

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2020

KIND OF MEETING: TOWN BOARD

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DEBRA L. CURTIS

PRESIDING OFFICER: DAVID B. HARRIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: JAMES E. BULT
MICHAEL KENNEY
SCOTT SWARTZ
TRACEY REX

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY: CHRISTOPHER LANGLOIS, ESQ.

COMPTROLLER:

OTHERS PRESENT: KEN HOLMES, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
DAWNE KELLY, ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERVISOR
BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION
OPERATIONS

Supervisor Harris called the January 23, 2020 Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

Fire District Consolidation Presentation

Peter Schweigert, member of the East Schodack Fire Company (ESFC), explained that the process of consolidation of the fire districts within Schodack had begun three years ago. At that time, a feasibility study was conducted and at the conclusion, was presented to the six districts for their consideration. Upon review, only three (East Schodack, Nassau and Castleton) of the six districts chose to move forward with consolidation. As Castleton did not share borders with the other two districts, only the East Schodack Fire District (ESFD) and Nassau Fire District (NFD) were able to proceed. Michael Buckbee, chairman of the ESFD, said following a favorable vote from each district to move forward with consolidation, approval from the town board was needed as they act as commissioners for the Nassau Lake West Fire Protection District (NLWFPD). In order for consolidation to be completed, the protection district would need to be dissolved. The area would then fall within the new Consolidated Fire District. Matt Cooper (chairman of the NFD), Frank Curtis (President of the ESFC), Kevin Wood (Chief of the Nassau Hose Company) and Jeff Wright (First Assistant Chief of the ESFC) illustrated the steps for developing a consolidation plan and were as follows:

1. Administrative Plan: Mr. Cooper stated the commissioners from East Schodack and Nassau would meet on a rotational basis between each station to perform duties with regard to budgets, operations, insurance, building maintenance and any necessary committees.
2. Capital Investment Planning: Mr. Cooper explained the commissioners would

establish outlines for apparatus replacement, building maintenance and equipment purchases or replacement. He noted both districts currently had similar policies in place with regard to such outlines.

3. Budget and Financial Plan: Mr. Cooper said the budget set forth for each district would be combined for a total of \$400,000-\$450,000. New capital investment accounts and procurement/investment policies would also be established and overseen by the Financial Officer and Deputy Treasurer. Mr. Curtis explained by consolidating the two districts within two towns (Nassau and Schodack) the assessed property values would be levied differently. The assessed value rate for the Town of Nassau was currently 76% versus an assessed rate of 93% for the Town of Schodack. Based on a proposed budget of \$400,000.00 for the consolidated district, the amount to be levied per town would be \$112,000.00 for Nassau and \$288,000.00 for Schodack. When the amount to be levied is broken down per a \$200,000.00 home, a resident in the Nassau Fire District or Nassau Lake West Fire Protection District would see a decrease of \$37.71 and \$29.99 respectively for their taxes, whereas a resident of the East Schodack Fire District would see an increase of \$17.28.
4. Operations: Mr. Wood explained that even though the districts would be combining, they would still maintain their own identities. He noted that both departments would maintain three chiefs each and alternate each year for having car one stand in as the district chief. Mr. Wright added that the current response zones would remain the same and depending on the area, the chief of that department would be in charge. Mr. Wood said decisions would need to be made regarding training, standardizing call responses and developing district-wide standard operating procedures.

M. Cooper explained, with the support of both departments and the town board, the districts could apply for the Local Government Efficiency Program (LGEP). Under the grant, each district would be eligible of up to \$200,000.00 with an upfront cost of \$20,000.00. He noted a vote was taken from both departments with a favorable decision to support the consolidation.

Comments: S. Harris commended the departments on the hard work and dedication put into the consolidation. He offered them any support they needed. C. Bult asked when the NLWFPD needed to be dissolved. M. Cooper said once they apply for the grant, they enter a point of no return. He stated that if the board was in favor of dissolving the district, then they would move ahead by meeting with the Division of State to being the grant process. He noted a resolution would be needed by June. S. Harris asked for a vote for support of the districts moving forward with the grant process. The town clerk proceeded with the role vote of all board members. All said aye.

NY Transco Presentation

Shannon Baxevanis of NY Transco gave an update on the NY Energy Solution project slated to upgrade the aging infrastructure of electrical transmission lines running from the Town of Schodack to the Town of Pleasant Valley. The project would replace eighty year old lattice structures with double-circuit monopole units and install new 345kV lines. She noted in October of 2019, NY Transco submitted an application under Article VII of the New

York State Public Service Law. Under Article VII, the impact on the environment, communications and transportation of the project would be determined by technical studies and surveys along the length of the property. Based on the results, it was determined that there would be temporary impacts to land use, low impact on cultural resources, no adverse changes to terrestrial or wildlife resources, no increase in operational noise, and they were within guidelines for Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF). One location was found in Pleasant Valley that was out of compliance for EMF; however, the issue would be remediated. C. Swartz asked if the levels for EMF would be changed. S. Baxevanis said a slight reduction would be observed. With regard to the impact on communications and transportation, there would be no adverse effects on television, cell phone, radio or airport navigation along with no permanent impact on transportation. She noted NY Transco would be working with the local Highway Departments to mitigate any road concerns along the route. Once the application was approved and public hearings were conducted, construction was projected to begin in 2021 and be complete by 2023.

Public Comment: K. Stokem asked if the presentation could be made available on the town website. The Supervisor said yes.

Executive Session #1

C. Swartz made a motion at 7:56 p.m. to enter into an Executive Session of the board to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Seconded by S. Harris.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, S. Swartz, T. Rex, M. Kenney, D. Harris. Noes – 0.

C. Bult made a motion at 8:27 p.m. to adjourn the executive session. Seconded by C. Rex.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, S. Swartz, T. Rex, M. Kenney, D. Harris. Noes – 0.

Open Discussion – Agenda Items

Cell Phone Reimbursement: D. Kelly said a list had been generated for employees who would be reimbursed for cell phone usage. She noted this list needed to be reviewed annually to ensure all employees met the requirements. C. Bult said it would also need to be reviewed when the reimbursement could be requested, whether it be quarterly, semi-annually or annually. D. Kelly agreed and added that she would send the current list to all board members.

Park Rules and Regulations: S. Harris noted discussion on the park regulations was still open. C. Bult added that the board was still conducting research for any potential changes to be made to the rules.

NYSDOT Shared Services – Salt Shed: K. Holmes requested that a formal agreement be made with NYSDOT for shared services with regard to the use of salt at the Highway

Garage. He noted NYSDOT was currently utilizing salt during large storms with no issue of replacing what had been used. C. Swartz asked if NYSDOT took salt from the same pile as the Town. K. Holmes said yes. C. Bult felt it was in the best interest of the Town to continue working with them. C. Rex asked when the agreement needed to be completed. K. Holmes recommended a resolution be placed on the next meeting for a four year agreement.

Highway Department Truck Purchase: K. Holmes said based on the vehicle schedule, he was requesting to replace their fifteen year old truck at a cost of \$195,000.00. He noted a change would be made with the truck to replace the front axle with drop down chains. They had noticed the front end of previous trucks were rusting within two years and with the plowing route being low impact, there would be little to no concern of the truck becoming stuck. In addition to the axle, the truck would be upgraded to a stainless steel body (eliminating the need for painting), stainless steel airlines, seven year warranty and a 2021 Plow Spring Winger.

Transfer Station Rules and Regulations: B. Goodall asked the board to consider changes to the Rules and Regulations. He proposed increasing rates for items such as 12 punch cards, 52 punch cards, refrigerators, tires, bulky furniture, and household construction debris. With the added costs to the town for disposing of certain items, he felt the increases were necessary. He added that no dates for the shredding days or clean-up days were scheduled. C. Kenney asked what the current rate for recycling was. Mr. Goodall said \$90.00 per ton. C. Kenney inquired if glass was being included in the recycling or if it was removed and placed into trash. He felt that if the glass was in fact removed and placed in the trash at the recycling center, then the town was wasting money by including glass in the single-stream recycling. Mr. Goodall said, as far as he was aware, the glass was being recycled.

Music in the Park: D. Kelly said the town had the opportunity, through the Jim Clark Community Performance Fund, to add a sixth band for music in the park. The grant would allow a match of fifty percent to cover the cost of the band which ranges from a duo to an eighteen piece ensemble. S. Harris said he had heard snippets of the group and felt they would be a good addition.

Consolidation of Sewer Districts 1, 2, 4 and 7: S. Harris asked the board to review the report provided and said he would contact William Ryan regarding scheduling the public hearing for the consolidation. D. Kelly noted that prior to the public hearing, a series of notices were required to be published, which would push the hearing out by approximately four weeks.

PILOTS for Solar Projects: S. Harris explained a meeting had taken place with Eden Renewables to discuss details for PILOT payments based on the three projects proposed for Schodack. In the meeting, it was decided that the PILOT payments would be combined for the three projects with a loaded amount being paid up front. William Film, Direct of Real Property for Rensselaer County, would finalize the agreement and determine what the revenue would be for the Town. The Supervisor noted the projects would reduce pollution and increase revenue over the amount currently received for vacant land. He warned that if

the board chose to opt out of the PILOTS, the Town would lose out.

Open Discussion: None.

Briefing of Resolution

D. Kelly explained the pump station located behind Dunkin Donuts was within a state right-of-way and it was brought to the attention of the town that a permit was required for any improvements made to the area. Resolution 2020-088 would authorize S. Harris to sign the agreement. With the Amazon project moving forward, further improvements would be needed within the right-of-way.

Public Comment (Resolution Only): None.

Adoption of Resolutions:

The resolution voted upon reflects additions, deletions and amendments approved by the consensus of the majority Board.

EXPLANATION: Bracketed and strikethrough indicates language that was stricken from the resolution when adopted. Underlined indicates language that was added to the resolution when adopted. A WITHDRAWN resolution is so noted and italicized.

S. Harris made a motion to adopt the following resolution, seconded by C. Swartz:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SCHODACK DOES HEREBY:

2020-088) WHEREAS, certain improvements are required at the Town owned wastewater pump station located in the right of way of New York State Route 9 and 20; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation (the Department) must issue a highway work permit for the improvements contemplated; and

WHEREAS, for a work permit to be issued it will be also necessary to obtain a Use and Occupancy Permit from the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Supervisor is hereby authorized to make application to the Department for the required Use and Occupancy permit and to execute all required documents to obtain the permit as required by the Department.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz, T. Rex, D. Harris. Noes – 0.

Executive Session #2

C. Swartz made a motion at 8:51 p.m. to enter into an Executive Session of the board to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion,

discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Seconded by C. Rex.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, S. Swartz, T. Rex, M. Kenney, D. Harris. Noes – 0.

C. Bult made a motion at 9:25 p.m. to adjourn the executive session. Seconded by C. Kenney.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, S. Swartz, T. Rex, M. Kenney, D. Harris. Noes – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Kenney made a motion to adjourn the 01/23/20 Town Board meeting at 9:25 p.m., seconded by C. Rex. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk