

STATE OF NEW YORK
ONONDAGA COUNTY
TOWN OF CICERO

SS:

The Cicero Town Board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cicero Town Hall, 8236 Brewerton Road, Cicero, NY 13039.

PRESENT:

Jessica Zambrano	Supervisor
Mike Becallo	Councilor
C. Vernon Conway	Councilor
Dick Cushman	Councilor
Mark Venesky	Councilor

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christopher Woznica	Highway Superintendent
Joseph Snell	Police Chief
Robert Germain	Germain & Germain, Town Attorney
Stephen Snell	O'Brien & Gere, Town Engineer
Jody Rogers	Director of Youth Bureau and Parks & Rec.
Richard Hooper	Director of Codes Enforcement
David A. Balcer	Code Enforcement Officer
Tracy M. Cosilmon	Town Clerk

Supervisor Zambrano welcomed everyone to the 14th regular meeting of the Town Board and read the following statement:

I would like to point out the emergency exits – two at the back of the room and one over here to my right.

We ask you all to silence your cell phone or other electronic devices so that the meeting is not unnecessarily disturbed. If you must speak on your cell phone we ask that you go in the back hall or outside. We also ask the audience to keep chatter to a minimum, so as not to disturb others.

The Town acknowledges the importance of full public participation in all meetings and hearings. We therefore urge all who wish to address the Board to utilize the microphone at the front of the room. If anyone is unable to hear, let us know and we'll try to make the necessary adjustments.

Supervisor Zambrano said there were a couple of presentations; therefore, they might not go in order because they were waiting for special guests.

Councilor Conway led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then requested a moment of silence for our troops overseas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Zambrano said there had been some provisions of the minutes that were provided and asked the board members if they had received them, in which they had.

Councilor Conway made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2015 Town Board [meeting] minutes with a couple of corrections that I goofed up on the last meeting [for a resolution]. Supervisor Zambrano said she had one at the last meeting also.

Corrected resolution:

Councilor Conway moved for the adoption of a resolution for O'Brien & Gere to prepare and submit a grant application through NYSDEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) Water [Quality] Improvement Project to authorize the Supervisor to sign a application. Work will consist of pre [preparing] project information and a preliminary engineering report which will be submitted with the application. Work to complete [to be completed] on an hourly basis in the amount not to exceed \$2,500.00. The grant application deadline is July 31, 2015. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano [it was originally seconded at the July 22nd Town Board Meeting by Supervisor Zambrano]. Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes- 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT NUMBERS 30, 31, 32, 33 & 34

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any questions from the Board on the abstracts, of which there were none.

Councilor Cushman made a motion to approve Abstract Numbers 30 (dated 7/27/15), Number 31 (dated 7/31/15), Number 32 (dated 8/10/15), Number 33 (dated 8/17/15), and Number 34 (dated 8/24/15), as presented.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Councilor Becallo told Supervisor Zambrano that he appreciates the back and forth with the questions (asking the Town board members about anything extra if they liked; that they could add that). For the record, Councilor Becallo said that the abstracts have actually gotten a little better with information, so he appreciates that on Shirly's end. He will just continue, if he does in fact have any questions on any particular item, to just take that to Shirly.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Abstracts can be viewed on the Town's website: www.ciceronewyork.net

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS/AMENDMENTS

Councilor Cushman explained that because they hadn't met in almost five weeks they had quite a few modifications; there are twelve (12) listed on the website; they are all just moving one account to the other. There are also two budget amendments; both of them were for Water Quality Improvement Project (Oxbow Rd. and Brewerton).

Councilor Cushman moved the adoption of a resolution to accept the budget modifications and the two budget amendments as presented:

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
08/27/2015**

**2015
BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**

FROM		\$	TO		
DB514040	Hwy Summer Roadside Fuel	5000.00	DB511242	Roadside Drainage	
DB511041	Hwy Equipment Rental	5000.00	DB511042	Hwy Runner Crush	
DB511049	Hwy CB/F&G/Riser	2000.00	DB511042	Hwy Runner Crush	
DB514211	Hwy Snow Personnel OT	3229.80	DB511011	Hwy OT	1257.78
			DB511012	Hwy Summer OT	1972.02
A90408	Workers Comp	15000.00			
A19904*	Contingent	10,000.00	A142045	Attorney-Employment	
TBM	07/22/15				
A81604	Landfill	2500.00			
A99029	Unemployment Ins	708.20	A711011*	Summer Park Laborers	
A715012	Beach Monitors	2509.80	A711011*	Summer Park Laborers	2345.80
TBM	05/27/2015		A715011	Beach Laborers	164.00
B714012	Day Camp Personal Ser	86.38	B714010	Rec Personal Services	
B71454	Rec Contract	189.16	B714040	Rec Supplies	64.16
			B714040	Park Supplies	125.00
A715042	Parks Improvements/Rehab	1500.00	A711041	Parks Vehicle Operation	

2015 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Revenue		Appropriations	
DB599	Appropriated Fund Balance	DB69894 WQIP (Water Quality Imp Project)	2500.00 Oxbow
SS599	Appropriated Fund Balance	SS69894 WQIP	1600.00 Brewerton
TBM	07/22/2015		

Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Councilor Becallo asked Councilor Cushman where the \$15,000 for the Budget Modifications A90408 Workers Comp was going.

Councilor Cushman said we had a big increase in Workers' Comp. with the insurance rates and that was just the tip of the iceberg; fifteen-thousand was the smallest amount. We are going to have some more pretty substantial increases.

Supervisor Zambrano said they were moving \$15,000 out of the Workers Comp line, along with \$10,000, and shifting it over to the Attorney line for employment issues.

Councilor Becallo asked if that was likewise for A81064 Landfill; that's going to Summer Park Laborers.

Supervisor Zambrano said yes. It shows this time the Comptroller included it says 'Town Board Meeting' with the dates. That's when the Board passed the resolutions to approve those changes, so it usually takes the next budget modification sheet where you see that; the same with the budget amendments.

Supervisor Zambrano seconded the motion.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- **John Zepp – Retiring from the Police Department after 34 years of service**

Councilor Venesky told Officer Zepp, 'We hate to lose you'.

Councilor Venesky said we have an officer that retired part-time after 34 years of service, Officer John Zepp. We wanted to recognize that and Chief Snell has a few words.

Chief Snell said that John is the last one to serve that was here when he came here back in 1995, so it's kind of an emotional moment for him because tomorrow is John's last day. He really appreciates the fact that John stayed this long with him and said John Zepp served well.

Chief Snell read the following:

Bio Investigator John Zepp

1. Served with the Cicero Police Department from 1981 – 2015
 - a. Duties include
 - i. NYS Certified Evidence Technician
 - ii. Criminal Investigator
 - iii. Department Evidence/Property Clerk
2. Served with the United States Navy from 1963 – 1972

Over the past several years Inv. Zepp has received numerous commendations for the closing several major felonies by arrest.

Inv. Zepp received the Meritorious Service Award in 1995 for the saving of a life. A boater had been injured, unconscious facedown in Oneida Lake and Inv. Zepp jumped into the lake from his boat and was able to secure the victim until assistance arrived. Had it not been for Inv. Zepp's actions the boater may not have survived.

Over the years Inv. Zepp has attended many in-service training schools. Those most notable are;

1. Basic Intelligence Officer's Awareness Course
2. Certified as a Basic Level Thermographer
3. Managing Property and Evidence Course
4. NYS Certified Evidence Technician School
5. Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Responder Awareness

Inv. John Zepp has served the Town of Cicero with pride and professionalism and will be missed by all those that he has served with.

Councilor Venesky (addressing Steve LaRochelle): Your professionalism, your dedication to the Town of Cicero showed through the first time I sat down with you. I wish you the best! We wish you the best in your retirement! God bless you!

The audience applauded.

On behalf of the Town Board and the entire town of Cicero, Councilor Venesky presented a signed Certificate of Appreciation to Steve LaRochelle and congratulated him:



A picture of the special occasion was taken.



(pictured left to right) **Front row:** Leona Nicole LaRochelle, and Sara Rose LaRochelle (Steve's granddaughters). **Second row:** Supervisor Zambrano, Adrienne LaRochelle (Steven's wife), Councilor Venesky and Councilor Becallo **Back row:** Councilor Conway and Councilor Cushman

Supervisor Zambrano said the Town of Cicero is well served by dedicated employees; thirty-six years is a long time and thirty-four years is a long time.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

- **Highway Department**

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to appoint Brent Wood as full-time Apprentice MEO (Motor Equipment Operator) in the Highway Department, at a pay rate of \$23.57/hr. effective September 1, 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Brett Wood thanked Jody Rogers for his previous opportunity in the Parks & Recreation Department and Chris Woznica for his current opportunity in the Highway Department.

- **Parks and Recreation Department**

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to appoint Danielle Scripa, as full-time, Park Laborer, in the Parks and Recreation Department at an hourly rate of \$16.38, effective September 1, 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

GRANT APPLICATION FOR SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Supervisor Zambrano asked Steve Snell to talk a little bit about our grant application for our sewer infrastructure issues. She said we've already submitted one at the state level and this is a county grant application.

Steve Snell explained that this is a grant that Onondaga County is offering, it is called a Suburban Green Infrastructure Grant, and basically it's to promote reduction and the amount of extraneous water entering the sanitary sewer system via infiltration and inflow. There was a report completed by the County for the Brewerton service area that identified a whole host of improvements that were required so this is a grant that would assist the town in completing some of those improvements that were identified by the County. This grant is up to \$225,000, so it's directly going to help the town in this Brewerton service area so he thinks it's a really good idea for the town to apply for it, basically; it directly would impact that infrastructure.

Councilor Venesky said we are going to fix the sewers, we have to. He is happy that grant is out there – it has his support.

Steve Snell said they usually have this every year; it comes out around this time.

Supervisor Zambrano asked if it was feasible that we could get a state grant as well as a county grant.

Steve Snell said it was possible. He already submitted a grant application to the state's water quality improvement grant.

Supervisor Zambrano said because of the study that the County did concerning the Brewerton treatment plant they did reach out and encouraged us to submit this particular grant application.

Councilor Cushman made a motion to adopt a resolution to authorize O'Brien & Gere to prepare and submit a grant application to the Onondaga County Suburban Green Infrastructure Program (SGIP) for sanitary sewer improvements within the Brewerton WWTP Service Area. Work will consist of preparing grant application materials which include a preliminary engineering report. Work will be completed on an hourly basis for a not to exceed amount of \$2,500.00. The grant application deadline is September 16, 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

8045 THURSTON DRIVE

- Informational Hearing pursuant to Town Code Section 74-6 relative to the abatement of safety concerns regarding property at 8045 Thurston Drive and presentation of the accompanying report filed by the Town of Cicero Code Enforcement Officer.

Supervisor Zambrano said 8045 Thurston Drive is a residence in Darby Farms; it is a residence that we have had some problems with. Richard Hooper and Dave Balcer were going to give a little bit of the history with this property and also talk about their recommendations on what to do. She said Mr. Pettersen was there and he would like to speak to this issue.

Laurance Pettersen: My name is Laurance Pettersen. I live at 8055 Thurston Drive and I would like to comment on 8045 Thurston Drive. The house is reported by the Code Enforcement Office as a *danger to our living area*, but what concerns me most is the back foundation wall which has collapsed over about half of the rear house carrying it this winter; this has separated from the building exposing the basement. Currently the basement is dry, but the hazard of a slip and fall in the back of the house is present. Eventually, water will fill the basement posing a more serious problem if anyone enters the affected property area. The Town has authorized a fence around the property and posted notices. However, once you put up the fence the Town is just as liable for the property as the owner is in the event of an incident on the property, especially involving the hazard the basement presents. Liability claims usually flow to the deepest pockets. I realize the Town has many problem properties; I just wanted you to know just how bad this one is.

Supervisor Zambrano thanked Mr. Pettersen.

Supervisor Zambrano stated this was an Informational Hearing for the Board to be fully informed about the problems with this property. She called on Richard Hooper and Dave Balcer, who have worked on this to give an explanation of the packets that they have and to talk about the conditions, and how this is all not code compliant.

Richard Hooper, Director of Codes Enforcement: Good evening Board. Again, this is 8045 Thurston Drive. It's in Darby Farms off of South Bay Road. This property is a residence. It's been vacant we believe [since] back in 2011/2012, that no one has lived there. Some other complaints we found in the records, they complained about a vacant structure. It's came to our attention early this year, April of 2015; the complaints with the neighbors, Mr. Pettersen, the adjacent neighbors, of the serious conditions there with water building up in the basement so we contacted property management companies. I'll update you and give you the details of that. We've been over there. You have a packet with the photographs, and this is a very serious situation. The entire rear foundation wall of the building has collapsed inward - I don't know what's holding this; it's a two-story [colonial] cape. I don't know what's holding the back of the building up, water continues to get into the basement; it's not helping the situation. So according to Section 74 of our Town Code they are requiring it an unsafe structure.

Supervisor Zambrano asked if it was correct that the property was owned by two individuals, a father and a daughter, and the father is deceased.

David Balcer said not too long ago he went to the house listed as a second address and knocked on the door after giving them a call and asked if either of the people listed were there and one woman said "I am that person" (so that was basically her parents' house). The father listed [Andrew McCall] had passed away and she [Josephine C. McCall] could not maintain both properties and has basically walked away from it thinking that the bank had already foreclosed on it. He said County records did not show that, and his conversations, and going through many bank institutions on zombie houses, is a nightmare - all municipalities trying to find out which bank, which maintenance companies are doing it is a total nightmare. It's a mess out there that he has to deal with constantly on these houses with high grass, and so on and so forth. After finally getting a hold of the right company, through talking to a maintenance person that was there pumping water out, he got to this person's maintenance company that he was going through and then going to the bank that they were going through, and he finally got some emails and had some phone conversations about it. As this process went through (when they were pumping the water out of the house it actually took away what was holding the basement wall), and it seems that shortly after they got the water out, that's when the basement wall collapsed. He got further contact from the contact he had at the bank and their email to him basically said 'we are walking away from this, we can't afford to fix this'. Before the wall caved in they [the bank] sent someone there to estimate repairs at \$40,000 to \$50,000, and now that it has collapsed they thought that it was going to probably be more than they were willing to spend on a house that they haven't foreclosed on yet.

Supervisor Zambrano asked if it was correct that Andrew McCall was the previous owner that is now deceased, and Josephine McCall is his daughter.

David Balcer replied that was what the person at the second residence had told him, that was her name.

Supervisor Zambrano said these were the names on the deed, so these are the owners.

Supervisor Zambrano asked David Balcer if he did invite Ms. McCall to let her know that we were having this informational meeting tonight and asked what Ms. McCall had said.

David Balcer said Ms. McCall asked him if she should attend and he told her that is a legal question, he could not answer her. He told her that her name is listed as the owner of the property, as well as Andrew. She then asked him what the meeting would be about and he said that the Town was looking at consideration to be tearing this house down; you would be of this site and the classing of the law and that's when she said 'you can do whatever you want, I can't afford to do anything with it'.

Supervisor Zambrano asked David Balcer if that conversation is reflected in the memo that was part of their packet.

David Balcer said it was part of his inspection that he included into her packet.

Supervisor Zambrano asked the Board if they had any comments or questions for Mr. Hooper or Mr. Balcer, of which there were none.

Someone in the audience asked who would own the property once this building was down.

Supervisor Zambrano asked Robert Germain the same question. She said her guess is that the bank is in the process of foreclosing.

Robert Germain said it's owned by private citizens now; it will still be owned by them. If they foreclose it will go to a foreclosure auction most likely and will be open for bid, so he doesn't know. He said that the bank usually buys it back, but there's no guarantee.

David Balcer said at this point it does show that she [the owner] is behind one year of taxes.

Robert Germain said it was three years before they [the County] put that on the auction.

Supervisor Zambrano asked David Balcer if it was his recommendation that the Town Board consider demolition of this building.

Richard Hooper said that was correct.

Public Input:

Judy Boyke said with the Town paying for this where are we going to recoup our money?

Supervisor Zambrano told her that the Town pays for the demolition up front and the cost of that gets added to the tax role, and the next year the County will reimburse the Town because they provide all of the tax roll money.

Judy Boyke said but if they don't have an escrow account then how do you get the money?

Supervisor Zambrano said it gets added to the tax bill. It's an established procedure, and we will get the money back (this is what's happened on the properties that we have demolished).

Judy Boyke said in her experience with dealing with real estate, when a property goes in foreclosure (and she does have to list it), the bank in the process actually owns... the house is owned by the bank anyways until you pay your mortgage off. She would be concerned if the bank says that they don't want anything to do with it because they actually own the property.

Supervisor Zambrano said the established procedure, as she understands it, is that the demolition costs will be added to the tax bill and it will be reimbursed by the County. She asked Robert if he could elucidate.

Robert Germain said that is true. And it is not true that banks own the property. An individual owns the property subject to the lien with the bank.

Judy Boyke said correct, but then it goes into foreclosure.

Robert Germain said the bank *may* or *may not* take title after a foreclosure auction has been held by a referee at the court house, that there may be a deficiency judgement in this case, or whatever, which would go against the owners, but that's the way it works. Our bill, whatever we spend for demolition, will get added to the tax levy; the County makes us whole when they are unpaid after a certain amount of time.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any further questions from the Board, of which there were none. She asked the Board members if they wanted to consider some motions to deal with this property tonight.

Councilor Cushman asked her if she wanted him to read both of them.

Supervisor Zambrano said sure.

Resolution:

Councilor Cushman moved the adoption of a resolution finding that the proof submitted by the Code Enforcement Office substantiates the finding that the structure located at 8045 Thurston Drive is a public nuisance and a dangerous building pursuant to Section 74-6 of the Cicero Town Code. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Resolution:

Councilor Cushman moved the adoption of a resolution ordering the demolition of the structure located at 8045 Thurston Drive and authorizing the Code Enforcement Office to solicit bids for said work with an award to be made by [at] the Regular Town Board meeting on September 23, 2015. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Supervisor Zambrano told Richard Hooper he had a little bit of work to do to solicit some bids for the demolition; they'll hope to hear from him in September.

SALT

Supervisor Zambrano said we ran out of salt money last winter. We had a terrible January, February, and even into March, so we are in a position of having to get prepared for winter by appropriating some money for purchasing salt. We have the recent bid award and the cost of salt went up a couple of bucks a ton.

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to transfer \$200,000.00 from the DB Fund Balance to the salt budget line DB514241, in order to purchase road salt [for use] by the Highway Department. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to purchase road salt at a cost of \$48.81 per ton, through Onondaga County contract #1428, for a total not to exceed \$200,000.00 from the American Rock Salt Company (for approximately 400 tons of salt). Supervisor Zambrano corrected Councilor Conway by saying it is for **4000 tons of salt**. Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

BREWERTON REVITALIZATION – RIVERFRONT PARK

- **Resolution to complete the concrete overlay work**

Councilor Venesky moved the adoption of a resolution for replacement contractor EPS Environmental Paving Solutions to complete the concrete overlay work of the existing sidewalk along the Oneida River at Riverfront Park, for a cost not to exceed \$24,165.00. This work falls under Phase II of the LWRP Grant #6808. EPS Environmental Paving Solutions is under the Onondaga County Contract #962-58. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

- **Set Public Hearing date for September 9, 2015 to consider installation and maintenance of up to 9 lights on Bennett Street**

Councilor Venesky moved for the adoption of a resolution calling for a Public Hearing on September 9, 2015 commencing at 6:30 p.m. to consider upon Motion of the Town Board for the installation and maintenance of up to 9 lights on Bennett Street in Brewerton as part of the Bennett Street Improvement Project (Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grant #6913. Motion was seconded by Councilor Becallo.

Supervisor Zambrano said this is Lighting District entitled Consolidated 3 and the County ID number is LT153. Right now, the plan is to add four lights, perhaps five, and up to 9. As Councilor Venesky has indicated this is part of the Brewerton Revitalization and the next phase of the part to make the improvements on Bennett Street.

Supervisor Zambrano seconded it.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

**SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER PASSING A LOCAL LAW
TO EXCEED THE 2% TAX CAP**

Public Input:

Deborah Gardner: Every year people are always speaking about the high taxes and I hope that this hearing will explain the amount of money on a tax bill that any increase will be applied to because my total tax bill comes to over \$2000, and less than half of that is really town money, and only about 11% of that is the highway department and the town government. The other thing that I would like to suggest is that when somebody comes up and says ‘don’t exceed the tax cap’ ask them respectfully (as you usually do), ask them ‘okay, what will you want to cut? Do you want to cut a local officer? Do you want to close 2 or 3 parks? Do you want to cut the hours of the people? Ask for concrete suggestions because people are just going to say I don’t want my taxes to go up. I would like to go on record because I will not be here at that meeting, that I don’t have any problem in exceeding the tax cap as long as you do your best to spend our money wisely. Thank you.

Supervisor Zambrano told Deborah Gardner those were good suggestions; they have talked a lot about trying to make the tax bills relevant to the people. There’s a tax bill that goes out and not all of that tax bill goes to the town so they need to do a better job of explaining exactly what the town’s portion is on the tax bills.

Councilor Cushman (to Deborah Gardner) said another comment that always confounds him – the 2% cap is not 2%. And this year our State Comptroller decided that the cap is 0.76% (that’s 3/4s of 1%), our contractual obligation for our employees is more than that.

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to set a Public Hearing on September 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to consider passing a local law to exceed the 2% tax cap for the 2016 Budget. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 4 and Noes – 1. *Motion carried.* Councilor Becallo voting no stating: I am opposed, so no.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to declare the HP Scanjet 7400c printer in the Assessor's Office surplus and of no use to the Town, as it is not repairable. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any questions from the Board, of which there were none.

Councilor Venesky moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following:

- \$1,400.00 to Northern Safety for vests, hard hats and safety glasses
- \$63.48 to Valley Tire for overage on tire installation to the Badger
- \$5,000.00 to TH Kinsella for Runner Crush/Stone
- \$2,000.00 to United Auto Parts for auto parts and supplies for the month of September
- \$2,000.00 to Hi-Line for fittings/hose parts, and supplies for the month of September
- \$4,000.00 to Beam Mack for oil pan and parts for Truck #35
- \$3,200.00 to Environmental Contracting & Construction Services for asbestos pipe removal (Shellman Dr./Longpoint Pt.)
- \$4,457.33 to Cummins NE for Engine Harness for Truck #41
- \$5,772.00 to Dependable Paving (county contract) to replace driveway pipe replacement on Glendora
- \$2,260.00 to J&J Equipment for Sweeper rental – 1 week rental
- \$1,800.00 to Northern Lights Mobile for Oil pan installation for Truck #32
- \$1,500.00 to Home Depot for various materials – catch basin/road side etc. for the month of September

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any questions from the Board, of which there were none.

Councilor Becallo moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following:

- \$2,500.00 to North Syracuse Pool and Patio for Pool Table replacement at CanTeen
- \$3,375.00 to Yankee Construction to replace the roof at the Central Park Storage Building with metal
- \$2,500.00 to Birnie Bus for a bust trip to New York City
- \$4,665.27 to North Syracuse Lawn and Snow to replace the deck (72' rear discharge) on 1445 John Deere Mower
- \$1,125.00 to Lowes to replace the electric stove at CanTeen
- Acceptance of a donation of a Bleacher Unit from Doug Loguidice of Awning Mart
- Acceptance of a donation of Football Goal Posts from the N.Syracuse Central School District for Cicero Falcons Pop Warner Program at Central Park
- Disposal of a Dell Optilex GX250, used in the Parks Garage, to be declared as surplus and no use to the Town

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Councilor Cushman moved the adoption of a resolution to approve \$1,000.00 to Steve Cooley Masonry for Handicap access at west end of walking trail to the Pier at Riverfront Park (concrete).

Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, and Abstentions - 1. *Motion carried.* Councilor Becallo abstained.

Jody Rogers said nobody mentioned that that is the donation that Mr. Becallo [Councilor] gave to the Town so that park had handicap accessibility.

Councilor Becallo stated that was why he abstained.

Supervisor Zambrano thanked Councilor Becallo for his contribution.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilor Venesky moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following:

- \$1,120.28 to Verizon Wireless for the purchase of (7) Air Cards for Patrol Cars to provide access to the internet, providing updated information and enhanced officer safety
- \$1,180.70 to Driver's Village for vehicle repairs for the month of July 2015

Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

Councilor Becallo asked Chief Snell if he had air cards before this.

Chief Snell said no.

POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE

Supervisor Zambrano said the Chief of Police wanted to try a new system and asked Chief Snell if he wanted to explain it.

Chief Snell said the way they use to do it in the past was to send out/request three sealed bids and we'd have to wait three days. New York State now through the Office of General Services have what they call a E-Marketplace, which allows law enforcement and highway departments to be able to solicit for bids on specific specifications; we can literally put the specifications on the system and vendors who have signed up with the marketplace can respond back to us the specifications and submit their bids back to us, so instead of going thirty- days we can now have a 1-2 week turnaround.

Supervisor Zambrano asked Chief Snell if this was the first time he was going to use this.

Chief Snell said it was.

Councilor Venesky moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the Town of Cicero Police Department to submit a bid request for the purchase of a 2015 Ford Police Interceptor. The bid will be submitted to the Office of General Services New York State Procurement Program (NYSPPro), also known as OGS E-Marketplace. The specifications will be submitted to New York State and then placed on a virtual marketplace site for viewing by registered vendors. The results of the bidding process take approximately 1-2 weeks. Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

TAX RECEIVER

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to approve \$2,949.50 to Pitney Bowes, for the yearly maintenance of the postage meter. Motion was seconded by Councilor Becallo.

Ayes – 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Police building project**

Supervisor Zambrano said she wanted to talk a little bit about the police building project that we are considering. She has gotten some feedback that there are some rumors and were the rumors true - it's not a rumor. We are considering, actually we are under negotiations with the South Bay Fire Department to acquire their vacated building. This all started some months ago; there was some discussion, some concern that the current police building is literally falling apart. The roof is rotting, the floor boards are rotting, there are all kinds of leaks, there is a sanitary sewer system

that is failing and causing all kinds of noxious odors over there. We put that aside because we were dealing with other financial issues. A few weeks ago we were approached by Assemblyman Al Stirpe, who wants to help the South Bay Fire Department and do something with that building, so he has proposed that he will support a Dormitory Authority Grant for \$250,000 if the Town would kick in \$50,000. We have had interested people go out and look at the building. We think it is a structurally-safe building; however, we do need to do a structural analysis that will be done. There are concerns about the roof, at least part of the roof, which it may need to be repaired or replaced and with the \$300,000 we feel we have enough money to do that. We hope to work with the architect who last did an assessment of the building and was able to provide us a lot of information about the building. This week we submitted the application to DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York) and it will take a few months to hear from it. In the meantime, our town attorney is entering into negotiations because we will buy the building for a nominal cost. The land will be subdivided if everything goes according to plan. We hope that sometime in early 2016 we will be able to move the Police department from this rotting building to their new building over at the South Bay Fire Department. She thinks the Chief thinks that's an ideal location; he has looked at the building. It can accommodate not only the Police Department, but also the Justice Department, so the thought is to get the Police Department moved in the first year. We don't know how much money we'll have left over if everything goes according to plan, but the Justice Department has also been notified and they are thrilled to death because they are in desperate need of additional space; we just can't accommodate the busy court here. So there is a plan also being developed to subsequently move the Justice Department over there; they're also looking also for grant money and she got some good news today that they've been able to come up with some grant money. Supervisor Zambrano said this is all in the works - nothing has been approved, but this is the plan going forward so far. She asked Robert Germain if she had said everything okay.

