

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2020

7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Hubbard, Trustees Eriksen, Sennett, and Zapata, Village Attorney Pavlus, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Brown, Project Coordinator Perkins, SVFD President Lynn, DPW Assistant Williams, SVFD Chief Buehler, SPD Chief Heggelke

EXCUSED: Trustee Stokes-Cawley

Others:

Janet Aaron	Town Supervisor
Courtney Alexander	Town Councilor
Gordon Carlson	Skaneateles, NY
Bob Frank	Skaneateles, NY
Doreen Simmons	Hancock Estabrook, LLP

Minutes – **Resolution #2020-188:** On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2020, as presented.

Correspondence & Announcements – Trustee Sennett noted the following:

- Receipt of Glens Falls National Bank LOSAP Statement for July 2020.
- Receipt of NYCOM News Release relative to an August 13, 2020 press conference to discuss need for urgent federal action to support NY municipalities impacted by the VOVID-19 pandemic.
- Receipt of NYS Dept. of Public Service Notice of Guidance Relating to the COVID-19 Utility Moratorium on Terminations and Disconnections.
- Receipt of Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency letter regarding their Uniform Tax Exemption Policy.
- Receipt of notification from the Town of Skaneateles that they received an application for a Major Subdivision from ALABAR LLC and Chris Graham, located on County Line Road, Tax Map #018.-2-29.1.
- Receipt of email from the NYS Association of City & Village Clerks – Election Bill Introduced in Albany.
- Receipt of NYCOM Advocacy Update of August 19, 2020.
- Receipt of NYSDOT letter regarding CHIPS reimbursement on September 30, 2020.
- Receipt of NYS Governor Cuomo’s letter and accompanying NYS Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Resources & Guide for Public Officials and Citizens.

Old Business

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

Water Main Project – Mr. Perkins updated the Board on the status of the project. All curbs are in on the South end, and the gutters are in on the East side. Next week they will be working on the sidewalks and gutters on the West side. He said that there is some minor grading that needs to be done, then paving will start. The last thing to be done will be the top soil. He commented that there will be some exploratory work tomorrow on Onondaga Street to locate a problem there. Mayor Hubbard complimented Mr. Perkins on doing such a great job and thanked him on behalf of the Village for helping the project to move smoothly. Mr. Perkins commented that East Lake Street should be done no later than the end of September. The meter pit vault work will continue on until after Labor Day. Mayor Hubbard asked how the residents have been, and Mr. Perkins said that they have been wonderful, and Villager has bent over backwards to accommodate everyone.

New Business

Mayor Hubbard's Execution of Riccelli Northern's Proposal – Mayor Hubbard said that all Trustees have a copy of the proposal and asked Mr. Williams to elaborate on it. Mr. Williams said that the paving will be an extension of the work that was done on Fennell Street last year. He said that the curbs on one side are sinking and the other side needs to be milled. Mr. Williams commented that Highland Street is a priority right now because new curbing is going in and new catch basins have been installed. He said that Highland Street will be paved first, then Hannum Street, and last will be Fennell Street. Mr. Williams mentioned a sunk in area on Onondaga Street where the water is not making it to the catch basins, so milling will be done to correct the pooling water. Mayor Hubbard said that the proposal is through the Onondaga County Contract, so it entitles the Village to use their price for the milling and hot mix. He said that the funds will come from Village Improvement Project funds, and it has been budgeted. Mr. Williams noted that it is a possibility that the CHIPs funds will be decreased by about 20% this year due to Covid-19, and the Village may receive the check later than usual. Mayor Hubbard stated that the Village is in good financial standing. **Resolution #2020-189:** On the motion of Trustee Eriksen, seconded by Trustee Zapata, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Hubbard to sign the proposal received from Riccelli Northern for the 2020 paving project.

Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department Presentation – Exhibit “A”, the SVFD Presentation, is attached. President Lynn acknowledged that the proposal has been passed through the SVFD for approval. He stated that purchasing 71 W Genesee Street will increase safety and response times. He said that it will also help to attract and retain members, as training new members takes a lot of time and money. President Lynn said that the owner of the property is interested in a deal with the SVFD. He commented that with the property being adjacent to the SVFD, members residing there will be required to respond to calls during specific times, and they will be required to participate in other activities, such as trainings. He mentioned that a lot of other departments have started paying members, but that can be a tax burden on residents, and our tax rate has stayed fairly low. President Lynn said that the SVFD has been self sufficient as much as possible, but they will need the support of the Village and Town to move forward with this purchase. Chief Buehler continued the presentation. He stated that when there is a call, dispatchers start a 5-minute timer, and it can be very difficult to get guys to the SVFD through the Village. He said that if they can have members right next to the department, they would be able to get a truck out within 3-4 minutes, and then the second truck can be out with the arrival of the other guys. Chief Buehler stated that a fire doubles every 30 seconds, but they don't just fight fires, they also respond to medical calls, and they are the only water rescue for 3 counties which includes Onondaga, Cayuga, and Cortland. Chief Buehler said that the number of available members is low. He stated that they have 5 age restricted members, age 14-20, who are not able to do much. The SVFD has 3 members ages 20-29, 6 members ages 30-39, 12 members ages 40-49, 11 members ages 50-59, 8 members ages 60-69, 7 members ages 70-79, and 3 members ages 80-89. Chief Buehler said that the members from ages 60-89 are the ones usually available during the day. He stated that purchasing 71 W Genesee Street would be a win-win situation for the fire department. Mayor Hubbard complimented the SVFD for a great proposal. Trustee Zapata said that she has had time to think about the proposal ahead of time, and she has spent quite some time with the SVFD, and she reminded everyone that these are the people who keep us safe. Trustee Zapata read aloud the attached proposal, which Mayor Hubbard noted was a motion, which was then seconded by Trustee Sennett and then unanimously adopted, Exhibit “B”, **Resolution #2020-190**. Trustee Sennett mentioned a letter received about rotary ribbons. Mayor Hubbard asked if the SVFD was okay with the suggestion, and President Lynn replied yes, and he said that it is a great idea and they have agreed to it. Trustee Zapata stated that the rotary would be responsible for putting the ribbons up and taking them down. Mayor Hubbard stated that the ribbons would be up from September 2nd to the 12th. **Resolution #2020-191** – On the Motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to support the Rotary plan for a ribbon fundraiser for recognizing

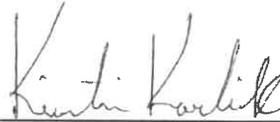
our fire department, and they will be responsible for putting up and removing the ribbons from September 2nd to September 12th.

Approval of Bills – Resolution #2020-192: On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Zapata, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #7 be audited and paid as follows:

General Fund	Vouchers #1344-1376	Checks #23465-23497	\$17,372.95
Sewer Fund	Vouchers #166-173	Checks #6394-6401	\$7,359.04
Electric Fund	Vouchers #359-373	Checks #7285-7299	\$124,702.60
Water Fund	Vouchers #171-175	Checks #4767-4771	\$6,197.66
Capital Project	Vouchers #90	Checks #1093	\$5,740.00

Executive Session – Personnel matter. **Resolution #2020-193:** On the motion of Trustee Eriksen, seconded by Trustee Zapata, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to move into executive session at 7:54 pm. **Resolution #2020-194:** On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Zapata, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to move out of executive session at 8:15 pm.

Adjournment - Resolution #2020-195: On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.



Kierstin Karlik, Deputy Clerk-Treasure

Exhibit "A"

Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department Presentation

Organized in 1833

Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

77 West Genesee Street

Skaneateles, New York 13152

Phone: 315-685-3496 Fax: 315-685-3480

Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department Residential Action Committee – Proposal to Purchase 71 West Genesee Street as Firefighter Residence

Since 1833 the SVFD has been a 100% Volunteer Fire Department. We pride ourselves in our volunteerism, and we make great efforts to serve this community while maintaining the lowest fire tax rate in Onondaga County.

We respond to approximately 365 emergencies a year, which include fires, motor vehicle accidents, water rescues, hunting injuries, medical emergencies, storm response, special events, call investigations and residential water emergencies.

Our volunteers have contributed 67,745 officially recorded hours in service of the community since 2015. We are ready and willing to serve the community at any time that our presence is requested.

Proposal:

We request that the Village and Town purchase 71 West Genesee Street as a firefighter residence.

Benefits:

1. The residence will cut emergency response time in half. It will attract and retain younger members, while allowing us to maintain a high-quality volunteer service to the community.

2. SVFD Recruitment and Retention

- We are struggling to retain members. Recruiting and training is very costly and the loss of members to communities with more affordable housing is devastating to our ranks. We have lost several young members (many in their 20s) after investing time in training and purchasing costly equipment.
- Recruitment and membership retention is an increasing problem. We have had to form a membership committee (RAC), which takes time and focus away from training.
- We have been discussing 71 West Genesee residence since 2016.
- The RAC Committee has looked into other options – paid members/renting apartments/volunteer incentives, but do not feel that these are viable options with long term benefits.
- Our research indicates that a paid fire department would cost the community millions of dollars a year in salaries, benefits and equipment.
- We have studied other department's programs and feel this is the best option for us.
- We are confident the firefighter residence program will be successful. We have members ready to move in.
- The location of the house provides a unique housing opportunity.
- The attractive downtown location is an important feature to attract young volunteers.

3. SVFD Life, Safety and Response Time

- Call response – the two most important components:
 - i. Response time – need to be out of the fire house in an apparatus within 5 minutes.

- ii. The number of qualified firefighters that are responding.
- We believe we could reduce the response time in half with qualified members responding to calls. Fire is known to double every 30 seconds so every second counts. For medical calls, a patient in cardiac arrest every minute of delay reduces chances of survival by 10%.
- When faced with storm, governmental emergencies and seasonal events, we have no bunk rooms, sleeping or shower facilities at the firehouse.
- Our members are dedicated to the SVFD
 - i. More than half of our members are over age 50 with many in their 60s, 70s and 80s. We service an area of approximately 35 miles which is divided geographically by the lake. Almost all members are required to respond to the firehouse for an emergency call which creates issues with seasonal weather and traffic.

Exhibit "B"

Resolution #2020-190

Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department Resolution

**RESOLUTION
OF THE VILLAGE TRUSTEES
OF THE
VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES**

WHEREAS, since 1833 the Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department (“SVFD”) has been a 100% Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD prides itself on its volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD makes great efforts to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD has maintained the lowest fire tax rate in Onondaga County since 1980; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD responds to approximately 365 emergencies a year, which include fires, motor vehicle accidents, water rescues, hunting injuries, medical emergencies, storm response, special events, call investigations, and residential water emergencies; and

WHEREAS, SVFD volunteers have contributed 67,745 officially recorded hours in service of the community since 2015; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD is ready and willing to serve the community at any time that their presence is requested; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD serves an area of approximately 35 miles, which is divided geographically by Skaneateles lake; and

WHEREAS, almost all SVFD members are required to respond to the firehouse for an emergency call, which creates issues with seasonal weather and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD is struggling to retain members; and

WHEREAS, more than half of SVFD members are over age 50, with many in their 60s, 70s and 80s; and

WHEREAS, recruiting and training members is very costly and the loss of members to communities with more affordable housing is devastating to SVFD's ranks; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD has lost several young members (many in their 20s) after investing time in training and purchasing costly equipment due to unaffordable housing options for young members; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD has formed a Residential Action Committee ("RAC") to investigate recruitment and retention of SVFD members; and

WHEREAS, the RAC has reviewed numerous recruitment and retention options, including paid members, renting apartments and volunteer incentives, but does not feel that these are viable options with long term benefits; and

WHEREAS, RAC research indicates that a paid fire department would cost the community millions of dollars a year in salaries, benefits and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the RAC has studied other fire department programs and concluded that obtaining the 71 West Genesee Street property adjacent to the current firehouse is the best option for recruitment and retention of members; and

WHEREAS, the 71 West Genesee Street location provides a unique housing opportunity next to the firehouse, with an attractive downtown location, which is an important feature to attract young volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD and RAC are confident that a firefighter residence program at 71 West Genesee Street will be successful; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD has members ready to move in to such a residence; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD needs to be out of the firehouse in an apparatus within 5 minutes of an emergency call; and

WHEREAS, fire is known to double every 30 seconds, so every second counts; and

WHEREAS, for a patient in cardiac arrest, every minute of delay reduces chances of survival by 10%; and

WHEREAS, the SVFD believes a firefighter residence at 71 West Genesee Street could reduce call response time by half, with qualified members responding to calls; and

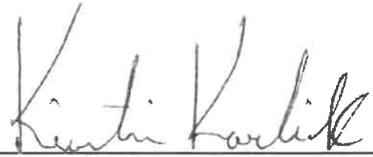
WHEREAS, when the SVFD is faced with storms, governmental emergencies and seasonal events, there are no bunk rooms, sleeping, or shower facilities at the firehouse; and

WHEREAS, a firefighter residence at 71 West Genesee Street will attract and retain younger members, while allowing the SVFD to maintain a high-quality and cost-effective volunteer service to the community; now therefore it is

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees is in favor of obtaining the 71 West Genesee Street property for purposes of a firefighter residence.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted this 27th day of August, 2020.

Resolution #2020-190 was moved by Trustee Zapata, seconded by Trustee Sennett, and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor).



Kierstin Karlik, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer