

**REGULAR MEETING, VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

Present Mayor Bob Green, Trustees Marty Hubbard, Sue Jones, and Tim Lynn, Police Chief Lloyd Perkins, CEO Jorge Batlle, Attorney Mike Byrne, Village Historian Pat Blackler

Absent Trustee Marc Angelillo

<u>Others</u>	Ellen Leahy	Skaneateles PRESS
<u>Present</u>	Nathan Baker	Skaneateles JOURNAL
	Cliff Abrams	37 State Street
	Fred Squires Jr.	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Mark Buehler	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Christine Renfro Buff	928 Old Seneca Tpke.
	Brandon Forgham	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Dick Bendall	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Ray Lessaongang	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Stephen Bryant	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Tory Blum	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Kelsey Furth	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Mike Drake	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Gene Russell	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Patrick Gannon	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Randy Clarry	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Brian Buff	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Clint Woodford	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Dana Pickering	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Scott Short	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Charles Wallace	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Fred Dobrosky	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Greg Surbeck	East Lake Road
	W. Stuart Evans	47 Onondaga Street
	Donlinda Barron	47 West Elizabeth Street
	James Buff	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Robert Longway	3562 County Line Road
	David Short	3819 E. Gen. St., Auburn
	Lorraine Gleason	1801 Benson Road
	Tammy Dudden	Skaneateles Fire Department
	Eric Sell	SFD Chief
	David Blackwell	80 West Lake Street
	Doug Clark	24 West Lake Street

Minutes – **Resolution #2010-111:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Lynn, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 28, 2010 as presented.

Bills - **Resolution #2010-112:** On the motion of Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Jones, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #3 be audited and paid as follows:

General Fund	Vouchers	109 - 148	Checks	12102 - 12141	\$43,334.15
Sewer Fund	Vouchers	29 - 40	Checks	3578 - 3589	\$ 5,467.94
Water Fund	Vouchers	25 - 27	Checks	3003 - 3005	\$ 1,897.79
Electric Utility Fund	Vouchers	35 - 45	Checks	4143 - 4153	\$75,018.35

It was further resolved to authorize payment of \$44,971.29 to James V. Spano from the Parking Trust Fund CM24 (T&A #51219) for the sidewalk replacement/improvement project.

Correspondence & Announcements – Mayor Green announced the following:

- Cornell University Cooperative Extension Well and Drinking Water Workshop on Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at the Skaneateles United Methodist Church from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Mayor Green indicated that he cannot attend; Trustees wanting to attend should let Clerk Couch know.

Statement on Dispatch – After Mayor Green read a shortened version of the Statement on Dispatch that's anticipated to be published in this week's edition of the Skaneateles JOURNAL and Skaneateles PRESS, he opened the floor to comments.

(Insert Statement Regarding Village Trustees Response to Loss of Sales Tax Revenue)

SFD Chief Eric Sell referenced a letter from the Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department that noted closing the Skaneateles Communications Center was studied before by at least three separate groups in the last 19 years. The findings that were turned over to the Village indicated a need and want to keep the center open. Chief Sell said that closing Dispatch is more than just about the money – it's about safety. A price tag can't be put on life. He recognized the tough economic times, but encouraged the Board to reconsider the decision about the Communications Center and to consolidate in other areas. Bob Longway, Laker Transportation Project President, read a prepared statement noting that their clients benefit on a personal basis by using Dispatch and that the benefit to the community outweighs all political considerations. He said they are willing to support Dispatch - without the service it would be very inconvenient and add to the expense of their publicly supported and financed volunteer organization. Dave Short, CSEA President and DPW Public Works Maintenance Worker, said it would be a shame to shut the Dispatch down completely and suggested keeping some level of service. Public Service Dispatch Aide Lorraine Gleason recognized that Dispatchers have worked long and hard to service the community and she thinks it would be sad to see it go. She noted that even Trustee Hubbard called a couple of times recently – people know that someone is there 24/7. While she doesn't want to see Dispatch closed, she encouraged the Board to offer the Early Retirement Incentive offered by the State Retirement System to all eligible Village employees. Cliff Abrams stated that he is opposed to the change and is willing to pay the extra \$0.73 per thousand. The Dispatchers offer quick, accurate information and if the Village wants to save money we don't need two police cars. In response to Dave Blackwell asking about the savings, Mayor Green said the \$340,000 to operate Dispatch is a shared expense with the Town of Skaneateles – the FYE '11 Village budget includes \$170,000 for Dispatch operations. Mr. Blackwell said the prior study concluded that Dispatch was a model, for perhaps the Nation, and offers a unique, useful function for the Village. After Mayor Green answered that he does recall the study, Mr. Blackwell asked the Trustees how they feel. Trustee Jones said she supports the Dispatch, but closing the communications center is inevitable because of the loss of sales tax. She said she can't recommend anything else. Personally she is not willing to pay extra taxes to keep Dispatch open and, therefore, cannot ask others to do so. Trustee Lynn said there is no way to fill the \$300,000 sales tax hole and the Board will look at all the departments – there is no easy solution. Closing Dispatch is obvious with the ready made substitution with 911. Mr. Blackwell cautioned that once you "dump it you'll never get it back". He added that the Dispatchers are knowledgeable and extremely helpful. Trustee Lynn said he attended the Legislature's meetings and tried to stop the cut in sales tax revenue from happening, but there just wasn't a big enough push. Trustee Hubbard said he is in agreement with Mayor Green's statement. Chief Sell cautioned that there are certain "dead spots" in areas served by the Fire Department and that they can't communicate with Cayuga County. He referenced the interior of an unspecified building(s) saying that the new Onondaga County Interoperable Emergency Radio System (OCICS) is not effective in those areas. Mayor Green said they will take another look, but when he and Town Supervisor Roney went around the lake they didn't find any dead spots. In response to Ellen Leahy, Mayor Green responded that we need to take a comprehensive look to determine how much it will cost to close Dispatch, but logistics won't be looked at first. Atty. Byrne addressed Ms. Leahy's question about putting the decision to a public vote saying that the decision to scale back or eliminate an existing municipal service is not subject to either a mandatory or a permissive referendum. He said under NYS Village Law, certain Village Board decisions are subject to a mandatory referendum and certain decisions are subject to a permissive referendum (i.e. the recent bonding resolution for the West Lake Street improvements). Atty. Byrne said the most clearly stated Opinion of the State Comptroller is "a referendum which is not specifically required or permitted by statute is illegal". Ms. Leahy asked for an example for a mandatory referendum. Atty. Byrne said off

the top of his head he couldn't give a good example so offered to research it. In response to Ms. Leahy asking if the Town of Skaneateles is going to do the same, Mayor Green said they have met with the Town, but that he can't speak for them. The Village plans to close Dispatch by the end of the year; the Town could decide to keep it.

Police/Dispatch Activity Report – Chief Perkins noted that the report was emailed and indicated that he had no further report.

WWTP June Report – Inasmuch as Trustee Angelillo was absent and the WWTP June Report has not yet been received, this item will be included on the July 26 agenda.

AMR and UV Status Reports – Given that DMO Lotkowitz is on vacation, these items will also be included on the July 26 agenda.

Status of Damaged POM Parking Meters – Chief Perkins noted that Atty. Byrne sent a letter to the company and that we'll have to work out the logistics of changing out the meters. Atty. Byrne said we are asking for the fourth installation and are requiring POM Incorporated to either arrange for the removal of the existing meters and the installation of the replacement meters or that they reimburse the Village for its cost of having its employees install the replacement meters. Chief Perkins advised that the five new meters in front of the Old Stone Mill weren't addressed, but are also corroding so should be included. Atty. Byrne agreed to get back to Chief Perkins regarding those meters. Mayor Green concluded that we are waiting for POM to choose if they will do the work or pay for us to do the installations. So that we can provide POM with an approximate cost, Chief Perkins agreed to estimate the number of required man hours and the cost of doing the work ourselves by looking at the number of hours we invested last year. Chief Perkins confirmed that there isn't any corrosion to the aluminum, only the meter heads and boxes.

Follow-up on Tom Rhoads Note Regarding Fire Horn – Trustee Jones said she will report on this at the next meeting.

Authorize Publication of a Notice of the Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2010 - Cold War Exemption – Mayor Green said the Cold War Exemption would be 15% of the assessed value of the property up to a maximum of \$36,000. Additionally, a Cold War Veteran receiving a service-related disability will be entitled to an additional exemption equal to the assessed value of his/her property, multiplied by 50% of his/her disability rating, up to a maximum of \$120,000. Mayor Green said the Town of Skaneateles and County of Onondaga offer the same exemption that is limited to a 10-year period. **Resolution #2010-113:** On the motion of Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Jones, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to authorize publication of a Notice to hold a public hearing at the Regular Meeting of Monday, August 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to consider Local Law #3 of 2010 to create Article VII of Chapter 195 of the Village Code, entitled "Exemption for Cold War Veterans". In discussing the motion, Trustee Hubbard indicated that he wants the dollar value quantified.

Authorize Publication of a Notice of the Public Hearing on Local Law #4 of 2010 – Early Retirement – Mayor Green explained that the local law will authorize all eligible Village employees, except Police and Fire, to take advantage of the early retirement options Part A and Part B. The purpose of the legislation is not merely payroll reduction, but it is intended to reduce the public work force. Under Part A participating employers are required to demonstrate, over a two year period, savings of at least one-half of the base salary of those employees who elect to receive the retirement incentive. **Resolution #2010-114:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to authorize publication of a Notice to hold a public hearing at the Regular Meeting of Monday, August 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. to consider Local Law #4 of 2010 to Elect a Retirement Incentive Program as authorized by Chapter 105, Laws of 2010 of the State of New York, for eligible employees of the Village of Skaneateles.

Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre – Mayor Green said the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre is offering a free performance (made available through a generous donation by Wegmans) of their summer tour, Alice in Wonderland, in Clift Park on August 3, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. with the Skaneateles Library designated as an alternate rain location. **Resolution #2010-115:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee

Hubbard, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Green to sign the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse Touring Contract. In discussing the motion, Trustee Jones commented that these are excellent productions.

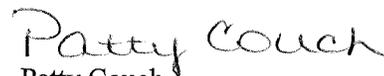
Onondaga County Intermunicipal Agreements for the Disposal of Surplus Property – Mayor Green explained that the contract between the County and the Village would enable the Village to participate in the County’s on-line auction of surplus equipment. The County established a fee equal to 5% of the sale price of each item, with a cap of \$250 per item, for all auctions beginning on or after July 1, 2010. Mayor Green noted that the contract is up to five years. In response to Trustee Hubbard, Atty. Byrne said items could still be sent to Teitsworth, for example – the contract doesn’t limit participation to other auctions. Noting that this keeps options open, **Resolution #2010-116** was motioned by Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, resolving and unanimously carrying (4-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Green to sign the Agreement with Onondaga County for the Disposal of Surplus Property.

Acknowledge Receipt of Treasurer’s Reports for June 2010 – **Resolution #2010-117**: On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer’s Reports for June 2010.

Village Historian – Village Historian Pat Blackler reported that the \$75,000 that was announced 2½ years ago for the Creamery expansion was received from Senator DeFrancisco’s office. Although final results are not in yet, the recent House & Garden Tour fundraising event (in conjunction with the Garden Club) was deemed a success. Historian Blackler said that Trustee Hubbard previously inquired when the Village went from having a President to a Mayor, so she did some research. The change occurred during Samuel Kane’s term in 1927 with an additional change from a one-year term of office to a two-year term. Back then when a President or Mayor died in office, each of the Trustees had to take a turn serving as Mayor.

Executive Session – **Resolution #2010-118**: On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to enter into an Executive Session for a Client/Attorney discussion at 7:40 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 8:10 p.m. and the meeting adjourned.


Patty Couch
Village Clerk

Everyone is aware that the village will suffer a substantial loss of county sales tax revenue. That revenue loss will be approximately \$300,000 and it will impact us as of the first of January during the second half of our current fiscal year.

I personally fought hard in an effort to retain our previous share of sales tax revenue but was unsuccessful. The consequences of such a severe revenue loss will be very significant.

In order to replace that revenue, the Trustees would have to raise property taxes by 21% which would equal about .73 per thousand of assessed value, the equivalent of \$220 on an assessed value of 300,000 home.

I believe we must solve this problem not by raising taxes but by reducing expenses.

After much study, I have concluded the first painful step in the process, we should eliminate our emergency and non emergency dispatch service and do so by the end of the calendar year. **We can no longer afford the luxury of operating an independent dispatch facility.** My reasoning stems from the fact that Onondaga County provides emergency dispatch services for police, fire, and ambulance calls for every community in the county at a state of the art facility that all of us as county tax payers support. **The total contribution of local tax dollars to the 911 center from the Village and town taxpayers are \$748,000. That coupled with the cost of our local dispatch office, residents are paying approximately 1.1 million dollars for dispatch services. Not to mention the 34 million dollar investment in the new interoperable radio system. It is time to consolidate these services.**

This is the first step. Going forward we will be forced to make more cuts in order to offset the revenue loss. We will take a hard look at every department. We will consider ways in which services can be consolidated, scaled back or eliminated. **No department or individual will be exempt from this examination.**

I realize that some private organizations who provide much needed services in the community will be inconvenienced. I regret that, but it's time we look at other options available to us that will not burden taxpayers.

I want to express my appreciation to County Legislative Chairman Jim Rhinehart and County Executive Joanie Mahoney for their willingness to support legislation offering employment to our four full time dispatchers. The County government is supportive of consolidating our emergency dispatch service into the 911 center by providing the opportunity for any of our four full time dispatchers to transfer to the 911 center.

Another helpful development is an early retirement incentive adopted recently by NYS. I have determined that three of our four full time dispatchers would be eligible for this incentive if the Trustees choose to adopt the incentive plan. The purpose of this incentive is the elimination of positions and the village will need to demonstrate to NYS at least a 50% reduction in costs for the next two years.

I have asked our department heads to put together a comprehensive plan to close dispatch and transfer emergency functions to the County and do so by the end of the calendar year.

At a future meeting I will be asking the trustees to pass a resolution for the complete closure of the dispatch office.