

DATE: MARCH 25, 2021

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:

Supervisor Harris called the March 25, 2021 Town Board Workshop meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All members present as noted above.

Public Comment (Resolutions Only)

S. Harris asked if any comments regarding the resolutions had been received via email by the Town Clerk. D. Curtis said two emails had been received; however, only one pertained to the resolutions. The relevant comment was submitted by Mr. Gregory Banks and as he was unable to attend the meeting, the Town Clerk read his email as follows:

“My name is Gregory Banks and I am a resident of the Richwood/Julianne Dr community off RT 9/20. I would like to submit public comment on the boards agenda for articles 2021-120 to appoint Ralph Southworth as part-time police officer as well as 2021-121 to provisionally appoint Philip Finkle and Matthew Coons as part-time sworn police officers for the Town of Schodack for the purpose of attending Zone 14 Police Academy.

I hope these resolutions pass and that more efforts can be taken to help support the local community, protect us, and to enforce all ordinances and laws accordingly. Since moving to this community there has been several overarching issues stemming from the growth of the Amazon Fulfillment center on 9/20 as well as the traffic issues, and safety concerns on rt 9 in front of the new Stewarts. As the community develops around us, there is more danger to pedestrians, more risk of vehicle collisions with large trucks and fast-moving traffic. This is compounded by the lack of safe sidewalks and bike lanes, lack of overhead lighting, and an increase in out of town nighttime traffic for overnight workers at Amazon.

As a homeowner in this neighborhood, the last year alone has shown drastic changes in the environment which has outpaced the infrastructure and ability for local police to properly enforce and respond. I sincerely hope these articles above are only the first step in

improving the safety, as well as protecting the living standards of our neighborhoods.

One recent example is that I had made just last night a police report for a severe noise complaint against an Amazon employee playing extremely loud music for longer than 15 minutes at both 3:44am and again at 5:22 am. That morning officer Miller responded to take my statement at about 10:20am and explained the local police themselves are only on hand until 4am and that between 4am and 6am there is only limited ability for the Sheriff or State Troopers to assist with an emergency and any code enforcement would wait until 8am for a follow-up. With Amazon being a 24/7 operation and the massive increase in large truck traffic, including late at night and early in the morning, our police force seems unequipped to properly serve the community for our new 24/7 needs. With the onboarding of find officers who are able to assist, serve, and protect our community and roadways, we will all be able to live happier and more productive lives and better contribute back to our community. Please continue this effort to hire, promote, and support our local police so they may be best equipped to handle issues both non-emergency and emergency alike.”

Executive Session

C. Swartz made a motion at 7:04 p.m. to enter into an executive session of the Board to discuss personnel matters pursuant to public officers law §105(f). Seconded by C. Rex.

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

C. Bult made a motion at 7:26 p.m. to adjourn the executive session. Seconded by C. Kenney.

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

Board Discussion Items

Girl Scout Project: S. Harris said he was contacted by L. Lyons and E. Hilt of Girl Scout Troop 1143 regarding a proposed addition to the playground to earn their Bronze Award. He explained that Ms. Hilt’s sister was in a wheelchair and felt that a wheelchair swing would be more inclusive for her at the playground. The project would include the purchase and installation of the swing. He noted that D. Kelly was working on an area to extend the playground to accommodate the swing. C. Bult asked if a part of the project included fund raising for the cost of the swing. S. Harris said they do solicit funds but noted the grandfather had also offered to assist. C. Bult asked if parkland funds could be utilized for the project. Atty. Langlois said yes, as it promotes the park. He added that the town could also accept the swing as a gift. C. Rex recommended using parkland funds and offering to have the family donate a plaque instead. S. Harris said he would pass the information onto Ms. Lyons and Ms. Hilt.

Rain Date – Schodack Senior Center: S. Harris said an email had been received from the Schodack Senior Center regarding a rain date of May 28th for their Music in the Park event on May 27th. He felt, as the board had decided to waive the fee, there should be no issue with a rain date. The Town Clerk cautioned that rain dates had only been granted in the past for town hosted events and was concerned that other renters would be able to request the

same. She noted a resident, as recently as that morning, had requested a rain date for their event and was denied. C. Bult asked if May 28th was available. The Town Clerk said yes and added that the Seniors had been penciled in pending board approval. S. Harris said the granting of a rain date for the Senior Center would be based on their status as a community group and recommended informing any other renters of that reasoning. It was the consensus of the board to allow the rain date.

Assistant Park Manager Position: C. Swartz recommended waiting to hire an Assistant for the park until the new Park Manager could determine his needs. All board members agreed.

Schodack Day Camp: C. Bult asked for an update for the Town Summer Camp. S. Harris said Mrs. Golden was still working to determine the schedule, structure and location of the camp. He would keep them apprised of the situation.

Pedestrians on Route 9: S. Harris said he had spoken to CDTA regarding a bus stop at Amazon to deter pedestrians who were walking from the Route 150 bus stop to Amazon. C. Rex asked if there were projected dates for the project to be approved and completed. S. Harris said he was working with them but felt it could take some time. He noted the bus stop would be a cost to CDTA.

Zoning Code Meetings: C. Rex recommended the board resume meetings with Laberge to discuss the proposed zoning changes. She felt they could either be in-person or via zoom depending on the level of comfort for all involved. C. Swartz asked that all changes be highlighted to allow for an easier review.

COVID-19 Update: S. Harris said employees at the town hall had begun to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and depending on the number of positive cases within the town, he would be willing to discuss a reopening plan for the town hall at the April 8th meeting. Until then, the town hall would remain open by appointment only with the doors locked.

Briefing of Resolutions

S. Harris summarized all resolutions. He noted, it was the consensus of the board to appoint Kevin Konig as the Part-time Park Manager (2021-122).

Adoption of Resolution

The resolutions voted upon reflect 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.

C. Bult made a motion to adopt the following resolution, seconded by C. Kenney:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN

BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SCHODACK DOES HEREBY:

2021-119) WHEREAS, on February 11, 2021 the Schodack Town Board approved by resolution (2021-089) the Volunteer Ambulance Workers Service Award Program List of all 2020 active Volunteer Ambulance Workers of the Castleton Volunteer Ambulance Services, Inc., and

WHEREAS, the list was forwarded to authorized representatives of the Castleton Volunteer Ambulance Services, Inc. and was posted for thirty (30) days as required by law, and

WHEREAS, they have certified on March 22, 2021 no changes were made to the listing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schodack Town Board authorizes Supervisor Harris to certify to PENFLEX, Inc., that the listing as submitted and posted should be used to determine the funding, the requirements of the Service Award Programs (SAP), the eligibility of persons to be paid benefits and the amount of benefits to be paid to eligible persons.

4 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – C. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz, T. Rex. Noes – 0. D. Harris recused himself as he is a member of the Castleton Volunteer Ambulance Service.

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

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

2021-120) Appoint Ralph Southworth as part-time police officer at an hourly rate as set forth in resolution 2020-317.

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

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

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

2021-121) Provisionally appoint Philip Finkle and Matthew Coons as part-time sworn police officers for the Town of Schodack for the purpose of attending Zone 14 Police Academy and to complete necessary training under the direction of the Schodack Police Department. [Expenses for candidates to attend Academy will be borne by candidates, permanent employment will be subject to completion of Academy, meeting civil service requirements and further Town Board approval.]

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

C. Kenney 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:**

2021-122) Appoint Kevin Konig as part-time Park Manager at an hourly rate as set forth in resolution 2020-317.

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

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Kenney made a motion to adjourn the 03/25/21 Town Board meeting at 7:42 p.m., seconded by C. Bult. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk

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