

Public Informational Meeting – Future of Community Center  
Skaneateles Fire Department  
August 15, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Town Representatives:** Supervisor Tierney, Councilor Murray, and Attorney Sardino.

**Village Representatives:** Mayor Green, Trustee Jones, Trustee Angelillo, Trustee Carlson,  
Attorney Byrne

**PARCS Representative:** Charlie Wallace

**Also Attending:**

Mary Kate Shane	1 Wicklow Drive, Skaneateles, NY
Kathryn Carlson	18 W. Austin St., Skaneateles, NY
Ken Scott	4874 Foster Rd., Elbridge, NY
Michael Byrne	3415 E. Lake Road, Skaneateles, NY
Sue Murphy	94 State St., Skaneateles, NY
John Kopley	3851 East St., Skaneateles, NY
Sheila P. Card	3574 Rickard Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Cliff Abrams	37 State St., Skaneateles, NY
Sue Jones	58 W. Genesee St., Skaneateles, NY
Maggie Thomson	3785 Highland Ave., Skaneateles, NY
Rick Keyes	1010 Jewett Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Patrick Sardino	Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet
Don Price	4 Lakeview Circle, Skaneateles, NY
Charlie Wallace	4 Teasel Lane, Skaneateles, NY
Terri Jensen	3859 State St. Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Ted Astemborski	1117 Hencoop Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Jim Williams	13 Jordan St., Skaneateles, NY
Robyn Bentley Graham	2388 E. Lake Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Deege O'Hara	40 Leitch Ave., Skaneateles, NY
Nancy Murray	3861 East St, Skaneateles, NY
Kimball Kraus	3109 W. Lake Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Nancy Hanner	9 Wicklow Drive, Skaneateles, NY
Marc Angelillo	10 Heatherwoods, Skaneateles, NY
Bill Allyn	3415 E. Lake Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Elsa Soderberg	118 E. Genesee St., Skaneateles, NY
Bill Pavlus	4011 Highland Ave., Skaneateles, NY
Sue Byrne	3415 E. Lake Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Mary Sennett	19 Goodspeed Pl., Skaneateles, NY
Stephanie Bales	47 W. Elizabeth St., Skaneateles, NY
Francis Moran	270 Nunnery Rd., Skaneateles, NY
Tom Higgins	854 Milford Dr., Skaneateles, NY
Peter Swartz	89 E. Genesee St., Skaneateles, NY
Doug Campbell	23 Onondaga St., Skaneateles, NY
David Yulke	89 W. Elizabeth St., Skaneateles, NY

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Holly Gregg

3872 Jordan Rd, Skaneateles, NY

**Opening Statement:** Mayor Green gave an opening statement welcoming everyone to the informational meeting that will discuss the future ownership and operation of the Community Center and whether it should be under private or public ownership. He then introduced Supervisor Tierney and other officials in attendance including Trustee Sue Jones, Trustee Marc Angelillo, Trustee Kathryn Carlson, Village Attorney Mike Byrne, Councilor Nancy Murray and Town Attorney Patrick Sardino and Ted Astemborski, Chair of the Community Center Advisory Committee.

Mayor Green said that comments would be made by Supervisor Tierney, himself and Charlie Wallace, President of Parks and Recreation Council of Skaneateles (PARCS) and then it would be opened up for questions and comments from the public. He said discussions have been underway for the last three years between representatives from all three organizations. The discussions have been on the future ownership of the Community Center. He said the discussions have reached a critical juncture and the one fundamental question has caused a division of opinion on whether the Community Center should be owned by a public entity or a private not-for-profit organization.

Mayor Green reviewed the history of the Community Center beginning with the 1999 agreement between the Skaneateles Recreational Charitable Trust (SRCT), and the Town and Village of Skaneateles. This agreement called for SRCT to turn over ownership of the building to the Village after 5 years. The Village would then sub lease the Center to the Town to operate the recreation programs. This agreement has been extended several times while the PARCS agreement is being negotiated.

**Supervisor Phil Tierney Statement:** Supervisor Tierney said that the public informational meeting was scheduled in order to listen to the public and receive comments. The ownership of the Community Center is the critical issue. He said the reason the Town supports a public ownership of the Community Center is that the original 1999 agreement outlined that the Community Center would be transferred to a public entity. He said there is a lot of difference between a private and public entity. SRCT raised a lot of money to facilitate the building of the Community Center and it was never intended that SRCT would be the owner. He said that ownership has been retained by SRCT probably longer than they expected. There have been delays and it was supposed to be turned over no later than December 31, 2007. The extension of the 1999 agreement has been extended and will again expire at the end of this month, unless further extended. He said that the 1999 agreement is one issue that the Town has. Other reasons why the Town Board supports public ownership of the Community Center included:

1. Openness of Government
2. Public accountability
3. An entity that understanding the public purpose of government to protect the public health, safety, morals and general welfare through rules, regulations, laws and administration of property they own.

Supervisor Tierney gave an example of membership policies at the Community Center which unlike the private sector, are designed to take into account the affordability for the public while trying to increase the membership. The Town has to charge a fee to cover most of the expenses but not so large that it prevents people from joining. It is a constant balance. He gave an example of when the

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current fire department was built that a fitness room was cut from the final plan because of cost. In exchange, members of both the Skaneateles Fire Department and Mottville Department receive membership to the Community Center. This is a good recruiting tool for both volunteer fire departments. In addition, the current senior and family rates receive favorable rates. He said all this probably would not be possible under a private ownership. He finished by applauding the dedicated public employees. He said they have had criticism but said they are a very dedicated staff who have worked hard to control expenses with a minimum of personnel. He said that he believes local government is the most efficient form of government and is the closest to the people. There is public accountability that the private sector does not have.

**Mayor Bob Green Statement:** Mayor Green read a prepared statement [attached] adopted by the Village Board.

**Trustee Marc Angello Statement:** Trustee Angelillo read a prepared statement [attached] adopted by the Village Board.

**Charlie Wallace Statement:** Charlie Wallace said he has been an Olympic family member of the Community Center since it opened, as are all members of the PARCS Board. He was on the start up committee and business advisory board for the Center. He is the treasurer of Skaneateles SPLASH and SPLASH has raised tens of \$1,000's of dollars over the last 9 years to support aquatic and aquatic safety activity in the community. They purchased and installed a \$40,000 state of the art timing system for the competitive pool in the Soderberg Aquatics Center, and donated to SAVES and the Fire Department.

Mr. Wallace reviewed the history of PARCS stating that over 40 years ago Austin Park Development Fund was established and consisted of volunteers who raised funds for all parks in the Town and Village of Skaneateles. PARCS has expanded its responsibilities to support and raise funds to improve all parks in the Town and Village. With the development of the Community Center the recreation facilities have grown beyond the scope of Austin Park Development. Austin Park Development Fund was dissolved and PARCS was established to handle the expanded fundraising. PARCS is made up of 12 members with representatives from the Town Board and Village Board. There is a physician, a physical therapist, three women and experts in finance and fundraising. Mr. Wallace said he believes that the effectiveness of PARCS fundraising efforts would be compromised if the facility were owned by a public entity. He believes that people would be very hesitant to donate if they were also paying taxes for the facility. He said PARCS effectiveness would be greatly reduced. PARCS would set up an endowment fund for future repairs and replacement of items such as the roof, motors and HVAC. The endowment fund would establish funding that would be there when those items need replacing. Fundraising would also be done for future expansion of the Community Center as well as to improvements to the parks. Currently they are in discussion with the school district. The school is planning on adding two tennis courts at Austin Park. The existing and new tennis courts need new lighting and the school has asked for PARCS help. PARCS has agreed to help them out in some fashion. They are also looking at improving the playground at Austin Park and improvements to the many parks including the conservation areas.

PARCS is not intending to operate the facility. It is anticipated that the Town would sublease the facility and run the recreation programs. Mr. Wallace said if the Town wants to subsidize the

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firemen's fees, they have no problem with that at all. He said that the Y has a good model to support affordable memberships. He said that PARCS does not want to get involved in those decisions. He said it should be the operator of the facility, whether it is the Town or the YMCA or another group that is operating the facility that makes those decisions. He believes that having private ownership with a Board that has representatives from the Town and Village Boards gives transparency and accountability to the public. He said they would not be able to raise funds unless they are accountable to the community.

**Comments from the Public**

Tom Higgins said that public facilities belong under public ownership. There is accountability and the voters have the final say. If they are dissatisfied they can vote people out of office. Parks and recreation should be public and supported through taxes for the services. He suggested that it would be wonderful to have PARCS as "Friends of the Parks" to support the fundraising needs of recreation. He said the Community Center should be under the Town's ownership because they have a larger tax base than the Village. He is concerned that if a private not-for-profit group owns the Center there might be liability issues and money would need to be raised to cover the insurance needs for this liability.

David Yulke questioned what safeguards and limitations will be implemented for the transfer of the facility to PARCS. Charlie Wallace said that SRCT would transfer the Community Center to the Village and the Village will turn it over to PARCS. There would be deed restrictions written into the transfer that the facility could not be sold or used for any other use. If at some time in the future PARCS were dissolved, provisions would be set so that it would revert back to the Town or Village. The Town and Village would have to approve the disposition. Mr. Wallace said those are the details that need to be worked out.

Peter Swartz said he was in favor of PARCS owning the Community Center and was opposed to the Town owning it. He questioned if it would be possible to donate for specific items such as something at the Conservation Areas. Charlie Wallace said they would welcome specific improvement and expansions and donations would be earmarked for those projects.

Doug Campbell said when the Community Center was built he said the public was absolutely guaranteed and promised it would never be a tax burden. He questioned why the Town Board is spending our tax dollars on the Center. He is in favor of PARCS owning the building and if they can't fund it without tax dollars then the doors should be locked.

Supervisor Tierney said that there is a provision in the 1999 agreement that the intent of the parties was that the Center should be self-sufficient. The Town Board could have stopped the funding beyond what is taken in for revenues, but the Center would not be open as much as it is now and there wouldn't be as many programs. He said that the Community Center takes in about \$1 Million each year in memberships and programs and the expenses are about \$1,200,000.00. He said that the deficit is necessary in the Town Board's view to operate the facility for the benefit of all members of the community 7 days a week, far exceeding 8 hours a day. He said if the community wants to cut that back the Town Board could do that. He said that the Town holds budget hearings every year that are open for public comment and no one has ever come to these hearings to ask the Board not to spend money for recreation. Supervisor Tierney said that people can interface more with their local government than any other level of government.

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Francis Moran said he lives in Spafford and owns a small parcel in Skaneateles. He has been a member of the Community Center for 5 years. He said he was one of many who contributed to building the Center. He said he believes the Community Center should be a public facility. He recently retired from a company he worked for 40 years that supplied the domestic hot water system for the Center. He said in his mind it was never installed properly and that the Center is consuming more fuel than it should. He said the Town should take advantage of the technical advice from the manufacturer. He said if this was corrected it would save a lot of money. He also questioned if an energy audit was done. Supervisor Tierney said he appreciates the information on the hot water heater. He said the Town did do an energy audit and some of the recommendations have been implemented. Changing the lights has been a recent recommendation.

Supervisor Tierney said that the Center was built by a private entity and the Town and Village had no control over the design and construction. He said because it was built privately the particulars of the contracts are not publicly available, unlike the fire department that was built publicly and all information is available.

Mr. Moran said it is a major mistake that the Center is not on Village power. Supervisor Tierney said that there was a contract for a certain price for utilities with National Grid and there would be a cost to break that contract.

