

STATE OF NEW YORK
ONONDAGA COUNTY
TOWN OF CICERO

SS:

The Cicero Town Board held their regular meeting on **Wednesday, January 27, 2016** at **6:30 p.m.** at the Cicero Town Hall, 8236 Brewerton Road, Cicero, NY 13039.

PRESENT:

Mark Venesky	Supervisor
Mike Becallo	Councilor
C. Vernon Conway	Councilor
Dick Cushman	Councilor
Jonathan Karp	Councilor

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christopher Woznica	Highway Superintendent
Joseph Snell	Police Chief
Robert Germain	Germain & Germain, Town Attorney
Stephen Snell	O'Brien & Gere, Town Engineer
Tracy M. Cosilmon	Town Clerk

Supervisor Venesky opened the 2nd regular meeting of the Town Board at 6:30 p.m. by noting the locations of the three emergency exits, asked that all electronic devices be silenced and noted if anyone was unable to hear, to let them know, so that any adjustments could be made.

Councilor Conway led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then requested a moment of silence for our troops in harm's way.

Town Board Meeting Minutes:

Supervisor Venesky made a motion to approve the Town Board minutes from the meeting on January 13, 2016 with this exception. I would like to change the record. When we talked about consolidation I don't think (reading the minutes over) that I was clear, and it was a little confusing as to what I said, so I would like to clarify the record if I could, if I may, and read this in:

Supervisor Venesky said that he was not an expert on this subject matter but what the Comptroller's Office is looking to do is to consolidate the 19 existing districts into 5 lighting districts, which would be determined by the type of lights and not the location. Also the new districts would be assessed by units not assessed valuation. This project is a large undertaking, the Comptroller's Office is seeking to reduce the number of special districts that the town has since there is no debt within the districts. Our main objective is to be fair and equitable across the board.

Supervisor Venesky asked the Board for a second on the change and to approve the minutes.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of Abstract Numbers 3 & 4:

Councilor Cushman made a motion to accept Abstract # 3 (dated January 20, 2016) and Abstract #4 (dated January 27, 2016) as they were presented. Motion was seconded by Councilor Karp.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0 and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Budget Modifications/Amendments:

Councilor Cushman stated there were no budget modifications/amendments for this meeting.

Presentation by the CanTeen:

Supervisor Venesky introduced special guest Toni'Lyn Brauchle, Youth Services Coordinator from the CanTeen, and some of its members.

Toni' Lyn Brauchle gave a quick update of what transpired in 2015 with the CanTeen. They had:

- a total of 610 unduplicated youth come through the program,
- with a total of 9,640 visits (that's up 1624 visits from 2014),
- sixty-one youths complete 600 hours of community service from 2015, and
- they went on twenty-two different field trip destinations.

Toni' Lyn Brauchle said that they have been at the new location four years this March, and it has really proven to be exactly where they needed to be. It has been a really wonderful experience for her to watch it go from all the places they moved around to and settling into that home has proven to be very, very helpful. They have a great rapport with the building next door at CNS; she and her staff try to find themselves there in the course of a school day as often as they can and it has created quite a community for them.

Toni' Lyn Brauchle: I brought three beautiful young ladies with me this evening. I'd also like to make note that I have with me this evening, Vinny Hollopeter, Chairman of the Greater Cicero Youth Board and Sue Jordan, President of the Friends of the CanTeen. Jody [Rogers] sends her regrets; she is at Youth Basketball this evening. Before I let the young ladies say their peace, I'd also like to take this moment to thank you guys for your leadership and taking control of this program back when you did in 2002. Today, talking about consolidation has been like this main push regarding consolidation, and this program is consolidation at its finest. You have four municipalities and a school district that are working together to serve the youth of your community; that has really kind of occurred, and so I applaud you on that - thank you for your leadership in that. None of the four municipalities could do it on their own. None of the four municipalities can offer the kind of program that we are offering to these young people alone so the fact that everyone, together, is pooling their efforts to make this happen, and we are going into year, whatever it is since 1999 running this program, it really shows the testament of the commitment you have to the youth in your community and I applaud you for that. Thank you so much. I really appreciate it.

Supervisor Venesky: Nothing happens without a leader and vision. This program and the success of this program is due in a large part to what *you* have done and what *you* do every day. I hear wonderful things about the program. I hear wonderful things about your leadership and what you are doing, and it is 'we' who applaud you for what you are doing for the youth of this community.

Toni' Lyn Brauchle: I appreciate that, but I'd also like to counter that. If it wasn't for the folks that stepped together, stick to move us forward, I could have the best of intentions, honestly (and I have said this over the years), I could have had the best of intentions and think as a young person that I could do this - If I didn't have the support of the people around me, and surround myself with people who required a quality that I have around me, we wouldn't be where we are today. So, I think it's a team effort to get us where we are and to keep us going in the direction that we are. We have a phenomenal team in the town leadership and the people who oversee us, and the fact that you are all willing to work together to make this happen, so thank you.

Toni' Lyne Brauchle had M.J. Wright, Rachael Vaverchak, and Alyssa Britton, participants of the CanTeen and Cicero residents introduce themselves.

M.J. Wright said she has been going to the CanTeen every day since the beginning of October, and the reason she goes back every day is because everybody is so friendly, she feels welcome; like she belongs, and it's really fun.

Alyssa Britton said the CanTeen shows us team work and brings us all together. She said she had moved over the summer back up here from North Carolina, and she has met tons of people here. She thanked Toni' Lyn Brauchle for being so welcoming when she went to her health class and introduced the CanTeen to her.

Rachael Vaverchak stated that she has been going to the CanTeen for one year and a half and she loves the CanTeen because it's a place she can go, and she has a lot of friends here. She said she had went to a leadership conference and when they were there they learned leadership skills to prevent drug and alcohol use. Also, during the summer they go on a bunch of field trips and this year they went every Tuesday and Thursday to places like Hershey Park. She said her favorite trip was to New Jersey; they got to go see the ocean.

Toni' Lyne Brauchle said a lot of kids that they see in the program don't necessarily leave Onondaga County so to take them to places that they have never been before, like seeing the ocean or camping at Darien Lake or Hershey Park, or things like that, so it is very interesting to see their expression the first time they see the ocean or things like that. She thanked the Board again for all that they do to keep the CanTeen going and commented that the CanTeen has had some great numbers and are seeing some great attendance.

Supervisor Venesky told Toni' Lyne Brauchle that he is very proud of what she does for the community and told all the participants that he is very proud of every one of them.

Continuation of Public Hearing to consider Cicero Consolidated Lighting Districts:

Supervisor Venesky: The public hearing was left open from the last Regular Town Board Meeting held on January 13th, however, more time is needed to make intelligible decisions regarding this matter, therefore, I make a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the Cicero Consolidated Lighting Districts until March 23rd, 2016.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any discussion. There was none.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Karp.

Supervisor Venesky said our Comptroller, Shirlie Stuart has worked very hard and diligently on this. She has discovered mistakes on how some of these streets and how these things are set up that go way back; they go back a couple two/three administrations and maybe even before that. If we are going to do something or make a decision that affects people's tax bills the numbers have to be absolutely, positively right and until we are comfortable with that I am not comfortable, so we are going to put that off with the Board's permission. Supervisor Venesky said he was told that we would be absolutely, positively ready for a presentation on March 23rd.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Set Public Hearing Dates:

• **Chapter 105 of the Cicero Town Code**

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution calling a Public Hearing on February 10th, 2016 commencing at 6:30 p.m. local time to consider proposed amendments and additional language to Chapter 105 (Firearms and Other Weapons) of the Cicero Town Code by Local Law adoption procedure. The purpose of the proposed amendments and additions is to more clearly define terms, rules and exceptions regarding the possession of weapons within public buildings and spaces within the Town of Cicero. A draft of the proposed changes will be posted on the Town website prior to the public hearing. Motion was seconded by Councilor Becallo.

Supervisor Venesky asked Councilor Karp to explain what we are doing with this.

Councilor Karp: This began with a request from one of our town justices to enable us to have armed bailiffs working the magnetometer at court sessions. Which I, as an attorney can tell you is definitely a good thing. That led to some other discussions which led to me to taking a look at Chapter 105 of the Town Code and honestly, it was a mess. It had numerous non-standard definitions of terms like 'person' and 'carrying,' which when you are talking about the criminal code where people could be charged with a crime, I really think that the definitions need to be clearer. It was missing exceptions. It was missing exceptions for Federal law enforcement officers. It had a vague exception for security guard; which doesn't really mean anything. And so after looking at that, and keeping in mind the goal of being to have an armed bailiff or an armed individual who is properly licensed and trained working the magnetometer, I just decided that I would rewrite the entire thing; which is what I did. The changes will be posted on the Town website, as I said, for everybody to look at. I think they are pretty self-explanatory, but certainly we will be prepared at that time to answer any questions that anyone has.

Supervisor Venesky stated that the recommendations Councilor Karp made have gone to both of the judges, the Board, and also to Chief Snell.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **Lonergan Commercial Subdivision**

Councilor Karp moved the adoption of a resolution to set a Public Hearing date for February 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. to consider acceptance of the Petition Plan for the Oneida River, Oneida Lake, and Chittenango Creek Drainage Improvement associated with the Lonergan Commercial Subdivision. Motion was seconded by Councilor Becallo.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion, of which there was none. He then asked Steve Snell if he had any comments.

Steve Snell explained that this is a proposed subdivision that they are currently reviewing; he has been dealing with the Applicant's engineer and they'd like to be on the agenda for the next meeting to present the Petition Plan. He said that there's a new road and proposed facilities that the Town would need to accept as the subdivision.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Proposal for Safety Management Consulting:

Councilor Becallo moved for the adoption of a resolution approving an agreement between the Town of Cicero and Haylor, Freyer and Coon, Inc. to provide Safety Management Consulting Services pursuant to the terms and conditions contained in a written proposal detailing the anticipated "Scope of Work" to be provided to the Town dated January 13th, 2016 at an hourly billing rate of \$125.00 per hour, with a six (6) month estimation of necessary services of 192 hours. This resolution also authorizes the Supervisor to execute the Proposal Authorization, as well as any other necessary documents. Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Supervisor Venesky said we have a huge problem in the Town of Cicero with some of our costs for disability insurance primarily, and that was kind of the driver behind this. When we looked at what we had we discovered that we have good people who come here to do a good job every day. What we don't have is a *culture of safety*; we are not focused on safety. We are not focused on basic things like an awareness with people with things like getting in and out of vehicles, three points of contacts, slips and falls, that type of thing. What we discovered was we have a buy-in of the folks that serve you every day, and of the department heads, but we didn't have the expertise to be able to really kind of be able to pull it together and move the Town of Cicero in a direction that we think that it needs to go when we talk about a culture of safety and looking out for each other.

Supervisor Venesky said it was brought up at a previous board meeting that there was nothing in the budget to pay the \$24,000 for Pat Salvatore to come in and launch this for us. We did a couple of things:

1. We were successful in renegotiating a contract for our disability insurance that saved us approximately \$50,000 dollars, and
2. We also changed providers on another contract that he was told was save us around \$16,000; he thinks it will be closer to \$15,000.

Supervisor Venesky explained that for those numbers that had been previously budgeted to pay for higher insurance premiums we are going to use part of that money to pay for this consultant. When we talk about 'return on investment' our last claim that we paid was well over \$100,000 dollars, so when we look at the return on investment for at least an initial \$24,000, for him it is a 'no-brainer'.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Personnel (Court Attendant):

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the re-hiring of Hank Schrenko as a part-time Court Attendant, not to exceed 800/hours at a rate of \$13.00/hour effective 1/19/2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

New York State Association of Towns Annual Meeting Delegate:

Councilor Conway moved for the adoption of a resolution to designate Mark Venesky as delegate from the Town of Cicero and for the expenditure not to exceed \$1,200.00 to attend the 2016 Association of Towns Training School and Annual Meeting in New York City February 14-February 17, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Employee Handbook Amendment:

Councilor Becallo moved for the adoption of a resolution delaying the implementation of the Town Board resolution enacted on December 23rd, 2015 with regard to implementing the revised Town policies addressing “Attendance-Absence and Call-In Procedures, Compensatory Time and Overtime” and authorizing addition of same into the Town Employee Handbook until January 24th, 2016. The original resolution reflected an effective date of December 24th, 2015. The delay is necessary to allow for proper notification of the changes to employees. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Venesky.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Intermunicipal Agreement for Dog Control Services:

Councilor Conway moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve and authorize the Supervisor to execute an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of Clay to provide comprehensive Dog Control Services for the Town of Cicero, effective for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 per the agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Legal Services Agreement:

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve an expenditure ~~up to~~ not to exceed \$10,000.00 for Hancock & Estabrook, LLP, concerning employment/personnel matters as specified in the Letter of Agreement dated January 13, 2016, and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Venesky.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion.

Councilor Cushman: I just think the verbiage should be ‘not to exceed’ \$10,000 dollars, not ‘up to \$10,000.00’.

Supervisor Venesky: Duly noted. We will make the change. [Corrected, as shown above]

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Engineering Services:**• Highway Engineering Services**

Councilor Becallo moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve and authorize the Supervisor to execute the proposal from O’Brien & Gere to provide Highway Engineering Services related to maintenance, repair or reconstruction efforts of Town highways. The estimated fee is \$10,000.00 and would be billed against on an hourly basis in accordance with our Master Professional Services Agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion. There was none.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **Oxbow Road Bank Stabilization**

Councilor Becallo moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the proposal from O'Brien & Gere to provide preliminary engineering services for the Oxbow Road Bank Stabilization project, which has received funding in the amount of \$75,000.00 from the N.Y.S. Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP). The estimated fee is \$2,500.00 and would be billed against on an hourly basis in accordance with our Master Professional Services Agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilor Karp.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion.

Steve Snell said the Town received a message from the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) requesting some additional information before we can commence design of the project so this is authorization just to get started on those items. The DEC did offer a deadline by the end of this month, but he has spoken with them and they are willing to relax that for a longer period if we need to to provide them the work plan and contact the local DEC office here and get the project started.

Supervisor Venesky: This is not going to cost us anything out of our Town budget? This is all grant money?

Steve Snell said that was correct. This project has received up to a \$75,000 grant from the NYS Water Quality Improvement program (WQIP). The estimated fee is \$2,500.00 and would be billed against on an hourly basis in accordance with our Master Professional Services Agreement.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any further discussion. There was none.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Planning Board Retainer Agreements:

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the following:

1. Approval and authorization of the Supervisor to execute the Planning Board Retainer Agreement with Germain and Germain for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, at an annual rate of \$6,500.00 ~~per annum~~, to be paid in a monthly installment of \$541.66. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion.

Councilor Cushman said 'per annum' was redundant, so perhaps they should strike the 'per annum' part.

Supervisor Venesky asked Robert Germain for his consent to the change.

Robert Germain said 'absolutely.'

Supervisor Venesky: Duly noted. [Corrected, as shown above]

Ayes – 4, Noes – 1, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried.* Councilor Becallo voting no.

Councilor Becallo: I am sticking with what I have been saying for the last couple of years. I find it extremely difficult for the same firm to serve both the Town and the Planning Board, so I am opposed.

2. Approval and authorization of the Supervisor to execute the Planning Board Retainer with O'Brien & Gere for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, at an annual rate of \$3,500.00, to be paid in monthly installments of \$291.67 in accordance with the Professional Master Services Agreement between the Town of Cicero and O'Brien & Gere . Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 4, Noes – 1, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried.* Councilor Becallo voting no.

Councilor Becallo: Again, I am opposed for the same reasons stated above.

Website Maintenance Agreement:

Councilor Cushman moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve and authorize the Supervisor to execute the Website Maintenance Agreement between the Town of Cicero and Code Munkeys in the amount of \$850.00 per year. Motion was seconded by Councilor Karp.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion.

Councilor Becallo asked Tracy Cosilmon how Code Munkeys did last year.

Tracy Cosilmon said he does a great job.

Supervisor Venesky said we are taking a look at the website to see if we can make some changes that make it more user friendly and more pleasant to deal with.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Assessor's Office:

Councilor Cushman moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the following:

1. \$2,377.08 to Com Doc for the 2016 lease payments of \$198.09 per month for the copy machine in the Assessor's Office
2. \$1,950.00 to the Onondaga County Finance Department for the 2016 RPS (Real Property System) software annual licensing fee

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Venesky.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion. There was none.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Highway Department:

Councilor Conway moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the following purchases:

- \$5,490.00 to Steel Sales, Inc. for carbide blades, for sander chain for Truck #43
- \$1,650.00 to STS Transportation for Fisher Plow pump
- \$200,000 to American Rock Salt for 4300 tons of salt
- \$2,000.00 to Beam Mack for A/C Compressor for Truck #9
- \$2,393.50 to Eberl Iron Works for (50) fifty, ten foot unistruts with bottoms
- \$1,650.00 to SnoDepot for oil pan for Truck #10

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Venesky.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion. There was none.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Parks and Recreation Department:

- **Expense approval for Bennett Street Improvement Project – LWRP III**

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve an expenditure in the amount of \$1,729.48 to Environmental Paving Solutions, LLC, for The Bennett St. Improvement Project LWRP III. The Town's share of the overage is 50% or \$864.74, which will be taken from unexpended funds from the Parks 2015 Budget. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion. There was none.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **Municipal Agreement with Town of Salina**

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution for approval of the annual Municipal Agreement between the Town of Salina and Town of Cicero for funding for the CanTeen and to approve the Supervisor to sign the agreement. (The Town of Salina has already signed on their behalf). Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion. There was none.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **Engineering Services for William Park**

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the proposal from O'Brien & Gere to provide Engineering Services related to site improvements along the existing seawall at William Park. The estimated fee is \$3,800.00 and would be billed against on an hourly basis in accordance with our Master Professional Services Agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- **Purchases**

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the following purchases:

- A. \$1,003.60 to Automated External Defibrillator (AED/Infant/Pediatric Pads/Wall hanging unit) for William Park and Beach operations
- B. \$32,651.90 to Delacy Ford for a Ford F350 4 wheel drive pick-up with 8' plow (includes trade in of existing truck & plow)
- C. \$6,075.00 to Gary's Equipment Co, Inc. for a CAM Superline trailer

Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Supervisor Venesky stated the purchases were all budgeted items.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Planning and Zoning Department (Codes Enforcement):

Supervisor Venesky moved for the adoption of a resolution to approve the following:

- **Set the bid date of March 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. for proposals to issue a request for Brush, Grass, Rubbish, Weeds, Pool Clean-up and Control and Boarding-up properties for the year 2016 for the Town of Cicero.**

Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any Board discussion.

Councilor Becallo asked how many properties were abandoned or in foreclosure.

Supervisor Venesky said he didn't have the numbers, but he could get them.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Councilor Karp moved for the adoption of a resolution for:

- **\$355.00 for Richard Hooper and Robert Smith to attend the New York Planning Federation Conference to be held in Saratoga, N.Y. April 17-19, 2016**

Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Councilor Becallo asked if \$355.00 was the total amount for both of the people that were attending the conference.

Supervisor Venesky said that it was.

Councilor Conway asked if the attendees were going to drive down and come back the same day.

Supervisor Venesky answered yes. He said that we are watching dollars. We have a commitment to education, and we think that our elected and appointed officials should have the latest information to make the best decisions possible on the residents' behalf.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, and Abstentions- 0. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion Items:

• **Police Grant – Chief Snell**

Chief Snell gave some background information on the grant. He said for the last 15 years we have had anyone who is arrested for a finger-printable offense fingerprinted by the Onondaga County Sherriff's Department for us; they do it as a favor to us. That has become problematic over the last couple of years due to the fact of the growth of the court and the number of individuals. The Town has grown and the court has become the second busiest town court in Onondaga County. As a result, we are receiving information calls from a DCJS (Department of Criminal Justice Services) who monitors the finger-printable offenses and has advised us that there are eleven of them that they notified us of in the last year that have decided not go down to get fingerprinted. The process basically is that the courts (or once we arrest them and we give them the form to appear at the Sherriff's Office by a certain date) the court is supposed to follow up with that but the court is extremely busy with only two judges right now, so we found this to be problematic. So what we did is for the last two years we've applied for a grant. We finally received it through Al Stirpe's office to purchase a LiveScan digital electronic fingerprint instrument which will be put right at the station. It is a small, but it allows us to fingerprint all our defendants. What we will do is once they are arrested we won't have to bring them back; they won't be time consuming - they will be scheduled just as if they had to go down to the Sherriff's office. Now, we have direct control over monitoring who is not showing up, so that before the case is disposed of in court we can insure that that individual is fingerprinted so if he doesn't show up at his date to be fingerprinted here by us we'll show up at the court and take him physically over there and have him fingerprinted; make sure that we are 100 percent in compliance with State requirements. But it has really been, basically, the growth of the town and the busyness of the court that has caused this problem.

Supervisor Venesky thanked Chief Snell for finding that grant and asked him to please thank Assemblyman Stirpe for his assistance in getting it.

Supervisor Venesky commented that one of the things he doesn't think we have done well as a town is look for money. He said the Police and Parks & Recreation departments do very well looking for money and grants, but he doesn't think we have done a good job looking beyond that because we haven't been focused on it. So one of the things he said that we would do if he was elected was either hiring a grant writer or looking at a grant writer and he has talked to some of the other supervisors and was in discussions that morning with Onondaga County to do that, so we will see if we can combine some services, and we'll see if we can come up with some money out there that we have been missing.

• **Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area**

Supervisor Venesky said they received a letter from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The DEC is considering an open-space project to acquire a parcel of land on NYS Rte. 298 in the Town of Cicero (they had enclosed a map that the Town Clerk will have for the record). The DEC is not looking to use *eminent domain* to acquire this property, but they wanted to see if we had any objections to them reaching out to the homeowner and saying 'look, we'd like to buy your property' and if the homeowner chooses to sell it to them then they would like this to become part of the Cicero Swamp.

Supervisor Venesky commented that the DEC is not looking to take any property from anybody, but they are looking to buy it.

Supervisor Venesky solicited any discussion. There was none.

Public Input:

A resident told Supervisor Venesky that there was no requirement for a person to state one's name or address for the record, that they had settled that with a previous administration. She requested that people be informed of it. She asked if somebody could tell her what a CAM Superline trailer was.

Supervisor Venesky told her the Parks & Recreation department has a trailer that they tow behind their pickup trucks to carry their equipment (lawnmowers, etc.), but the frame was rotted so it had to be replaced.

The same resident asked what 'LWRP' stands for.

Robert Germain told the resident that LWRP stands for 'Local Waterfront Redevelopment Program'.

The resident said she understood the clarification Supervisor Venesky talked about [clarifying the record regarding Supervisor Venesky's comments regarding the lighting district consolidation at the last meeting], but she wanted to know how this would be reflected in the minutes.

Tracy Cosilmon told the resident the minutes would have a notation on there, and then it would be clarified in the statement from this meeting.

The resident said she was *for* dividing the lighting districts because she doesn't want anybody to pick up the dime for her lighting, and she doesn't want to be charged for anybody else's, but since they are postponing this are they sure that they will be making the decision about lighting districts in March or will this be like *Signs*; almost two years and nothing has been done.

Supervisor Venesky told the resident that when it comes to the lighting districts we have to make a determination as to what we are going to do because people's tax bills will be changed and those changes (after we make a determination whether or not we chose to go with it, or we are going to do it), and certainly public input is going to be a driver of that as well. By law, we have a drop-dead date where we have to have it in so that tax bills can be changes, so they are going to vote.

In regards to the signs, the resident said it will be two years in April and asked if anything is being done about them.

Councilor Becallo explained that he gave the information to the Board already, and that all they have to do is vote on it. *After the resident requested a copy of it, Councilor Becallo told the resident he would get her a copy of it.*

The resident thanked Supervisor Venesky and Councilor Becallo for responding to her last FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) request.

Supervisor Venesky told Councilor Becallo he could put Signs on the next agenda.

Don Snyder said he might not be able to attend the next meeting so he wanted to speak in regards to the carrying of concealed weapons on our property. We need to realize that in the last six years, 90 percent of the mass shootings that we have had in this country have happened in gun-free zones. We also know that the character of the people that have concealed carry permits don't change their attitude based upon where they are; we have training that indicates when we should pull that gun out, and in most cases we should never pull that gun out unless our life is under threat. We need to think about how we in fact inflict *gun-free zones* on our community, and we need to think about that very seriously because yes, you say in your write-up that if I bring my gun to a park and I keep it in my car, everything is hunky-dory and there's no problem, but if I'm out in the ball field 300 yards away from my car and all of a sudden there is a problem my gun sitting in my car is not going to help anybody that is there. He has a permit, and at the current time does not carry his gun, but he is getting more and more a feeling that he needs to carry it. Don said the minute we start saying where you 'can' and 'can't' carry it then he has to think about if he is coming to the town hall and then he has to make sure that the gun is locked up in his car. And, if it is locked up in his car he has to make sure no one steals it and causes a crime. Don commented that his weapon is more secure on his belt, but the sign is going to tell him he can't bring it into town hall.

P.J. Potter addressed the board and said they put the public input section off until the very end of the meeting, when in fact shouldn't that really be available to the public when they are discussing issues that the board is going to vote on at that time? That way the public has a way to put their feelings out about what they are going to vote on. He noticed that all of the fire departments have an agreement, with the exception of Cicero Fire Department. Our taxes are paid through fire protection and he feels that regardless of what is going on between the town and the fire department there should still be an agreement struck; they should still fund them so they can actively do their job. He commented that there seems to be a 'kick the bucket down the road' on the fire district thing that Supervisor Venesky said he was going to address, and the biggest problem lies between the Cicero Fire District and the Cicero Fire Protection District as far as the

rates being terribly unequal; two-thirds apart. Mr. Potter said he heard the word 'consolidation' with the CanTeen; the towns can all consolidate together to operate the CanTeen. Within the town we have two, three legal consultants and with the days of consolidation couldn't we get one town attorney to handle all of the town's business, or is there a chance of the planning board being in a fight with the town board, or vice-versa, that we would need to different attorneys?

Supervisor Venesky told Mr. Potter that each one of those boards is legally independent of each other. Each chair has the ability to select whomever he or she would like to be their attorney to represent them and he doesn't think it's proper to get involved in that.

Mr. Potter told Chief Snell that we just got a new patrol car to replace a car that was in an accident, but yet we were still looking to replace six vehicles before that incident, but yet we are still replacing six vehicles although we just got a new one.

Chief Snell explained that they had seven cars.

Mr. Potter said he did have a question about the savings with the safety management council but Supervisor Venesky had already addressed it, and asked if there are going to be future savings that are going to come out of this.

Supervisor Venesky told Mr. Potter they could discuss it that evening or Mr. Potter could come in and talk to him.

