

MUNICIPAL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – February 27, 2024

Present: Village of Skaneateles Treasurer Carrie Hanno, Commissioner Mike Yates, Commissioner Mary Ellen McQuaid, Commissioner Kevin Goode, Commissioner Lee Klosowski, Trustee Ed Evans, Director of Municipal Operations Tom Posella, Deputy Director of Municipal Operations Cosimo Pagano, WWTP Chief Operator Adam Twitchell, and Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator/Clerk to Municipal Board Ian Carroll.

Chairman Marc Angelillo was excused.

DMO Posella, in Chairman Angelillo's absence, called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Minutes. Upon motion of Commissioner Yates, seconded by Commissioner Klosowski, the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Meeting of the Municipal Board were unanimously approved as submitted.

Welcome to Carrie Hanno; Tom Posella

- DMO Posella introduced guest Carrie Hanno, Village of Skaneateles Treasurer. Carrie was invited to the meeting to answer any questions and review budget materials and processes.
- Members discussed the importance of including capital improvement plans and depreciation figures in budgeting and rate case documents; a budget, for example, should allow Commissioners and other stakeholders to monitor variances to budget (overages, etc.) and make projections.
- There was consensus on the concept of gradual and regular rate increases, rather than large infrequent rate increases that catch people off guard.
- Ideally the Village would be making capital expenditures and funding depreciation routinely, and that could help demonstrate the need to recover costs through rate increases. Information on the need for rate increases could be shared with residents through a flyer included in utility bills.

Electric Department Update, Smart Kable/Line Ranger Discussion, Bucket Truck availability; Tom Posella

- DMO Posella discussed recent developments with staffing and training, notably interviewing journeymen formerly with National Grid. They could be helpful in training current electric staff, for example.
- The Board revisited the Smart Kable product, and the likelihood that a decision is made in the coming months, and whether it is a unique service.
- Municipal lot charging stations equipment has been ordered, and easements are needed to access the corner of the municipal lot; transformers have been arranged for Vlassis and Sherwood Inn properties.

- The bucket truck the Board has discussed in prior meetings is in production and could be available within the next two months. It's a one-person bucket, like the existing bucket, but would allow us two line workers in the air for training, etc. The smaller size of the truck makes it easier to work on some of our narrow streets as well.
- There was discussion of using a municipal lease structure to finance the truck, as is done with large regional utilities, as opposed to an outright purchase.

Sewer Plant Update; Adam Twitchell

- Operator Twitchell provided a routine update on the plant including the process of adding new media in “shark cages” and aerating within lagoons to remove ammonia down to our new permitted limit.
- The Board discussed ongoing plans for long term facility evaluation, including capital costs needed to address I&I issues and plant efficiency and the need to replace the plant. Some of the interim needs of the plant could be helped by the availability of grant programs that the Village would like to pursue.
- Trustee Evans and Fire Chief Bueler met with Brandon Williams’ staff to discuss ongoing issues including wastewater treatment needs, and how those projects including expanding wastewater infrastructure outside Village limits could benefit Skaneateles Lake water quality by reducing reliance on septic fields of varying age and effectiveness.

Development Updates; Tom Posella

- Even though Village Meadows, a proposed subdivision of eight lots off Franklin Rd, is not in the Village, it has the potential to cause downstream stormwater problems, and should be monitored by the Village (i.e., the MB); the Village has seen storm flows create problems for Village residents that come down from the same hill that Mirbeau is on, adjacent to the proposed Village Meadows subdivision. The proposed subdivision as understood would consist of two-acre lots on septic systems.
- There was brief discussion of the six-lot subdivision that has applied for Village approval at the end of Orchard Rd., that should not have a material impact on Village utilities, and the applicant and their team has been advised that stormwater should be directed to the north of the property rather than into the already built lots of Parkside Subdivision.
- An additional inquiry to the MB, too preliminary for an informal presentation to the planning board, is to develop an 8-acre property on the eastern edge of the Village, south of Route 20 next to the sailboat shop that straddles the Town/Village line. The owner has approached the Village to discuss utility constraints prior to formalizing an application and is seeking to have further discussions with Village officials on that topic.

Seawall Project; Cosimo Pagano

- The work on the seawall, as expected, remains on-hold for the winter season.
- The demo of the old fountain at Shotwell Park is complete and its replacement is on its way.
- The sea wall project schedule calls for completion by the end of May, and the Village expects that the park will be in good shape prior to planned Spring and Summer events.

Meeting Adjourned

At 9:00 am, the meeting was adjourned on the motion of Commissioner MaryEllen McQuaid, seconded by Commissioner Goode and with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Carroll, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator and Clerk to the Municipal Board

The next meeting of the Municipal Board is at 8 am March 26, 2024 at *****Location To Be Determined**