillo recognized that the school needs to move equipment, but agreed with Trustee Jones. Mayor Hubbard suggested scheduling a meeting with the school and DMO Harty. **Resolution #2014-234:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to approve the SCS Class of 2015 Commencement exercises in Clift Park and Shotwell Parks on Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. with the proviso that school personnel coordinate with DMO Harty for access, delivery, etc.

Approval of Bills – Resolution #2014-235: On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #14 be audited and paid as follows:

General Fund	Vouchers #627-670	Checks #16853-16894	\$ 21,429.68
Sewer Fund	Vouchers #156-159	Checks #4831-4834	\$ 1,380.51
Electric Fund	Vouchers #182-192	Checks #5514-5524	\$104,483.04
Water Fund	Vouchers #80-82	Checks #3813-3815	\$ 1,081.55

Adjournment – Resolution #2014- 236: On the motion of Trustee Angelillo, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.


 Patty Couch
 Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer