

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF AUGUSTA
October 18, 2023

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Augusta, County of Oneida and the State of New York was held at Town Hall, 2470 North Road, Oriskany Falls, NY on Wednesday, the 18th day of October 2023.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------|
| PRESENT: | Suzanne Collins | Supervisor |
| | James Dowd | Councilman |
| | Charles Peck | Councilman |
| | Mark Russell | Councilman |
| | Travis Wright | Councilman |
| | Sonya Furness | Clerk |

PUBLIC PRESENT: Maridee Dukett, Jennifer Lavoy, Steve Roys, Phil Eaton

The Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Collins after closing out the 5:45 Public Hearing.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

RESOLUTION 61- 2023

On a motion of Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Dowd, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that the Town Board Minutes of September 27, 2023 be adopted.

PRIVLEDGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Maridee Dukett spoke of the Christmas lights in Knoxboro. Stated the wreaths that are in storage need the lights restrung and asked if the Highway Dept would be able to hang them for the holiday season, to which the Highway Superintendent agreed

RESOLUTION 62- 2023

On a motion of Councilman Dowd, seconded by Councilman Wright, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that that the cost to repair these lights would be paid for by the Town coming out of GARP.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS:
RESOLUTION 63- 2023**

On a motion of Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Peck, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that the bills contained on Abstract #9 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| General Fund Full Town | voucher #'s 104 - 110 | \$ 527.77 |
| General Fund Part Town | voucher #'s 37 - 40 | 2,228.96 |
| Highway Fund Full Town | voucher #'s 46- 48 | 11,968.05 |
| Highway Fund Part Town | voucher #'s 65 -78 | 79,210.15 |

Questions were asked by the board regarding repairs that were done to a resident's driveway and Hotel cost for an overnight stay less than 20 miles from home.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICIALS:
SUPERVISOR:**

| Assets | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Augusta Light District 1537 | \$ 3,069.06 |
| Truck MMM 3249 | 75,964.32 |
| Fire and Ambulance 1553 | 372.22 |
| Full Town Highway Checking 2126 | 19,826.58 |
| Full Town Highway Savings 9241 | 151,452.17 |
| Full Town General Savings 9058 | 137,639.83 |
| Full Town General Checking 1780 | 20,477.58 |
| Knoxboro Lights 1545 | 3,934.11 |
| Part Town General Checking 2134 | 2,562.87 |
| Part Town General Savings 9228 | 24,179.68 |
| Part Town Highway Checking 2460 | 14,908.57 |
| Part Town Highway Savings 9137 | 226,362.64 |
| Trust and Agency 2867 | 0.00 |
| Knoxboro Flooding Repairs 5049 | 903.87 |
| Indian Land Claim Savings 0115 | 133,121.21 |
| Building Fund CD 9015 | 102,663.21 |
| Reval MMM 3281 | 5,805.15 |
| GARP 9736 | 65,770.13 |
| Mower MMM 3362 | 5,141.68 |
| Road Work MMM 3346 | 0.00 |
| Town Hall 6289 | 169,453.25 |
| NYSLRS 3453 | 53,601.64 |
| Total Current Assets | \$ 1,217,209.77 |
| Total Assets | \$ 1,217,209.77 |
| Total Liabilities | |
| Equity | |
| Net Income | 162,883.74 |
| Retained Earnings | 6.20 |
| Unresolved Equity | \$ 1,054,319.83 |
| Total Equity | \$ 1,217,209.77 |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$ 1,217,209.77 |

RESOLUTION 64– 2023

On a motion of Councilman Dowd, seconded by Councilman Russell, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that the Supervisors SORES reports be accepted as submitted

CODES: No Report Submitted

ASSESSOR: Explained to the Board the LOA and his theory on why Augusta sits at 44%. Showed different examples of tax bills at different rates and reiterated that's why he feels a Reval needs to be completed.

Supervisor Collins and Councilman Wright will meet with the BAR to get their opinion and thoughts of a Reval being conducted.

DCO: Report Submitted

JUDICIAL: No Concerns

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:

Discussion was had with questions and answers regarding new equipment that Highway Superintendent is looking to purchase. Comparisons were made on 2 different models. Final answers could not be gotten from salesman directly so again subject will be set aside until next Budget meeting or Board meeting.

Councilman Peck would like to know if a "G" model (European) can even be built here in the United States.

Snowplowing Contract with Oneida County was discussed. Highway Superintendent Eaton stated that a decision such as this must be discussed earlier in the year not right before the season starts. Time is needed to prepare in all aspects. He at this time feels that the Augusta Highway Department does not have enough equipment or manpower for the 2023-2024 winter.

TOWN CLERK:

Town Board signed a monthly reconciliation sheet for the Town Clerk Checking Account, verifying that the September 2023 bank statement and checkbook were in order.

SUPERVISOR:

Advised what she had learned about MEO's working on cemeteries or trash. When Highway Dept. is doing cemetery work the payrolls and benefits need to be charged to Cemeteries. This is because DA is only used for snow removal, work is done from DB. Since DB and A are not the same tax base, it is not legal to charge DB.

Procurement Policy

RESOLUTION 65 – 2023

On a motion of Councilman Russell, seconded by Councilman Russell, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that the Procurement Policy be reapproved as written.

Permission was asked to pay 4 bills as Post pays that did not make the abstract 10.

Waterville Times \$ 56.00

Senior Trips 200.00

Anne Brown 191.25

Sue Collins 40.00

RESOLUTION 66 – 2023

On a motion of Councilman Dowd, seconded by Councilman Russell, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that above listed bills be paid on Post pay.

Putting money aside for Reval

By putting away \$20,000.00, the unexpended balance will be lower than what has been said the balance would be.

RESOLUTION 67 – 2023

On a motion of Councilman Wright, seconded by Councilman Peck, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that \$10,000. will be moved from General Fund and \$10,000. From the Indian Gaming Revenue.

Supervisor Collins stated that there was a Culvert kick off meeting. They will start searching titles, doing easements, and drawing up plans.

Bridge Red Flag on Simmons Road.

Another attempt will be made for a grant to fix bridge which will have to include having another survey completed.

Superintendent Eaton said that it may come to Closing the Bridge if repairs cannot be done.

Secretary to BAR

Anne Brown showed interest in the Secretary position.

RESOLUTION 68– 2023

On a motion of Councilman Dowd, seconded by Councilman Wright, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Collins, Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
Nays 0

Resolved that Anne Brown be appointed to the position.

TOWN BOARD:

Councilman Dowd asked if the Assessor has learned anything on assessing the windmills since the PILOT is due to expire. Supervisor Collins said after contacting Oneida County, that a half year (June – Dec.) will still be paid for 2023

Supervisor Collins made a motion at 7:27PM, seconded by Councilman Peck to enter into Executive Session to discuss

- A. The matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.

B. The proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body

At 7:40 PM, the board came out of Executive Session.

Supervisor Collins will follow up with Richard Parker on land issues and employee issues.

Councilman Russell had one more subject that he wanted to bring up about the Veteran Banners. He does not feel the Town should be storing them, they are not Town property and if something happens to them, we would be responsible. He feels they should be returned to their owners and the owners can bring them in when its time to hang them again.

RESOLUTION 69– 2023

On a motion of Councilman Russell, seconded by Councilman Wright, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dowd, Peck, Russell, Wright
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Collins

Supervisor Collins whole heartedly agrees with them not being our property, she feels that it would be an inconvenience to both the owners and the person storing them to have to contact all the owners and have them come in, especially since so many are seniors. She will check on something.

Supervisor's meeting notes do not show that the matter is resolved.

With no further business, on a motion of Supervisor Collins seconded by Councilman Wright the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. Carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,
Sonya Furness