

A Town Board Agenda Meeting was held by the Town Board of the Town of Ballston on Tuesday evening, January 31, 2023, in the Meeting Room at Town Hall located at 323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, New York.

PRESENT:	Eric Connolly	Supervisor
	Chuck Curtiss	Councilman
	Kelly Jasinski	Councilwoman
	Rob Fendrick	Councilman
	Michael Carota	Councilman
	Carol Gumienny	Town Clerk
	David Urkevich	Town Comptroller
ABSENT:	Debra Kaelin	Town Attorney

Supervisor Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ballston Lake Sewer Update

Ed Hernandez, project engineer, stated that the construction is essentially completed. He is waiting on final paperwork, closing out items with DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) and is still waiting to hear from EFC (Environmental Facilities Corporation) on the decision for the change order to pave Buell Heights. Councilwoman Jasinski asked if there is a last possible date to get approval for these funds? Mr. Hernandez stated not necessarily; the contract with the last contractor will need to be closed out. When that is done, the project is done. We are a ways away from a final closing out of the project. Ms. Jasinski asked if there is a timeline to request funds for Lazur Road. Mr. Hernandez stated that there is no timeline. If Buell Heights paving is approved, then funds for Lazur Road paving can be requested. EFC is not eager to approve Buell Heights and are questioning the ask. Mr. Hernandez has justified the ask. The Supervisor stated that the paving has been budgeted to do this year there; however, it would be a huge help to the neighborhood as the roads are a mess from the project. The Supervisor stated to Mr. Hernandez that he was privy to some emails from Saratoga County Sewer District and asked Mr. Hernandez to explain these to the Board. Mr. Hernandez stated that the project consists of over 12 miles of pipeline, and this doesn't happen without having some issues here and there, which have been resolved as they came up. There was a break in the line on Lazur Road, there have been some small leaks on some services and a piece of pipe that had cracked. These all have been repaired by the contractor. Saratoga County was concerned that this had happened and wanted the piping checked by the manufacturer; it is being fully investigated to make sure it doesn't happen again. Councilman Carota asked if a leak is more likely in a low-pressure system than a gravity system. Mr. Hernandez stated that there is a greater chance of a leak in a pressurized system. Gravity systems tend to take in a lot of stormwater when it's wet out, and a lot of them tend to release a lot of waste water when it is dry out. This is a new system, and it is tight. There should be no issues.

Grants Update

Supervisor Connolly stated that we are waiting to hear if we are a recipient for the Bridge NY Grant for the Finley Road bridge replacement. Action is being considered to appropriate some funds for this project. If we receive this grant, the Town will need to come up with some funds. If we don't get the grant, the Town will likely reapply as this is a very costly project. We are waiting to apply for the Safe Pathways to Schools Grant for the north end of Town to make those areas safer to walk. The area consists of Thomas Avenue, behind Dunkin Donuts, and on Route 50. Verbal discussions have been had with Adirondack Trust and Burlingame Orthodontics on making a continuous sidewalk from McDonalds to the corner of the new Sunoco gas station. It would improve the walkability in this area of Town. We will apply for a trails grant for the funding to connect the Veteran's Trail to the Zim Smith Trail. New York Forward is another grant that will be applied for. It is branded as "Burnt Hills Forward". The Burnt Hills Forward group will do some public outreach at the library's mini golf event to see what people would like to see happen to the downtown Burnt Hills area should we be awarded the \$4.5 million grant. In the same effort, but different, is an effort to look at a low pressure/gravity sewer system for the business district in Burnt Hills. The Burnt Hills Forward group had a kickoff meeting with CHA Engineering identifying the area that is being looked at for this sewer system. It goes from the south end of Town to the post office. It would go up Lake Hill Road connecting to the shopping plaza at the Kingsley Road corner to Burnt Hills Hardware and maybe some of the businesses across the street that are interested. He stopped in a local hair salon shop on Kingsley Road and spoke to the owner. She stated that she must have her septic tank pumped out frequently and

would be interested in hooking up to the sewer system if it happens. Supervisor Connolly stated that he met with Jackie Hakes of M.J. Engineering, who is their point person for economic development grants. He wants to begin early to look for funding for this effort so we can get a cost per EDU (equivalent dwelling unit). This will be a cost to the businesses only in this business sewer district. Supervisor Connolly stated that if we can find a grant to get the costs down, we will apply. A feasibility study is currently being done. When this is completed, the next step is to consider approving funds for design work and when that is completed, we will be ready to apply for economic development grants. This is a parallel effort to the Burnt Hills Forward effort. We don't want to revitalize the downtown area and hope businesses come but offer no sewer. One of the things that came out of the meeting with CHA Engineering is that we could do a low-pressure system/gravity system, and everyone (businesses) will have grinder pumps, but the alternative is to find a spot to put a pumphouse at the lowest point. The lowest point would be at Duncan Crawford's land where we have the farmer's market. If we were to put a pumphouse there, for instance, it would help the businesses avoid the expense of a grinder pump. This is the preferred way if it can be done. Our only chance for getting funding for sewer is through economic development grants.

Parks and Recreation Committee Report

Councilman Fendrick stated that he was unable to attend the last Parks & Rec Committee meeting. He thanked the Supervisor for attending in his place. Sally Draina is officially the chairperson for the committee and Any Jones is the secretary. Two committee members are currently looking into treatments for the hemlock infestation that was occurring in Jenkins Park and in Anchor Diamond Park. A plan is being formulated to approach this in the fall. The first fence quote in Jenkins Park is scheduled for next Wednesday; he hopes to have more information for the next meeting. The 5 and 10-year plans for parks were submitted. Parks & Rec leadership met with our comptroller to go over some financials and to understand how things work so they can have some real expectations for the upcoming season. He thanked David and appreciated his dedication. In March, Committee members will hang the perimeter signs in Anchor Diamond Park on the Goode Street side as it was too wet and muddy to do this past weekend. The fishing pier is still on schedule to be installed in the spring. There is one alternate position available on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Brookline Road Speed

The Supervisor stated that on Brookline Road, on the west side of Route 50 the speed is 45 mph, and on Brookline Road, on the east side of Route 50 it is 40 mph. He had received complaints of people speeding, trucks using their jake brakes, and multiple complaints of people passing school buses with their flashing lights on. He reached out to his liaison at the sheriff's department and sent him the resident's email which included a photo of a car passing a school bus. The sheriff liaison put forward several things he could do right away. He visually caught someone doing this (passing a school bus) a week later. The Supervisor had been working with a Brookline Road resident, Louie Nowak, who had expressed her concerns. There are issues with the school systems having cameras on their school buses that are operational to take a photo of anyone illegally passing, with a date and time stamp, and having tickets issued to people. There are municipalities in the country that have this in place; we do not. There are some cameras on buses. Supervisor Connolly reached out to the County attorney to try to get to the bottom of what was actually required because apparently there are some requirements needed with signage on roads entering the Town, and roads entering into the County before tickets can be issued based on video evidence. This is being looked at, but he had not gotten to the bottom of this yet. The Supervisor will follow up again with the sheriff's department. The speed limit will unlikely be reduced but he is willing to apply for a reduction. If the speed limit is lowered on the west side, it would be consistent. He is very skeptical that this will make a difference. Studies show that signs don't make a big difference. The Town tried to reduce the speed on Outlet Road three times, and it was denied every time. One of reasons that the Town hired extra police patrols was to try to have more of a presence in town and issue more tickets. It is hard to tell if this has been successful. Basically, before the contract with the sheriff there would be 15 violations in a month, now it is 30. Everyone knows you don't drive more than 30 m.p.h. in Charlton, or speed on Maple Avenue near the shelter. The Town cannot afford a police force. This is difficult to deal with and the Board is not interested in a town tax. Councilman Curtiss stated that he thinks about this a lot and his thought is that the speed reduction needs to happen but in a more significant manner. His thought was to reduce the speed on many roads such as Brookline Road, Outlet Road, Charlton Road, Hop City Road, and Lake Road. He wants to do this in a big way. Councilman Fendrick stated that he recently went to Florida and they

and Route 67. There is a breakdown that shows how many cars go by during a morning peak hour (372) and during an evening peak hour (418). This study was done in 2019 before Enclave 50 was built, before Silo Pointe was built; Adams Pointe will add another 40 units when completed, Runway gas station wants a retail store and a drive thru and the other project being built on Route 50 near Brookline Road. The 7000-estimate today is low. The traffic study stated that 85% of people were going 47 mph and this is before the curve. She is sure that they are driving faster. Motorists passing school buses have occurred 9 times since January 2022. Just before Rollingbrook Drive there is very little visibility, and not much of a shoulder on the road where people ride their bikes to the bike path. She took data from the NYS Department of Transportation on highway design which states if you have over 2,000 cars at 40 mph the road should be 12 feet for each lane, in the 2019 traffic study it is stated as 11 feet. There should be a 3 to 5 feet wide paved shoulder; there is not. These requirements are not being met.

Ken Markiewicz, of Brookline Road, stated that his property is commercial so if you need a place to park a police car you have his permission.

Dan Lee, of Brookline Road, stated that he believes that the Board is on the right track to possibly put a patrol car on Brookline Road and switch it out to a patrol car that has a patrolman in it. In the summer, motorcycles who drive on Brookline Road think it's a racetrack and go more than 70 mph. He agrees that cameras are a good idea for school buses. He is not sure if truck traffic will ever be stopped on Brookline Road.

Joshua Hague, of Brookline Road, stated that he lives across from the Bridgewater Apartment complex. At the traffic light and he sees Brookline Road being used for a drag strip. Trucks are jake braking full board; he had a truck tear a weathervane off his house.

The Supervisor stated that the Board will enter Executive Session for a personnel matter with no expected action. A motion was made by Councilman Carota and seconded by Councilman Fendrick to enter into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jasinski and seconded by Councilman Carota to return to regular session. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Councilman Fendrick and seconded by Councilman Carota to adjourn the meeting. All Board members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gumienny
Town Clerk