Mayor Green said that there are stranded costs to exit National Grid, capital costs including infrastructure upgrades and incremental costs for power over and above the hydro allotment. The Village has discussed this with the Town and PARCS and they have told PARCS that they would allow them to financially cover those costs over a period of time for these expenses, if they decide to convert to the Village electric. The Village has to look at the existing load and any future load for the Center. He said that Village residents should not have to bear this expense. A formula has to be worked out that would require the Center to pay for those costs.

Charlie Wallace said that the service agreement with the Town, Village and PARCS lists as a priority fundraising to address converting to Village power. This is one of PARCS priorities. He said they also want to raise funds for converting the lights at the Community Center to save money.

Supervisor Tierney said that the Town Board had reviewed the electric expenses of the Center and agreed that converting to Village electric would be much more economical. He said we are half way through a 10-year agreement with National Grid. The Town Board believes that at this time it would cost more money to leave the agreement than the Town would save in utilities because of the negotiated rate with National Grid that would have to be reimbursed. After the agreement expires he would be in favor of converting to the Village electric.

Kimball Krause said she supports PARCS for the ownership of the Community Center. She personally knows many of the people on the PARCS Board and finds them to be some of the most dedicated, intelligent and committed people in the community. She said having Town and Village representatives on the PARCS Board there would be transparency and accountability. PARCS can focus entirely on the Community Center allowing the Town Board time to handle all the other issues in the Town. She does not see a negative.

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Supervisor Tierney said that having Town and Village representatives on the PARCS Board still does not take away that it is a private owner and there would not be the accountability and transparency that the public sector has. He said the owner of the Community Center would dictate the character. If it is a private owner it will be a private entity. Supervisor Tierney asked Town Attorney, Patrick Sardino if he would explain this.

Attorney Sardino said that there are advantages and disadvantages with each entity depending on who is looking at it. If the Town and Village were owners or part owners of the Community Center then you would have public contracts, public improvements and availability to public records. Some people view this as an advantage or disadvantage. He said the other issue is the Town has been De Facto operator of the Community Center for the past 8 years and it is anticipated that the Town will run the Center in the future. However, there is no guarantee that the Town will run recreation programs at the Community Center past the 5-year commitment. At the end of 5 years if the Town and Village is not a public owner, the operation of the Center will be determined by PARCS.

Holly Gregg questioned the nuts and bolts of the budget. He understood that the budget for the Community Center is approximately \$1.2 Million and asked if there would be any monetary transfers if either PARCS or the Town became the owner. Supervisor Tierney and Mayor Green said no. Mr. Gregg asked if PARCS becomes owner of the Center would the Town have any responsibility to pay anything to finance the operation.

Charlie Wallace said that currently the not-for-profit (SRCT) owns the building and lease it to the Village who would sublease it to the Town who runs the facility and is responsible for the operational expenses. If it is transferred to PARCS, the land and the building will be owned by a not-for-profit. What they have been trying to do over the last two years is to negotiate a lease with the Town to have them continue to run the facility. That isn't necessarily what it has to be. It is a 5-year lease where repair and maintenance expenses for the Town are capped at certain levels. Capital improvements like roof and HVAC are the responsibility of the landlord in this lease. He said if PARCS owns the facility it would be very beneficial to the Town because PARCS would be responsible for capital improvements in the future. He said that the Town has concerns whether PARCS has the capabilities to raise the necessary funds. Mr. Wallace said that he believes that they can because of their background and experience. The Town would still be responsible for the operational expenses of the facility. He said he wasn't sure what portion of the \$1.2 Million budget constitutes capital expenses.

Supervisor Tierney said that the Town has been paying both capital and operational expenses. He said there is an opportunity for joint ownership that would allow for the facility to remain public and PARCS would be able to do their fundraising. He believes this idea was rejected. Mr. Wallace said it wasn't rejected; they would just need to determine how that would work.

Holly Gregg questioned if PARCS takes over the ownership of the Community Center will the Town have to pay a lease amount. Charlie Wallace said that the final version (dated May 2009) of the lease is still being reviewed by the Town Attorney and therefore, he is hesitant to comment at this time. Holly Gregg said that if the taxpayers were weighing if it should be handed over to PARCS it would be beneficial to know whether the Town would have to pay a lease and how much that would be.

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Mayor Green said that the cost of the lease is capped at an amount the Town would have to pay in repairs.

Charles Wallace said that the lease is structured now so that there is a dollar neutral arrangement. There is a lease that is charged that caps repairs and maintenance that will offset the lease payments. The lease funds will be used specifically for repairs, maintenance and capital improvement to the facility.

Councilor Murray questioned how much money PARCS has raised. Charlie Wallace said that no fundraising has been done but they do have startup money. They are setting their priorities and looking at possible additions to the Center and considering a dog park at Austin Park and lighting for the tennis courts. They would not want to start fundraising until they determine what their priorities are.

Bill Allyn said that there was a meeting some time ago with the Town and Village regarding the problems with the pool pump room. They questioned at the time if this was the only problem between the Town and the Village and were told, yes. He said they pledged right then to pay for it to get it off the table. He understands that some of the brackets are still not up. They also made pledges for the laser lights and the bumper cars in the ice arena and the boats in the pool. There have been significant funds raised and given to the Center. He said they asked what they would have to do to get all the problems resolved and to get everyone on the same page. They were told that the water purification needed to be fixed and he was told that this was done. He said he thought that everything was fixed to everyone's satisfaction. Mayor Green and Supervisor Tierney agreed.

Maggie Thompson said she was a Town employee and asked why would the Town want to run the Center when they have so many other issues to deal with. She said this is an amazing organization and that we should give them a shot at it. She questioned why the Town would want ownership if it weren't making money.

Supervisor Tierney said that the Town Board feels the recreation program is very important to the community and that is the reason it has been subsidized. It is an important asset. He said it is a tempting idea that the Town would not be responsible because it is one of the most difficult budget items that the Town Board has. He said government has a responsibility to the people who live in the Town to operate it to the best of our ability in order to make it available to the most people. He said he believes that the Town could do a better job because of the experienced work force that is totally dedicated to the job. He said that the Director has been out on compassionate leave for a while and the senior management who are running the Center are putting in long and hard hours without overtime and they deserve our appreciation. He said one of the problems with the negotiation is the membership structure. He said he is concerned because at some of the meetings with the Town, Charlie Wallace has indicated that he would scrap the membership structure and would terminate the lease if all things remain the same and the Town would be out. He said he is not sure the Town wants to continue supporting the Center at \$200,000 a year if after 5 years the Town's lease would not be renewed.

Maggie Thompson said that if PARCS took over ownership, the employees would not change. She questioned if PARCS would be the boss of the employees if they took ownership. Mayor Green said, no. They would still be Town employees.

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Supervisor Tierney said it would be a landlord tenant situation. The landlord generally calls the shots and the tenant does not have a lot of rights. He said that they believe that it would be a partnership status and it is best if the Town and Village have equal ownership.

Maggie Thompson question if the Town was concerned about preserving those jobs.

Supervisor Tierney said, yes. He said that the Town has a responsibility to them and that the public appreciates all their efforts. He said most have worked for the Center since it opened in 2002 and the Town does not want them to lose their jobs. That is one of the reasons the Town is concerned.

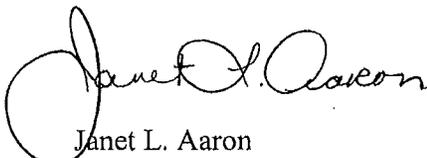
Jim Williams requested that the draft lease, when available and the operating budget of the Community Center be added to the Town website before the next informational meeting.

**Next Informational Meeting:** Mayor Green announced that the next informational meeting would be held at the Community Center at 7 p.m. on September 16, 2009. He said that comments or questions could be submitted to either the Town Supervisor or himself.

