

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 26, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hubbard, Trustees Eriksen, Sennett, and Stokes-Cawley, Village Attorney Pavlus, Village Historian Jorge Batlle

**EXCUSED:** Trustee Zapata

**Others:** Dick Perkins Skaneateles, NY

**Minutes –Resolution #2019-281:** On the motion of Trustee Eriksen, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2019.

**Correspondence & Announcements** – Mayor Hubbard noted the following:

- Receipt of email from NYCOM re: Allowable Levy Growth Factor for Local Governments with a June 1 Fiscal Year.
- Receipt of 2020 MEUA Events Calendar.
- Receipt of email from the Office of General Services regarding Environmentally Preferable Lighting Contract and Webinar.
- Phone call from Gene Russell thanking the DPW for the wonderful job that they have done in regards to plowing. He said he can't thank them enough for the work that they do and that you make his life so much easier by making sure the sidewalks are clear and the end of his driveway much easier to maintain.
- Email from NYCOM relative to the Winter Legislative Meeting February 9-11, 2020 at the Albany Marriott.
- Emails from Onondaga County Legislature Deputy Clerk Katherine French relative to:
  - Resolution No. 223 "Mortgage Tax Apportionment" as adopted by the Onon. Co. Legislature 12/17.
  - Resolution No. 234 "2020 Town Tax Rates, Fixed, Ratified, and Confirmed as adopted by the Onon. Co. Legislature 12/17.
- Receipt of email from Police Chief Coon regarding Officer Eggers' act of kindness.
- Note from Bill Eberhardt congratulating Dick Perkins on a great job on the sidewalk project. "I can't imagine the myriad of tangles you dealt with & resolved, including mine."
- \* **Other Matters That Have Come Before the Board since Posting the Agenda\***
- Receipt of letter from Williamson Law Book regarding the annual support fee.
- Receipt of letter from the Onondaga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board regarding the 8-year review and recertification of Agricultural District 2.
- Statement from Trustee Sennett regarding homeowner responsibility for clearing snow and ice from their sidewalks: Now that it's winter in Skaneateles, the Village reminds everyone that clearing ice and snow from the walks is a property owner's responsibility. Residents have come to expect the Village to clear the sidewalks but that's actually a courtesy provided by our DPW. Through the winter, we ask residents to do their best to make our sidewalks safe for pedestrians. If your driveway is plowed, please be sure to clear the ridges on the sidewalk left by the plow. If there's a thaw, please clear the slush before it re-freezes. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Committee Reports**

**Village Historian** – Mr. Batlle's report was held until the projector was up and running.

**Old Business**

**Status of New Seawall Grant / Clift Park Improvements** – Mayor Hubbard said there is nothing new.

**Status of Water Main Project** – Trustee Stokes-Cawley thanked ADMO Robinson for her dedication to the Village; specifically, her work on the water main project and being the water operator, and she wished

her the best of luck working for the Town of Skaneateles. Trustee Stokes-Cawley mentioned that the City of Syracuse will be considered the Village's water operator for the time being. She said that there are plans to get someone trained for the position, but it will be about a year before our Village employees will be able to take it on.

**Status of Employee Handbook** – Trustee Sennett said that the plan is to meet following the first meeting in January, but it will depend on how the agenda is. Trustee Eriksen said there are some changes that he can start inputting into a word document version of the handbook.

**Status of Restroom Project** – Mayor Hubbard said that the bathrooms are operational. Trustee Stokes-Cawley said that the porta-johns could be removed since the bathrooms are working and it will start getting colder. Mayor Hubbard said he will call tomorrow to have the rental company pick them up. Mayor Hubbard commented that the status of the project is unknown.

### **New Business**

**Consider Authorizing Hiring Electric Department Supervisor** – Trustee Stokes-Cawley said that Peter Reap has a great background for this position. Mayor Hubbard commented that Mr. Reap's resume and the terms of hire were emailed to the Board. He also said that CTB Dundon sat in on both interviews that were done. Mayor Hubbard said a start date for employment would be January 6, 2020. **Resolution #2019-282:** On the motion of Trustee Stokes-Cawley, seconded by Mayor Hubbard, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to hire Peter Reap for the Electric Department Supervisor position.

**Village Historian** – Mr. Battle read the following presentation:

Village Jails and Lockups  
December 2019

The Laws of the newly formed Village of Skaneateles of 1833, stated that violations were punishable by monetary fines either stated in the ordinance or determined by the Justice presiding. There was no mention of incarceration. Onondaga County, formed in 1794 had a sheriff appointed by the governor. His salary was paid by fees collected for his services rendered in transporting prisoners, civil process services. The County did build a jail in 1802 at Onondaga Hill. Local criminals were sent there by stage coach or horseback.

Cayuga County was formed in 1799 from a splitting off from Onondaga County. Auburn became the county seat in 1805. Being closer to Skaneateles it was believed that prisoners were sent there for confinement. However, a search by the Cayuga Count Historian, it was deemed unlikely that anyone from Onondaga County would have been kept in a Cayuga County facility due to costs and regulation.

The Village's Minutes Books reveal that the first Police Constable was Munson Thorpe, appointed in August of 1857. In September, it was proposed to levy a \$50.00 tax to construct a "lock-up" or "watch house." This lock-up was to be part of the first fire station on West Genesee Street, about where "Gilda's Restaurant" is at 12 West Genesee Street. There was a small apartment built on the rear of the fire house for the Captain of the fire company. There was no indication that this space was ever used as a residence for any firefighter. \$48.77 was paid to James Hoydent, Richard Lofts and Christy Moses to build the lockup. Moses was a blacksmith, whose occupation made construction such a facility easy. The cells were of thick wood planks and wrought metal strapping.

In the late 1880's there was much discussion about a new fire station. There was much public discussion as to where it would go. When the dust settled John D. Barrow donated land on the corner of Jordan and Railroad Streets, now called Fennell Street. In the Warranty Deed to the Village is states in part: *and such conveyance is also made subject to the condition that if such engine house shall be erected on said premises, and a lockup be partitioned off therein, the entrance of such lockup shall be on Jordan Street, and that no windows shall be built in the lockup portion on the westerly side of said building.* This large two-story red brick building with a bell tower was ready for occupancy in 1892. To the right of the apparatus bay doors, facing onto Jordan Street, as directed, is the entrance to the new lockup.

The cells were wooden as in the previous lockup. In the April 4, 1892 edition of the *Skaneateles Free Press* there is a note that Mr. Eckett is "fitting up the old lockup premises on the west end of his block, next to the bridge, for a saloon..."

An inspection of the lockup by Inspector George McLaughlin, from the State Commission on Prisons on October 13, 1915 stated in part...*I visited this lockup in February....and recommended improvements have been made. A new composition floor has been laid in the room containing the lockup. The wooden cells have been removed and two steel cells have been installed. These are 5ft. by 8ft with round steel bars...each cell contains one wood folding bunk with blankets, a toilet and stationary wash basin...the cells are set about 2 feet from the wall behind them.... this lockup with these improvements, is light, dry and sanitary.*

At that time, the number of arrests in the Village average between 15 and 20 a year, and most are locked up overnight. The Police Officer on duty at night gives the lockup supervision.

Another State inspection in 1939 stated that no detentions have been made in the previous year. The facility was clean. No women are held there. When detentions occur, and persons are held over mealtime, they are provided with food from local restaurants. In 1953, Police Chief John Thompson gave a report to the Trustees indicating lock-up expenses to be \$120.00 for salary, \$10.00 for food and \$10.00 for fixtures. A 1955 report cited \$120.00 for a Janitor, \$25.00 for prisoner food, and \$25.00 for fixtures.

A report in 1959 from the State Commission of Corrections reported the facility to be in satisfactory condition and recommended hourly visits to the lock-up when occupied.

In 1961, a report issued by the new Police Chief George Davis, he said that 4 prisoners were detained in 1960. Food was provided for any prisoner as in the past, and a physician was available when required. Transients were occasionally accommodated in and unlocked cell. The State Commission of Corrections sent a recommendation back *that in the event a prisoner is being detained, transients should be housed elsewhere to prevent contact.* 1961 was a busy year with 19 detentions.

In 1964, the fire station at 26 Fennell Street was underway. Station architects Mounton & Van Keuren of Syracuse sent the State Commission of Corrections plans for the new fire station. The Committee issued their approval going into detail on the physical aspects of the new lock-up. The room located in the northeast corner of the building, is 14ft. by 19ft. with 14-foot-high ceilings and was sufficiently large to accommodate 2 cells. The cells face two 3ft. by 4ft steel detention windows with obscure wire impregnated glass. There is a dedicated single entrance with a steel door with a large stationary 3ft. by 2ft.10in. also having obscure wire impregnated glass. The room was illuminated by 4-100-watt

incandescent lamps located so they could not be reached by individuals in the cells. New sanitary fixtures were installed, however the wood bunks from the previous location were allowed to be used in the new facility.

Again, as in the past, there were no facilities for females and any that needed to be detained after arraignment, were taken to the County Jail.

In 1976, new legislation enacted regarding D.W.I. cases, made local jail facilities unnecessary. The Skaneateles lock-up last resident on January 1, 1976. The Mayor and Village Trustees then authorized the removal of the jail cells. George Davis purchased the two wooden bunks for \$10.00 each, and Roger Patrick of Leo's Body Shop to was paid \$75.00 to remove the jail cells. The Fire Department took over this area for storage, and cut a large access door in the jail's interior wall into the Department's adjacent meeting room.

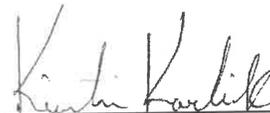
A repurposing of this building was in 2013 when the Village Office and the Village Police Department moved into this structure. The former lock-up is now the office of the Mayor. The new fire station at 77 West Genesee Street is the first Skaneateles firehouse not to have a lock-up in it.

**Approval of Bills – Resolution #2019-283:** On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #15 be audited and paid as follows:

General Fund	Vouchers #616-649	Checks #22737-22770	\$37,263.84
Electric Fund	Vouchers #151-163	Checks #7077-7089	\$92,959.12
Water Fund	Vouchers #87-90	Checks #4683-4686	\$1,713.71
Sewer Fund	Vouchers #127-134	Checks #6218-6225	\$3,964.35
Capital Project Fund	Vouchers #65-68	Checks #1067-1070	\$407,329.90

**Village Office Building Update** – Mr. Perkins updated the Board on the mold remediation in the Village Office. He commented that the issue wasn't as bad as they thought it was, and it turned out to be a large rodent's nest in the wall near the mail box. He commented that there were gaps between the wall and the box where the rodents had access. The old mailbox will be replaced with a new box, and the slot will be covered and outside, and the box portion will be inside. Mr. Perkins commented that the ducts are also being cleaned by Rockwell Indoor Environmental. He said that they started with the Police side of the building and will finish the Village Office tomorrow.

**Adjournment – Resolution #2019-284:** On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 pm.



Kierstin Karlik, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer