

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 13, 2012  
7:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hubbard, Trustees Angelillo, Jones, \*Lanning and Sennett, DMO Lotkowitz, Police Sgt. Stevens, Village Historian Blackler, Village Attorney Byrne

**Others:**

Carrie Chantler	Skaneateles Journal
Jason Emerson	Skaneateles PRESS
Jim Buff	Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department
Dick Perkins	Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department

**Minutes – Resolution #2012-212:** On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Jones, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 29, 2012 as presented.

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

- Acknowledge Pat Blacker's Formal Resignation from Village Historian and the HLPC – Mayor Hubbard said there will be consideration of this later in the meeting.
- County of Onondaga Dept. of Finance Letter Regarding Village Infrastructure Improvement Program – Annual Report and 2013 Application for Financial Assistance due no later than January 1, 2013. DMO Lotkowitz said he plans to have this done before Christmas.
- NYS D.O.T. Regional Traffic Engineer Diana Graser's Letter – Three-color signal at Route 20 and Route 41A not needed at this time
- Onondaga County Mayors' Association Holiday Dinner on January 16, 2013 at Rico's Ristorante, East Syracuse, \$25.00 per Member, RSVP. Mayor Hubbard indicated that he plans to attend.
- Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) Letter announcing NYS DOT statewide solicitation for safety activities/projects in Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP); and letter announcing their new transportation capital investment program for fiscal year 2014 through 2018
- Thank you letter from Town ZBA Chair David Graham to SFD for use of the Fire Station
- Thank you email from Fran & Kevin McCormack for working on the Prentiss Drive walkway. DMO Lotkowitz confirmed that there is a cover of stone dust; Trustee Sennett commented that it looks nice.
- Receipt of the Treasurer's Report for November 30, 2012 – Mayor Hubbard recognized that we are at the half way point in the budget.
- Receipt of the Glens Falls Bank LOSAP Summary for November 30, 2012

**Police Department** – Sgt. Stevens said it's been a busy month; he confirmed that the Police Department Monthly Activity for November, 2012 was emailed to the Board and reported as follows: 184 Calls for service; 5 Misdemeanors; 2 Violations; 1 DWI; 36 V&T tickets (total); 45 Courtesy V&T's; 4 Truck tickets; 133 Parking tickets; 306 Courtesy cards; 7 MV accidents; 1 Personal Injury; 13 Property damage; 2 Larcenies; 20 Assist Fire/SAVES; 4 Alarm calls; 990 Property checks; and 4 Car Lockouts. Sgt. Stevens said there have been numerous car break-ins outside the Village, including in Marcellus, Borodino, Otisco, Lysander, Sennett, and in the Town of Skaneateles. Car doors should be locked and valuables removed, or at the very least out of sight – if they see something of value, they will get in the car. Trustee Jones encouraged everyone to be sensible and smart. Trustee Angelillo commented this type of information is good to know.

**Director of Municipal Operations** – DMO Lotkowitz reported that the DPW caught up on the leaves, they are working with Bartlett Tree Experts, and have been doing cemetery work with three burials this week. The Electric Department is doing stray voltage testing that needs to be complete by the first of the year. DMO Lotkowitz said the WWTP roof work commenced today with eight men on the job – they are taking advantage of the nice weather.

**Codes Enforcement** – Mayor Hubbard read Code Enforcement Officer D’Amico’s report for the period November 9 – December 13, 2012 as follows: Certificates of Occupancy 3 (YTD 19); Building Permits Issued 3 (YTD 67); Sign Permits Issued: 1 (YTD 7); 16 Total Inspections performed during the period, breakdown as follows: 4 Fire Safety, 1 Footer, 2 Framing, 1 Insulation, 1 Preliminary Walk-through for a future C of O, and 7 Misc. site visits. With the Holiday Season upon us, many local businesses are both stocking extra inventory and decorating their establishments in anticipation of this busy and festive time of year. The Code Enforcement Officer would like to play “Scrooge” for a moment and remind business owners and employees of our many local commercial establishments that regardless of the time of year, emergency exits as well as adequate paths to those exits must be kept clear at all times. Decorations or merchandise must never be draped or hung from sprinkler pipes, exit signs or in such a manner to obscure an exit door or fire extinguisher. Have a safe, code compliant, Holiday Season! Mayor Hubbard said the report was very well put together.

**Skatecates Volunteer Fire Department** – Mayor Hubbard read the report submitted by Chief Sell as follows: 5 Fire; 6 EMS (assist SAVES); 4 Mutual Aid; 15 Total Calls for November; 82.03 Personnel hours for November; 12 Personnel average for November; 333 Total calls for 2012; 3301 Total personnel hours for 2012; 14.53 Personnel Average for 2012; 3 Total drills for November; 22 Personnel average for November (drills); 194 Personnel hours for November (drills); 2,143 Personnel hours for 2012; 276.03 Total personnel hours spent on calls and drills only for November; 5,607 Total personnel hours spent on calls and drills only for 2012. Mayor Hubbard commented that 333 total calls for 2012 shows how active the Fire Department has been.

**WWTP** – Trustee Angelillo gave a WWTP report for the month of November 2012 noting that we are again below our 12-month rolling average, 2” of precipitation, the plant met B.O.D. and suspended solids removal, there were no violations, and a safety fence was installed around the RBCs. Mayor Hubbard said it is commendable that we didn’t lose any ground even though the RBCs were down. DMO Lotkowitz said WWTP Manager and Water Disinfection Operator Psenicnik stayed on top of everything.

**Status of NYS LGE Grant** – Mayor Hubbard said he, DMO Lotkowitz, and Clerk/Treasurer Couch phone conferenced with Department of State’s Myra Fedyniak on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss re-allocation of the budget as we had learned more about the tank rehabilitation. Mayor Hubbard scheduled a meeting with DMO Lotkowitz and Village Atty. Byrne for Monday, December 17, 7:15 a.m. to discuss tank rehabilitation further.

**Status of Bid Opening for SFD Air Packs** – In response to Mayor Hubbard, SFD President Buff said we have not yet heard about the grant. Mayor Hubbard said we will be looking to the SFD for direction on how to proceed as we get closer to December 31. President Buff said they should know the exact amount of the January 1<sup>st</sup> price increase by the end of the month; SFD Member Perkins recalled hearing the expected increase will be between \$750 and \$1,000 per air pack. President Buff said we made it through a number of cuts so we are still in the “game” and the Village Board will be notified as soon as the SFD hears about the grant.

**Status of Bid Opening for new Village Hall** – Mayor Hubbard reported that we were very fortunate to have numerous and very competitive bids at the December 12, 2012 bid opening. Clerk/Treasurer Couch put together a good tabulation of the 25 total bids that demonstrates that there was a lot of interest in the project. Mayor Hubbard said feedback indicates that the specs were well put together. Trustee Angelillo asked if the specs include a timeline. Mayor Hubbard answered the end of April for the interior work so the Village Office can move in and the end of June for the completion of the exterior. In response to Trustee Angelillo, Mayor Hubbard said he not sure if the specs include a liquidated damage incentive or not - he will check.

**Status of Chamber Sign Proposal** – Trustee Sennett said there is not much news to report. Trustee Jones said she likes the new sign on the corner of Genesee and Jordan Streets. Trustee Sennett said

thinks the mock signs were a good idea and she is curious to know what the merchants think (promoted more foot traffic or not; advantageous or not, etc.). Trustee Jones said if there is no perceived benefit there is no need to move forward. It is good to have the mock-ups giving time for reaction. DMO Lotkowitz reported that he contacted the NYS D.O.T. and learned that the visible sign has to be out of the right-of-way and needs a permit with Board and landowner approval.

**Consider Re-scheduling Village Board Meeting of December 27, 2012** – After discussion and consideration, an Operations Meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, December 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Village Office to review and consider the bids for the new Village Hall. An Operations Meeting was also scheduled for Friday, December 28, 9:00 a.m. at the Village Office to discuss the SFD air packs. Mayor Hubbard noted that bills could also be approved at the Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**IMA Substance Abuse Testing Agreement** – Mayor Hubbard said the Village has had a contract for drug & alcohol testing services with Industrial Medical Associates, P.C. (IMA) for years and it's time to renew the annual contract. Atty. Byrne said the service pricing will remain the same as in 2012, as will the roster of the Village's CDL holders. **Resolution #2012-213:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Sennett, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Hubbard to sign the Substance Abuse Testing Agreement for 2013. Atty. Byrne noted that he will provide Clerk/Treasurer Couch with the original agreement that will have the roster attached.

**US Census – Resolution #2012-214:** On the motion of Trustee Angelillo, seconded by Trustee Sennett, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to authorize changing the US Census and Survey contact person from Jorge Batlle to Adam D'Amico.

**Christmas Decorations** – Mayor Hubbard said Clerk/Treasurer Couch documented a phone call she received relative to the Christmas decorations. The email reported: *A Village resident called thanking the Village for its efforts with the Christmas decorations. However, she said the Village just doesn't seem to look as "magical" this year or last as it usually does at Christmas. She thinks it would help to have the green roping on every light pole and more white lights. Looking out my window as we talked, the lamp pole directly behind my office chair has no lights on, while the one across the street in front of the Library has lights that are on, but there are only about three or four of them and they are spaced far apart. The pole on the other corner in front of the bank has more lights (that are on), but there are some that appear yellow, and some that appear to have a blue tint to them – definitely not all white (or at least not white, white) lights. She said when she drives through the Village at night it just doesn't seem to have that special glow she always envisions in her mind when thinking of Skaneateles at Christmas.* Mayor Hubbard said it is too late to do anything different this year, he'd like the Village to embark on better Christmas decorations and it will be considered during budget time. Trustee Jones said she thinks smaller lights, and more of them, is more visually pleasing.

**NYPA Letter of November 26, 2012 Regarding EDP Allocation** – Atty. Byrne said authorization is required for the Mayor to sign the NYPA letter of November 26, 2012 regarding the EDP Allocation Approval (June 26, 2012). The approved allocation of 100 kilowatts of hydropower was based on our application for power to serve the Skaneateles Recreational Charitable Trust's (SRCT) proposed recreation center expansion. Atty. Byrne said it takes effect now and is a step in the process to get more hydropower. **Resolution #2012-215:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Angelillo, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Hubbard to execute the NYPA letter of November 26, 2012 relative to the EDP Allocation Approval of June 26, 2012 for 100 kilowatts of hydropower to serve the SRCT.

**SFD "High Stake Raffle and Casino Event"** – SFD President Buff said that Chief Sell's letter to Mayor Hubbard and the Trustees seeks permission to hold an event called "High Stake Raffle and Casino Event". \*Trustee Lanning arrived at 8:05 p.m. The SFD is making some changes to what was formerly called "Big Money" by changing the name to "The High Stakes Raffle and Casino Event". The raffle will not

be drawn at the annual Field Days as done in the past, but rather at a separate four hour “bash” in August. Relative to the application/licensing and reporting requirements, Atty. Byrne said the SFD and Clerk/Treasurer Couch are right on top of it. SFD President Buff confirmed that they report everything and while there’d be separate paperwork for this event, the filing requirements are the same. Atty. Byrne noted that it is just a different style of fundraiser. SFD President Buff said that is correct, adding that the SFD would totally staff the event that will be concentrated to one location at the Allyn Arena (permission for the rink already secured with the Town). Trustee Jones said she has no problem with the event as long as they are not serving beer/wine at the Fire Station. If the SFD is willing to staff it, it’s a good way to raise funds. Trustee Sennett asked President Buff to keep the Police Department up-to-date and let Sgt. Stevens know the plans. **Resolution #2012-216:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Sennett, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to endorse the request of the SFD to hold The High Stakes Raffle and Casino Event on Saturday, August 3, 2013, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Village Historian** – Village Historian Blackler distributed a map of the lots of the Military Townships explaining that for her last historical moment she is going to go to the very beginning and talk about the Story of the Great Military Tract.

*The Tract is the story of three quarters of a million acres of land in central New York and the veterans of the Revolutionary War and the soldiers to whom they were assigned. The land was from Lake Ontario south to the PA line; from the east side of what is now Onondaga County, westward to Seneca Lake. The land was promised as bounty as well as pay to the soldiers who fought on the New York line – a total of 20,000 men.*

*New York State had more land than money and promised their veterans some of the land for service. At the end of the war, in 1782, central New York was only wilderness, not an incentive to settlement when the war was over. It was ten years before the land was surveyed and the land lottery was accomplished. Many soldiers had gone home and preferred not to move again – only about 1/3 of the veterans actually came to claim their land. Each man was assigned 600 acres of land, about one square mile.*

*Surveying of the tract had a multitude of problems; political bickering, uncertainties by the post-war government, squatters, The Iroquois Nations, changing of minds and personal and land controversies especially with Massachusetts (who claimed their Commonwealth owned from sea to sea) – just to name a few.*

*The lottery was real and balloting was done in 1791 ten years after the war was over – there were two boxes – names in one and land in another, one veteran was matched with a piece of land. The military tract was divided into 28 townships (not towns – the difference is that towns are political government units and townships were surveyed land). We were number nice, the township of Marcellus. Each township contained 60,000 acres. We split from Marcellus in 1830.*

*The townships were set out as square as possible. Each township was divided into 100 lots numbered from left to right with space for schools and government land; the assignee must start improving his land within seven years. Lot 36 (one square mile) encompassed all of what we now know as Skaneateles Village. Mayor Hubbard, Jim Lanning, Mary Sennett and Sue Jones are in Lot 36, I’m in Lot 27, Patty Couch and Mike Byrne in 38 and Marc Angelillo in 37. Check your deeds – they probably say (they do say) “originally part of the military township of Marcellus”.*

*The negative effect of the survey delay fell mostly on the veterans, many sold their patents for almost nothing, some traded for goods and services even a suit of clothes; and of course there were abuses on both sides. The Donald Trumps of their time, who knew what was going to happen, would buy up anything they could find, accumulating many acres. In fact one of our own first settlers came here already owning 43,000 acres. Some of the soldiers sold their patents to New Englanders and speculators from England.*

*Naming of Townships: Many visitors and even many researchers are fascinated by the many classical names that are used in this area – and are rarely found in America at all: Marcellus, Camillus, Scipio, Tully, Sempronius, Fabius – even Locke and Milton. Greek and Roman military heroes and some English literary artists. Historians say it started from a clerk named Harpur in the State Lane Surveyor*

*Office who was naming the Townships in the great Military Tract. He was a student of the classics.*

*I have here the names of the men who drew our lots in Township number nine. Now you can answer all the questions.*

Mayor Hubbard thanked Village Historian Blackler for the historic moment, but said she isn't done quite yet. Prior to presenting her with a framed resolution, he read the following aloud:

**WHEREAS**, Pat Blackler commenced serving as Village Historian of the Village of Skaneateles in 1996 when she inquired of then Mayor Don Price if he planned on appointing someone to fill the position vacated by Don Stinson, and

**WHEREAS**, she has shared her knowledge and love of the Creamery's historical artifacts each June with fourth-graders who end the school year with a tour of the museum, and

**WHEREAS**, with her extensive knowledge of past and present village residents, she has assisted countless people in researching their ancestors including where they are laid to rest in Lake View Cemetery, and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure as Village Historian, she achieved placement of six historical markers that designate landmark Village homes and notable firsts, and several section signs in Lake View Cemetery that guide people to the graves of their loved ones, and

**WHEREAS**, she served at the pleasure of four mayors - Don Price, Jim Rhinehart, Bob Green, and Marty Hubbard, and

**WHEREAS**, she has attended hundreds of meetings and delighted the Village Boards and attendees with "Historical Moments" that have provided insight on topics such as The Krebs, "The Wonderful Little Boat House", and the Sinclair chair, and

**WHEREAS**, she also serves as a Lake View Cemetery Board Commissioner, and Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission Member and more recently Chair, and

**WHEREAS**, it has been a pleasure to work with her no matter the hat she was wearing, and

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Village Board does sincerely express its genuine gratitude to Pat Blackler for her unwavering and devoted service and does earnestly wish her many, many years of the good life of retirement.

**Water Study** – In response to SFD President Buff, DMO Lotkowitz said GHD is re-running the model and the water study is taking a bit longer. It is anticipated that there will be a meeting after the first of the year.

*Five Minute recess prior to Approval of Bills – 8:29 p.m.*

**Bills and Adjustments - Resolution #2012-217:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Lanning, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #13 be audited and paid as follows:

General Fund	Vouchers #518-580	Checks 14487- 14549	\$52,873.86
Sewer Fund	Vouchers #150-164	Checks 4285- 4299	\$13,429.52
Electric Fund	Vouchers #156-172	Checks 4867- 4883	\$20,960.77
Water Fund	Vouchers #108-121	Checks 3449- 3461	\$13,872.78

**Executive Session – Cemetery Personnel/Procedures – Resolution #2012-218:** On the motion of Trustee Jones, seconded by Trustee Lanning, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to enter into an Executive Session at 8:46 p.m. regarding Cemetery personnel/procedures. **Resolution #2012-219:** On the motion of Trustee Angelillo, seconded by Trustee Lanning, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to move out of Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

  
Patty Couch, Village Clerk/Treasurer