

**REGULAR MEETING, VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Bob Green, Trustees Marc Angelillo, Marty Hubbard, Sue Jones, and Tim Lynn, Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Jorge Batlle, Director of Municipal Operations (DMO) Bob Lotkowitz, Police Sergeant Marty Stevens, SFD Chief Eric Sell, Village Historian Pat Blackler, Village Attorney Mike Byrne

OTHERS	Nathan Baker	Skaneateles JOURNAL (Auburn CITIZEN)
PRESENT:	*Ellen Leahy	Skaneateles PRESS
	Cliff Abrams	37 State Street
	Alan & Linda Dolmatch	52 Academy Street
	Dave Blackwell	80 West Lake Street
	Greg Surbeck	Skaneateles Dispatcher

Minutes – Resolution #2010-119: On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 12 and Operational Meeting July 17, 2010.

Bills – Resolution #2010-120: On the motion of Trustee Angelillo, seconded by Trustee Lynn, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #4 be audited and paid as follows:

General Fund	Vouchers #149 - 197	Checks 12142 - 12190	\$ 70,232.83
Sewer Fund	Vouchers # 41 - 54	Checks 3590 - 3603	\$ 11,818.23
Water Fund	Vouchers # 28 - 34	Checks 3006 - 3012	\$ 2,621.73
Electric Utility Fund	Vouchers # 46 - 62	Checks 4154 - 4171	\$ 123,976.21

It was further resolved to authorize payment of \$8,022.26 from the Parkside Escrow (CM 22) to CHA (T&A #51325) and payment of \$22,428.42 (*pending completion of M&T Bank restoration) from the Parking Trust Fund (CM 24) to James V. Spano Inc.

Correspondence & Announcements

Mayor Green announced the following:

- The Skaneateles Music Guild's 32nd Annual Syracuse Symphony Orchestra Summer Concert on Wednesday, July 28, 7 p.m. at the Austin Park Pavilion
- Onondaga County Legislature's Special Meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee on Thursday, August 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Legislature's Chambers
- Verizon's Channel Changes to their FIOS-TV Lineup
- NYSDOT & SMTC Free Designing for Pedestrian Safety Workshop Aug. 19 & 20 at the SUNY Oswego Metro Center
- Letter from Skaneateles Citizens Against the Siren (SCAS)
- City of Auburn Notification of Increase in Disposal Rates that Mayor Green reviewed and determined the new rates are the same as we are currently paying.
- A letter and Certificate of Appreciation from Tobacco Control Partners of Onondaga County for the Village's efforts in working toward tobacco control in Onondaga County.
- Liberty Mutual's Group Savings Plus Program that offers employees access to low group rates on Liberty Mutual auto, home, and selected other insurance products with no cost to the Village. Employees interested can schedule individual meetings with Liberty Mutual who will analyze their current insurance to determine if they could possibly save 10% on auto and 10% on home insurance. Liberty Mutual also offers the Defensive Driving Course for \$22 per person compared to \$40 per person which the Village has most currently reimbursed employees for the course.

WWTP June Report - Trustee Angelillo reported for June 2010 – flow average was 528,000 gpd which equals the 12-month rolling average flow, precipitation was high, BOD removals were 97% and suspended solids' removals were 97%. The facility met requirements of its permit and no violations were reported.

AMR Status Report – DMO Lotkowitz reported that Williamson Law Book completed their tasks, the billing interface is working 100%, he is continuing working with Sensus to resolve the “dead” and demand meter issues, and installation of the additional 300 electric meters received has commenced. DMO Lotkowitz explained that no meters were installed in June as the Light and Water crews were working on other projects (i.e. Parkside, WLS reconstruction, etc.), but water/electric meter installations will continue. He noted that relocation of the router will be done at a later date – he is coordinating that with other work. DMO Lotkowitz said he'd like to clarify an issue that keeps coming up at the Municipal Board. We are moving forward as Phase 1 locations are done and requirements of Phase 1 have been met. In response to Trustee Angelillo, DMO Lotkowitz said the 21 dead meters were returned and we should receive a credit.

Status of UV – DMO Lotkowitz said a “Chartering Meeting” was held on June 30th to set-up the lines of communication and to discuss other items to look at. The first deliverable – Equipment Purchase Documents – is due in August. DMO Lotkowitz said he and Mayor Green met with the former Chairman of the EFC to try and get funding and they have all our information. Major activities for next period are to schedule a factory visit to Trojan Industries and a design workshop. The UV Project remains on schedule. Mayor Green reported that he advised Kevin Castro (Stearns & Wheeler) that Plumley Engineering will be contacting him regarding the Town's reservoir that may be able to be eliminated.

PSC Stray Voltage – Relative to the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) Order Requiring Additional Mobile Stray Voltage Testing received July 23rd, DMO Lotkowitz explained that we currently, on an annual basis as mandated by the PSC, manually monitor anything that could be electrified. We aren't affected by this order, but have to continue the testing and we have a new tester that lights with potential stray voltage. Mayor Green recalled that this mandate was a result of a death a few years ago. Atty. Byrne concluded that the Village was copied on the order, but it doesn't apply to us. *Ellen Leahy arrived.

Status of West Lake Street Reconstruction – DMO Lotkowitz reported that the work on WLS was completed today and the project is moving along on schedule. Atty. Byrne noted that a couple of complaints were received this morning about the excessive noise from the work on the Weitsman property. In response to Mayor Green, CEO Batlle said the Weitsman permit did have a length of time, but he all ready came back in to extend the permit and it was approved. CEO Batlle added that work hours were agreed to but weren't a condition of the permit.

Codes Enforcement – CEO Batlle reported the following:

- As is NYS mandated, he will attend the 2010 Code Update seminar on Aug. 17 at the Clay Fire House from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- A complaint of grass not being cut on West Elizabeth Street. CEO Batlle said he talked to the property owner and the complainant and thinks the matter will be resolved.
- Five new houses are under construction
- The Planning Board will address Phase 3 of the Parkside sub-division next. CEO Batlle said he doesn't know what the holdup is with black topping the road off of Fennell Street. Construction equipment (for house construction) is going in off Orchard Road until the binder coat is down. In response to Trustee Jones, CEO Batlle said we have been shaking someone to get this moving, but there is no shaking Dr. Elstein. It was a condition of the Planning Board to use the new road by June 30, but Dr. Elstein said no and it is private property. CEO Batlle suggested letting it ride for now.
- The ZBA will render a decision on the controversial Lantier project at their meeting tomorrow night.
- CEO Batlle photographed all the sidewalks around M&T Bank – the photo CD will be stored in the vault.

- The number of Building Permits is 50% ahead of the number from this time last year

Status of Damaged POM Parking Meters – Mayor Green recognized POM’s letter thanking the Village for its patience and willingness to allow POM to once again provide new parking meter housings to the Village. Atty. Byrne said the July 19 letter doesn’t respond to labor cost – POM will get quotes on labor to switch out the housings and asked Chief Perkins to advise what the labor reimbursement would be for village employees to switch out the housings. Atty. Byrne said Chief Perkins asked DPW Foreman Perkins for the number of hours it took our crews to install the meters last time. After POM receives that information, a determination will be made as to who will do the installations. There wasn’t a response to the retroactive previous installation by the Village, but we will provide Technical Sales Manager Bobra Wilbanks that number times two. Atty. Byrne noted that POM is committed to shipping within the next couple of months and we’d want them after Labor Day.

Follow-up on Tom Rhoads Note Regarding Fire Horn – Trustee Jones said she talked to SFD Chief Sell who reported that the County is willing to provide a fire siren control panel to regulate the number of cycles the siren sounds for each call. Chief Sell said they are thinking of one cycle for EMS and three to six for structure fires or accidents. He added that he anticipates receiving the fire siren control panel within the next couple of weeks – by the end of August at the latest. Trustee Jones expressed her thanks to Chief Sell and the Fire Department for being so amenable and helpful in working with us and for being so responsive to residents’ concerns/complaints. In response to Cliff Abrams, the County is donating the fire siren control panel and the individual communities will maintain them. Mayor Green noted that we’ll be limiting the number of times the siren cycles, not eliminating the siren.

Status of Renewal of the TCC’s for Electric – Mayor Green noted that because of the July 20th deadline, he secured a majority of the Board’s approval (by E-mail) to purchase the TCCs. Subsequently, a check in the amount of \$10,326.60 (25% of the total) was cut and hand-delivered to Tony Modaferrri at NYMPA. DMO Lotkowitz noted that Curt Wilson’s (Wilson & Wilson, LLC) Analysis of the Village’s participation in NYMPA’s TCC purchase program suggested staying with the program - what we spend for the program we’d spend anyway and this limits cost. DMO Lotkowitz said that the NYMPA program worked well during the first year period and did a bit better than break-even (± 100). DMO Lotkowitz said the program started in October last year, so we don’t have a long history but Mr. Wilson concluded that the Village is purchasing the appropriate level of TCC’s (4MW). He further noted that the current price is fixed for ten years. In response to Dave Blackwell and Trustee Lynn, DMO Lotkowitz said we are protected and the program is managed as one system.

Mackensie Hughes Letter of Engagement – Mayor Green reported that the Board met with Jeff Brown last Saturday at an Operational Meeting. Mr. Brown, an attorney with Mackensie Hughes, is a grant writer who has written grant proposals for several municipalities that have been successful in being awarded grant money. There is no cost unless a grant is awarded and then the cost is 10% of the amount awarded. Mayor Green said the Village’s top priority is the UV Disinfection project and Mr. Brown wrote a successful UV Disinfection project grant proposal for Jordan-Elbridge. Additionally, he wrote the Safe Street grant proposal for the Village of Fayetteville and they received \$400,000 – the Village of Skaneateles didn’t receive any grant money for the same program. Mayor Green suggested that there may also be money available to off-set expenses to close Dispatch through the Local Efficiency Grant, especially considering that the Village, Town, school, and County will be involved. **Resolution #2010-121:** On the motion of Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Jones, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Green to sign the Mackensie Hughes Letter of Engagement.

Glens Falls National Bank (GFNB) Account Summary for June – Attorney Byrne commented that there is no good rate of return currently, but that he has a good comfort level with GFNB. They are on top of things and keep us well informed. **Resolution #2010-122:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Angelillo, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to acknowledge receipt of the GFNB Fire Department Length of Service Award Program Account Summary for June, 2010.

Resolution Authorizing Closure of Dispatch and Communications Office – Subsequent to noting that he read a statement at the meeting of July 12, Mayor Green moved **Resolution #2010-123** as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village will suffer a loss of approximately \$300,000 in sales tax revenue as the result of a recent decision by the Onondaga County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the impact of that loss will begin to be felt in January 2011, during the middle of the Village's current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Village begin to reduce its operating costs in an effort to address the revenue loss. Now, therefore, it is

RESOLVED, that as a first step in reducing operating costs, the dispatch and communications office will be closed on a date to be determined, but not later than December 31, 2010; and it is further

RESOLVED, that all emergency dispatching functions for the Fire and Police Departments will be transferred to the Onondaga County 911 Emergency Communications Center; and it is further

RESOLVED, that all non-emergency service organizations, will be transferred to other providers; and it is further

RESOLVED, that all remote alarm monitoring services now provided by the dispatch and communications office will be transferred to other providers; and it is further

RESOLVED, that all necessary and appropriate steps shall be taken to insure a smooth and orderly transition of emergency and non-emergency communications services by December 31, 2010.

Mayor Green added the recommendation to form a transition committee composed of Police Chief Perkins (Chair), SFD Chief Sell, DMO Lotkowitz, a member of S.A.V.E.S., and the directors of the Onondaga and Cayuga County 911 centers. Resolution #2010-123 was seconded by Trustee Jones, and unanimously carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.

Resolution on Bond Counsel – Resolution #2010-124: On the motion of Trustee Angelillo, seconded by Trustee Lynn, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to engage William Marquardt, Esq., of the firm of Trespasz & Marquardt, LLP, as bond counsel with regard to the Village's next bond financing transaction. In discussing the motion, Trustee Lynn said Mr. Marquardt comes highly recommended and is a Skaneateles resident.

Adopt Application and Permit for Fire Works Displays – Mayor Green stated that the Town of Skaneateles previously adopted the same Application and Permit for Fire Works Displays that we are considering this evening. Atty. Byrne offered some background information. He said that the Village Code prohibits possession of or use of fire works in Village parks, but the Village Board had the ability to waive the prohibition. In October 2009, the State Legislature revised the State statute regarding fire works and this form meets the requirements of section 405 of the NYS Penal Law. With the Skaneateles Firemen's Labor Day Field Days quickly approaching, Atty. Byrne said he prepared the form based heavily on the Town's as they were ahead on this. The form and fee (\$250 suggested) need to be approved by the Board, and authorized officer(s) who are responsible to approve such applications need to be designated. Atty. Byrne said he suggested that the Board designate both the Police Chief and Fire Chief. He apologized for presenting this to the Board just this morning, but was reluctant to wait because there is a time pressure here with the Labor Day fireworks displays just a little more than a month away. Atty. Byrne said CEO Batlle offered some good comments that can be incorporated tomorrow morning. He also noted that the permit reflects a \$250 fee (picked because that is the amount on the Town's permit application) that may be waived for a Village sponsored event. Trustee Lynn commented that he thinks the fee is a lot; Trustee Jones said she thinks we ought to be consistent with the Town as long as the fee can be waived for the Skaneateles Fire Department. Trustee Angelillo asked if fire works displays could be done at a Village home. Atty. Byrne said he can't think of another location large enough in the Village and noted that the operator has to be licensed. **Resolution #2010-125:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Angelillo, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to adopt a form of application and permit for fire works displays in the Village, to establish a \$250 fee for such applications, and to designate the Police Chief and Fire Chief as the persons authorized to review and approve such applications. In discussing the motion, the Board concluded that Standard Condition #7 be reduced from a wind velocity exceeding 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour.

SFD Pagers – SFD Chief Sell said he was surprised to learn in an Email today that the County plans to shut down the low-band base station equipment on August 31, 2010. Thus, the pagers currently used by the SFD will not work on September 1 and an additional 40 pagers at \$359 each (\$14,360 total) will need to be purchased, but are not budgeted for. Chief Sell said that he did not expect the County to shut down the frequency as he was of the understanding that the old transmitter would be used until it stopped working. He said the Dispatch Center can transmit the pager tone until they shut down. Mayor Green asked if the switch over could be delayed and if funding is available. Chief Sell said he thinks the former Chief knew this was coming, but didn't respond to the County as Joseph Rinefierd, Director, Fire Bureau, Department of Emergency Management, wrote "I have requested this information before and have gotten very little response. I can only assume that all of the departments have up-graded their pagers to Minitor 5's and have no concerns." Chief Sell said there is \$32,100 in the budget for equipment (A3410.2 Operating Equipment) but that includes other things. This puts us in a tight bind and I'm not sure what we can do. Trustee Lynn said we have to find the money somewhere – the Town contributes half, but there's a lag. Trustee Hubbard suggested that Mayor Green talk to Onondaga County Legislature Chair Rhinehart advising him of the impact. Chief Sell said he doesn't know if any grant money is available or not. Mayor Green said he certainly hopes that someone in our Fire Department didn't drop the ball. Chief Sell reiterated that he thought the system would stay operational until it failed. Trustee Jones asked Chief Sell to talk to other Fire Departments in the area to determine how many other departments are in the same dilemma. Mayor Green said he will also talk to Onondaga County Dept. of Emergency Communications Commissioner William Bleyde. He further commented that this is precisely why he wants to invite directors of the Onondaga County and Cayuga County 911 centers to serve on the Dispatch Closure transition committee. Mayor Green asked for the number of Fire Departments in the same predicament so that he will have the facts.

Village Historian – Village Historian Pat Blackler reported that the Creamery received \$9,900 from the recent House Tour. She then read some interesting history pertaining to the Water Works Company and the Great Water Steal.

(Insert Historian Blackler's reports)

Executive Session – Resolution #2010-125: At 8:21 p.m., on the motion of Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Angelillo, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to enter into an Executive Session for an Attorney/Client discussion. The Executive Session ended at 8:59 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Patty Couch
Patty Couch
Village Clerk

WATER WATER WORKS CO THE GREAT WATER STEAL

Everything that I'll tell you and read to you comes from the archives of the Creamery. Beth Battle also wrote about the water story for the Town Newsletter in 2003. And as I say it, the first thing I will read was written by Eva Loyster, an early historian-and it has no date.

Skaneateles Water Works

By Eva Loyster – Historian, probably around early 1900's
The first Skaneateles Water Works plant was built in 1890, private. The pump house was located on the east side of the Lake on land owned by David Colton. It was a low brick structure with a tall smoke stack and was run by Clarence or Henry Polley. The water was pumped from the pump house to a standpipe which stood on the Fibben property on Onondaga Street. Today it is the Tremaine property and the cement foundation is still at their back door. (2010 ?? pmb)

It took all summer to dig and lay the pipes and on Nov. 29, 1890, the water was turned into the Genesee Street mains. In December there was an informal test of part of the hydrants by the Fire Department. This plant was used until 1897 when the present municipal Water Works Plant was commenced. The present building was constructed and reservoir made and system enlarged and put in operation by 1899 May 22, 1900 a picket fence was built around the reservoir.

(The city of Syracuse at the same time was working on a municipal system to take the water from Skaneateles Lake for the city. Skaneateles Lake water was sent to Syracuse the first time in 1894.)

Municipal Water Works Company

The municipal Water Works company was organized August 1887 with George Barrow as president. The pumping station was built and the water mains laid in 1890.

Insert

From Leslie's book (History of Skaneateles) Insert_ from Leslie's book attached:

Water Supply System – Skaneateles Water Works Co.

This company, according to Mr. Leslie (p. 250 & 371-384), was organized August 11, 1887, by George Barrow, President; J. K. Knox, Secretary ; and B. F. Petheram, Treasurer.

The pumping station was built and water mains laid in 1890. (Items in *FreePress*.)

Mr. Leslie devotes 14 pages, with full quotations from legal documents, as usual, to a controversy between the Water Company and the Village –himself prominent on the side of the Village. The substance of the discussion follows:

That the company, instead of being locally controlled, was controlled by the American Pipe Manufacturing Co., which had a number of similar water companies in other towns. The village entered into contract with the Sk. W.W. Co. to supply water for fire hydrants. But in 1896, Mr. Leslie sponsored a proposition to be submitted to the voters for the village either to purchase the plant of the Water Works Co., or to build a new municipal water plant.

A municipal plant was built, presumably after Leslie's book went to press, since he says nothing about it. It is located east of the Kan-Ya-To Inn (then the Packwood House) some distance north from the street. At the same time a complete system of water mains were laid to supply new municipal fire hydrants and all property owners who wished to obtain water from the village. A large number of persons abandoned the "independent company", as The Water Works Co. came to be called, and had their intakes connected with the municipal system.

Meanwhile the independent company continued to function and to supply such property owners as chose to remain with them. Their old fire hydrants remained in place, but were not used by the Fire Department after the municipal hydrants were installed. ~~My own water pipe remained connected with the independent line until January 4, 1915, when, following a break in the independent main which deprived many people of water for several days, I had connection made with the municipal system. The old company was (I was informed) operating at a loss at that time, since many of their subscribers had changed to the municipal system.~~ The pump house of the old independent company was located on the east shore about three quarters of a mile from the bridge. It remained unused for a number of years and was finally purchased by Ben Wiles who remodeled it into a cottage. The old high smoke stack of brick was truncated and forms the chimney of the cottage.

The reservoir of the municipal system ^{was} located on the north side of East Street at a point bearing nearly east from the present High School (i.e. across the street from the grove which is a part of the school property acquired under the will of Clarence Austin.)

The old company pumped its water to an iron cylindrical tank which stood on the north side of East Street near the corner of Onondaga Street.

Skaneateles Wood Working Company

The Skaneateles Wood Working Company was organized November 4, 1881. Members of the first board of trustees; Walter H. Cornell, William R. Willetts; Joseph C. Willetts, F. Nye Harwood, and B. F. Petheram. (E. N. Leslie, p. 252)

The Water Steal

Skaneateles Lake water in, 1894, was sent for the first time to the Syracuse reservoir by gravity. It was a 20-year fight from beginning to end, for Syracuse to get permission from Albany to take the water. Skaneateles considered it "The Great Water Steal". As Syracuse grew, the water from streams and creeks that they were using was inadequate. Fire fighting was more than inadequate. Deaths from polluted water were high. Search for clean water was on and Skaneateles Lake won out. There was also a two-year legal battle against it, fought by Skaneateles residents alone. Our lake water was chosen for Skaneateles is 466 ft higher than Syracuse, thus the flow would go by gravity. Another good reason was that a microscopic study of a cubic centimeter of Skaneateles water contained 21 living bacteria organisms while water from Onondaga Creek, which Syracuse was using, contained 491 organisms. Erie Canal used our water for a feeder to their canal- so there was controversy there also. After 2 years of debate in Albany the NYS Legislator passed a resolution on May 9, 1890 by an overwhelming majority. Syracuse could take the water. The conduit in the lake was laid in one year, it is still used today with two more added in 1908 and 1938. The first gatehouse was also built. Total cost of the project was about 4 million dollars. The death rate in Syracuse dropped, fire insurance rates decreased and the city began to prosper. I can copy all this documents for you, but it would be one more thing for you to read-but I guess that's why you have me. Right?

Pat Blackler, Historian 2010