Robert Germain said yes.

PUBLIC INPUT

Deborah Gardner: Last fall I asked about why Workers' Comp had increased so much and you were all going to get back to us, to me and things happen. And now I ask the question again "why the drastic increase in Workers' Comp?"

Councilor Venesky responded that the Town of Cicero has experienced (over the last five years) some substantial injuries, and unfortunately that has affected what we are going to pay probably not only this year, next year, but the next five. We had a very productive meeting this morning, and we were laying out plans for a comprehensive health and safety plan that we will move forward with next year. Actually, we are moving forward now – we are not waiting. But, it will truly become comprehensive – so we are going to grab the bull by the horns and correct the deficiencies that were pointed out to us.

Deborah Gardner: My second question/comment is do you no longer (unintelligible) email. I sent out an email to five members of the board. I asked for the courtesy of a reply. I did not get one from Mr. Cushman or Mr. Conway and I am wondering do you even get my emails. Because Mr. Cushman sometimes you get them, sometimes you don't. Mr. Conway, I *never* have gotten a reponse from you. You don't have an official email address. that is a concern of mine that you may or may not get the emails. If you're not getting mine, you're not getting others.

Councilor Cushman said that they have had some problems. Three times since he has been on the Town Board in seven months Wayne Freeman has had to re-establish his Town email, and also Mr. Meyers the Deputy Supervisor's email. He said the Town itself has had problems with our server.

Supervisor Zambrano told Councilor Cushman that we have had quite a few problems with it.

Councilor Cushman said he was going to blame it on technology.

Deborah Gardner asked Councilor Conway what he was going to blame it on.

Councilor Conway said sometimes he gets the emails and sometimes he doesn't; there are three people answering the stuff that comes into the office and sometimes he doesn't get it.

Deborah Gardner:

Needless to say, I don't like either answer. Given that, my last comment is what's going on with signs. It's been since April of 2014 and I was just showing a few people a picture I took coming off 481. you can see all these signs and it looks ... there's 16 of them. So what's going on with these signs? I mean I thought that the code was going to be changed. I went to a couple of meetings. There were a lot of people there. So it's probably 20 hours of residents' time was taken up. All I want to do is what's going on with signs. What are we doing to make our town look better? It doesn't look so good now. Thank you.

Councilor Cushman said he counted the signs, there are sixteen of them.

Deborah Gardner said she thought that the code was going to be changed. She even went to a couple of meetings and there were a lot of people there; probably twenty hours' worth of residents time was taken up on this, so all she wants to know is what going on with the signs and what are we doing to make our town better?

Councilor Becallo responded that the meeting that they were supposed to have one of his dear friends did pass away. He said we do need to pick up another meeting to finish that so he will get that on the agenda. He said he knows they are in the final stages because he still has all the paperwork. He apologized.

Kyle Palmer said just out of curiosity, Workers' Comp are you in the New York State Fund, or who is your insurance carrier?

Supervisor Zambrano said it was PERMA.

Kyle Palmer said but they would still be under the (inaudible); anything over \$800,000 you have to have that Safe and Healthy inspection, correct? Have you had that?

Supervisor Zambrano replied we have had several, and the results were not stellar.

Kyle Palmer asked if they could be foiled.

Supervisor Zambrano replied probably.

Kyle Palmer asked what was going on with the Town Highway Garage, the last he knew there were some talks about maybe doing something with it.

Supervisor Zambrano said the garage is still under consideration. There are a couple of properties that have been identified. We have decided on a firm to work with, but we really can't do anything with them until we have the properties; it is moving forward slowly, but surely.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any further questions, of which there were none.

ADJOURN

Councilor Becallo moved the adoption of a resolution to adjourn the Town Board meeting.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Cushman

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Tracy M. Cosilmon
Town Clerk