Supervisor Venesky said he feels that there will be measurable benefits, not just for his administration and not only financial benefits, but more importantly he thinks it's important that we protect the human assets in our people.

Supervisor Venesky explained to Mr. Potter that the town runs pretty lean on staff, so it adds a burden on the other employees when someone gets hurt and he/she doesn't come to work. He said it's not only a burden on their families - it's a burden on their quality of life. Supervisor Venesky said he thinks not to be focused on it is very short-sighted. Also, he thinks that the benefits for the health and safety of our employees (and also for the financial benefit for the town moving forward) that there is definitely a huge return on investment in many ways.

Mr. Potter questioned what the rates would be down the road.

Supervisor Venesky replied that he wants to drive that number down. Currently we are spending \$430,000 a year just in insurance premiums, and that's a number that we can control. One of the things they said they would do if they elected him supervisor is he would look at the expenses that we could control, and he would come up with a plan to control them (to drive that number in a positive way), and with the board's help that's exactly what they are going to do.

Mr. Potter asked if someone decides to sell their property for the Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management would that take that off of our tax rolls.

Supervisor Venesky said it probably would, but he wasn't sure. He thinks it is a protected area, and that if someone sells their property and the DEC takes it over that it would go off our tax rolls because he doesn't think the DEC pays us any taxes.

Judy Boyke commented on the sea wall at William's Park. She said we just replaced that about three years ago, and replacing a sea wall is sometimes throwing good money after bad money because of the ice. She said she would really take a look at it, and as long as we aren't opening the park that we should possibly think of using rip-rap or the lock baskets; they have caged baskets and that may be a better choice as opposed to the concrete.

Judy Boyke said she noticed on the abstract that the town has purchased a time clock. She asked where it is going.

Chris Woznica said the time clock they bought probably three years ago broke so they got another one; it also broke. They are looking into a whole new system.

Judy Boyke asked who the new vendors were for the insurance that they negotiated.

Supervisor Venesky told her Houston Casualty Company was one of them. We were able to drive a better deal working through Haylor Freyer & Coon on our disability insurance carrier, but he didn't have that name in front of him.

Judy Boyke said because that was over an extreme amount of money did that not go out for bid for the safety management, also?

Supervisor Venesky told her that we don't have to go out for bid but he looked at another consultant who he thinks is very reputable, so we had another person look at this proposal. He said he thinks this is so important (the Town of Cicero) that he thinks that the administration (all of them sitting on the board and the consultant) need to be on the same page of what they think needs to happen as far as:

- driver training,
- safety communications with our people,
- designing a living-framework that encourages, and will develop over time a culture of safety that we do not have today

Supervisor Venesky commented that this board is sold on this.

Judy Boyke said she wasn't challenging that at all.

Judy Boyke told Supervisor Venesky in regards to the lighting district that she hopes that something is going to be available prior to 27th for everyone to be able to look at and understand fully before it comes before a public hearing, so that they can see clearly and to fully understand it. She said in regards to their urgency of having this done, July 1st is the Final Tax Roll and Grievance Day is in May, they have until the 1st of July.

Doug Wickman said they had approved a couple agreements that day for engineering and for legal for the planning board. So they have the attorney for the planning board and the attorney for the town board; the attorney for both and the engineer for both are the same.

Supervisor Venesky stated they were the same company; they are not the same attorney.

Doug Wickman pointed out that that is common in Onondaga County. Many communities have that, and from his perspective it works out very, very well. It all gets complicated, and it requires a lot of communication, and when you have the same company working on a development from the planning board side and from the town board side it makes that communication a lot more efficient and you're much less likely to make big mistakes so he thinks this is the right way to proceed.

Supervisor Venesky thanked Doug Wickman and asked any students in attendance to get their forms signed.

Adjourn:

Supervisor Venesky made a motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Becallo.

Ayes - 5, Noes - 0, and Abstentions - 0 Motion *carried unanimously*.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Tracy Cosilmon, Town Clerk