Trustee Jones said that it is amazing that our community has a facility like this that was built with no tax dollars and thanked SRCT, the PARCS Board and Town employees. Mayor Green said this is a great asset for the Community.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet L. Aaron  
Town Clerk

# POLICY STATEMENT OF THE VILLAGE TRUSTEES

## Regarding the Future Ownership and Operation of the Skaneateles Community Center

Discussions have been underway for the past three years, between representatives of the Village, Town, Skaneateles Recreational Charitable Trust ("SRCT") and the Parks & Recreation Council of Skaneateles ("PARCS"), regarding the future ownership and operation of the Community Center. Those discussions have reached a critical juncture, and one fundamental question has emerged on which there is some division of opinion: **Should the Community Center be owned by a public body (either the Village or Town) or should it be owned by a private, not-for-profit organization?** In the coming weeks, several public information meetings will be held for the purpose of giving local residents an opportunity to express their views or ask questions. In advance of those meetings, we believe that it is important for both Village and Town governments to express their views on this question, and be prepared to explain and justify their positions. We will state our views in this statement.

### **Background.**

In 1999, during the planning and fundraising for the Community Center, the Village, Town and SRCT entered into an agreement providing for its ultimate ownership and operation. It was agreed that, after the facility opened for business, the ownership would pass from SRCT to the Village, and it would be leased to the Town and be operated by the Town Recreation Department. During the first few years of its operation, two things became clear: First, a significant amount of tax dollars were required each year in order to offset revenue shortfalls. That shortfall is now in excess of \$200,000 per year and is borne by Town taxpayers. Second, that required level of taxpayer support has made it difficult to establish adequate capital reserves for repairs and replacements when they are needed. During the next 10 years, the facility will require repairs and replacement of its roof, pumps, compressors and other components.

We believe that the Village is not an appropriate owner of the facility because the owner would be expected to bear responsibility for those capital repairs and improvements, and that burden should be spread evenly across the entire community, including all Village and Town residents, rather than disproportionately on Village taxpayers. We support the use of Town tax dollars for the Community Center because all of us are Town taxpayers and all of us are thereby impacted equally in supporting this wonderful facility.

For that reason, we advised SRCT approximately three years ago that we felt the Village should not be the ultimate owner of the facility. We suggested to SRTC that it

consider the organization known as Austin Park Development Fund ("APDF") as a potential owner. APDF had been formed in the 1960's by a group of local citizens who wished to advocate for issues pertaining to Austin Park. For over 40 years, it has served as a watch dog and advocate for all things associated with Austin Park. In 2006, a committee was formed, under the leadership of Town Board Member Ellen Kulik, to examine the feasibility of having APDF take ownership of the Community Center. In anticipation of becoming the owner, APDF has reorganized itself and is now known as PARCS. It has expanded its Board of Directors to recruit a diverse group of people, who are committed to the success of the Community Center.

**Why is ownership of the Community Center by a private, not-for-profit group a good solution?**

We believe that the successful operation of the Community Center, and its capital needs, will require significant fundraising in order to contain and reduce the need for taxpayer support. As a not-for-profit organization, with tax-exempt status granted by the IRS, PARCS will have the ability to conduct successful, sustained fundraising on a broad scale. That model has been used successfully by the YMCA, in facilities all over the country. Typically, YMCA's must conduct successful fundraising in order to supplement operating revenue. Indeed, the Auburn YMCA has been extremely successful in conducting fundraising activities, in addition to its success in operating a first-class recreational facility. We believe that, as the owner of our Community Center, PARCS could achieve that same level of fundraising success.

**Is it reasonable to expect that the Town could successfully conduct fundraising if it were the owner of the facility, or that a not-for-profit organization could do so on its behalf?**

We do not believe so. We think it is unlikely that local residents will make significant voluntary contributions to a facility for which they are already paying taxes. We recognize that the Town has had success in raising funds to fight Milfoil in the lake, but we believe that success would not translate to comparable success in fundraising for the Community Center.

**Should the Town become the owner of the Community Center?**

We think it should not. As an owner, it would be responsible for developing capital reserves and would likely continue to experience significant operating deficits. In the absence of a successful fundraising mechanism, those burdens would fall entirely on the shoulders of taxpayers, and the combined cost of operating deficits and developing capital reserves would be more than taxpayers should be asked to bear. We support the use of Town tax dollars to subsidize operating expenses of the facility, but only to a point.

**If the ownership of the Community Center is passed to PARCS, who should operate the facility?**

It has been proposed that the Town would continue to operate the Community Center, under a lease agreement with PARCS. We support that concept. As the same time, we recognize that many people have expressed concerns about the physical condition of the building, about programming issues, and about the substantial and continuing operating deficit which it generates. Those issues must be dealt with and overcome. If the Town is unable to meet those challenges, we would favor a new arrangement in which PARCS would lease the facility to the Auburn YMCA.

Much work has been done in an effort to complete a transfer of ownership to PARCS and a new lease with the Town. PARCS has reorganized itself and now possess a Board of Directors consisting of very talented and energetic individuals who are anxious to take on the responsibilities of ownership. As elected officials of the Village, we believe that those efforts should now be completed, without further delay.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009 by the Village Board of Trustees.

## SKANEATELES COMMUNITY CENTER

### PUBLIC VS. NON-PROFIT OWNERSHIP

The Village Trustees believe that a non-profit, tax-exempt organization would be the most appropriate owner of the Community Center. The owner will be responsible to provide for costly repairs and maintenance of the building as it ages. Its roof, compressors, pumps and other mechanical equipment will, over time, require substantial and costly repair or replacement. If the building is owned by a municipality, those costs will fall to taxpayers. If the building is owned by a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, which is committed to successful fund raising, that burden can be removed from taxpayers.

This community has seen a long history of successful ownership and fund raising by private, non-profit organizations. Some examples are as follows:

1. ***SAVES Ambulance Service.***

This is private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization which has been extremely successful at both running a complex business and fund raising. For years, they have been successful in raising funds to acquire expensive vehicles and to subsidize their operating revenues. In recent years, they conducted a successful capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of their new building.

2. ***The Skaneateles Historical Society.***

The Historical Society has also been successful in raising funds to support its activities and, recently, to finance the cost of purchasing property and building an addition to the Creamery.

3. ***The Skaneateles Library Association.***

This organization has an active board, which is committed to fund raising to support its mission and which has a history of success. Without that fund raising, the library would not exist.

4. ***The Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.***

This is the membership organization which provides the volunteers who staff the Village Fire Department. It is a private, non-profit, tax exempt corporation. Not only are its members committed to protecting our lives and property, they are also committed to successful fund raising to support their operations. The fire trucks and other vehicles used by the fire department were purchased by this corporation using funds generated by its fund raising activities. The value of those vehicles is in excess of \$700,000 and we would not have some of those vehicles without the successful fund raising of this corporation. Their efforts spared Village and Town taxpayers from purchasing those vehicles.

5. *The Skaneateles Recreational Charitable Trust (SRCT).*

This organization is also a private, non-profit and tax-exempt organization which was created for the purpose of acquiring land and building the Community Center. All of its efforts were undertaken by volunteers who believed in the goal of building the facility and bringing it to reality. It raised over \$9 million and not one dollar of taxpayer money was spent on building the facility. Neither the Village nor Town of Skaneateles could have accomplished that result. It was only made possible because the sponsor was a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose members were committed to a dream and determined to raise the necessary funds.

We believe that the Parks and Recreation Council of Skaneateles, Inc. ("PARCS") whose Board includes many of the people who were involved in the development of the Community Center will be both a good owner of the facility and a successful fund raiser. Their success will relieve Village and Town tax payers of a significant burden.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Bob Green  
Trustee Sue Jones  
Trustee Marc Angelillo  
Trustee Kathryn Carlson  
Trustee Tim Lynn

Dated: August 15, 2009