

DATE: MAY 26, 2022

KIND OF MEETING: TOWN BOARD

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DEBRA L. CURTIS

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHARLES J. PETER

MEMBERS PRESENT: JAMES E. BULT
MICHAEL KENNEY (*Arrived at 6:34 p.m.*)
SCOTT SWARTZ
TRACEY REX

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY: CHRISTOPHER LANGLOIS, ESQ. (*Arrived at 6:55 p.m.*)

COMPTROLLER:

OTHERS PRESENT: KEVIN KONIG, DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
DAWNE KELLY, ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Peter called the May 26, 2022 Town Board Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

Town Park Meeting

S. Peter informed the board of his vision for future events in the park, including Movies in the Park, a Fall Festive Day, Trick or Treat and a Picnic area in the meadow.

Rentals: K. Konig explained that rentals for the 2022 season were soaring, with many requests for added days and the potential for adding tent(s) for multiple renters per day. D. Kelly added that the state park offered options for multiple renters. C. Swartz wondered if parkland funds could be used for the purchase of a tent. C. Bult said a tent was a good idea but should be semi-permanent, installed upon an Alaskan slab to ensure safety of the structure. He expressed concern with the amount of parking available may not be adequate for additional renters and other park users.

Bathroom Improvements: S. Peter mentioned that an issue had arose recently between renters and park users clashing regarding use of the bathrooms. He felt that, with the potential for added income to the parkland funds through the GEIS which was being established by Rensselaer County, the board should consider installing a second bathroom building on the opposite side of the creek for all to use, not just renters of the pavilion. D. Kelly suggested that a partition be added at the entrance of the bathroom to allow use for outside users without disruption of events at the pavilion.

K. Konig recommended that the lighting in the bathrooms be upgraded to a four-foot florescent fixture as it was fairly dark in there. He noted that he also planned to repaint the bathroom. He added that the roadway, off Poyneer Road, was in need of a new stone base. It was very dusty and the Highway Department was constantly fixing potholes due to the weather.

Night Use/Damage: S. Peter said an issue had occurred with an individual entering the park after hours and causing considerable damage to the ball fields by driving through them. He noted that the gates could be closed at dusk and re-opened in the morning; however, it would make for a long day for the park staff. K. Konig said the only time the gates had been closed on his watch was July 14th due to flooding and he had received backlash from park users the following day. He added that there had not been any damage noticed so far this year.

Free Library: S. Peter recommended, once the library was constructed, to invite the family to select a place for installation. C. Rex suggested that it be placed by the new sign proposed by K. Konig.

Trees: C. Bult asked if there were any trees that needed to be removed and if so, would the highway department be needed. K. Konig stated that he and his Park Attendant had removed nine trees so far this season; however, there were a few more that they may need assistance with later in the season, depending on the weather. He noted that they were checking the trees regularly and had great trail patrons who were prompt to report any issues to him.

All-Inclusive Swing: D. Kelly said a consensus had been reached for the placement of the all-inclusive swing. It would be located at the end of the swing set, closest to the pavilion, with a path to the building.

Viking Gym: K. Konig mentioned that the Rotary Club had already raised around \$7,000.00 from fundraising for the cost of the gym. S. Peter recommended that, if adequate funding was obtained, they should consider constructing the gym out of steel to make it a more permanent fixture.

Field Upgrades: S. Peter suggested upgrading the ball fields by adding striping, reseeding and install goals to allow soccer and softball teams to use. The Town Clerk noted that they did not currently take rentals for the fields. Use was on a first come, first serve basis. The board considered amending that policy if the fields were upgraded.

Brookview Park: S. Peter mentioned the K. Konig was continuing to work with Rensselaer County for improvements to the new Brookview Park. C. Swartz asked if additional parking would be installed. S. Peter said they would need to work with National Grid to clear an area at the bottom of the access road. He agreed that the parking at the top of the trail was not adequate.

Drumm Property: S. Peter said he had ideas for use of the former Drumm Property, which had been donated to the town. These included a dog park or a splash pad. C. Rex recommended a Veterans Memorial Park also be considered.

C. Rex made a motion at 6:49 p.m. for a brief recess of the meeting to allow all members and attendees to relocate to the Town Hall for the Town Board Workshop. Seconded by C. Bult.

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

C. Swartz made a motion to resume the Town Board Workshop at 7:08 p.m. Seconded by C. Bult.

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

Review of Resolutions

S. Peter gave a brief overview of the resolutions on the agenda. He announced that Paula Brearton would be appointed as the Part-time Accountant (2022-203). All other resolutions were self-explanatory.

Board/Public Comment: None.

Adoption of Resolutions

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:

2022-202) Ratify and affirm authorizing Kerrie D. Joiner, Human Resource Manager to post internally the full-time position of Operator 2 at the Highway Department and authorize advertising in the official Town newspaper as necessary.

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

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:

2022-203) Appoint Paula Brearton as part-time Accountant (not to exceed 20 hours per week), at an hourly rate of \$29.00, effective June 13, 2022.

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

C. Kenney 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:

2022-204) WHEREAS, Glenn Galkiewicz. has applied for approval from the Town Board pursuant to Chapter 137 of the Town Code to import clean fill soil onto property consisting of 6.66 acres and located on 171 Miller Road, Castleton, NY (Tax Map No. 178.-4-55.2); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing in connection with said application was duly noticed and held on April 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the application and project has been reviewed by the Town's engineering firm, which by letter dated May 12, 2022 recommended that the Town Board issue a negative declaration under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") with respect to the project and recommended that the Town Board approve the project subject to the conditions set forth therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board finds and concludes that the proposed project is classified as an Unlisted Action under SEQRA; finds and concludes that the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the environment; and therefore issues a negative declaration pursuant to SEQRA for the reasons set forth in Part 3 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form prepared with respect to the project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby determines pursuant to Town Code Section 137-5 that it is in the public interest to grant such application; and it is further

RESOLVED, that such application is hereby GRANTED, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Applicant shall satisfy each of the conditions set forth as in letter from the Town Engineering firm dated May 12, 2022, and
2. The Applicant shall comply with the regulations set forth in Town Code Section 137-6, except that the requirement of Section 137-6(H) that a bond be posted is hereby waived.

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

Public Comment

Paper Road – Sunset Hills: S. Peter noted that the two neighbors that border the paper road off Bayberry Drive had agreed to each purchase half of the road. Mr. and Mrs. Roohan of 15 Bayberry Drive said they had obtained signatures from the surrounding neighbors to decline any interest or claim to the paper road. C. Swartz asked if Mr. and Mrs. Lashway, of 23 Circle Drive, had been contacted. Mr. and Mrs. Roohan questioned why they would need to be

contacted as they had no right or claim to the property. They said that they were hesitant to contact them as there was tension between themselves and the Lashways. Atty. Langlois said it was necessary for the town board to ensure that all potentially interested parties were contacted. S. Peter added that the board had encountered an issue in the past when relinquishing claim to a paper road. It was determined that a third party used the road and was unaware of the change in ownership. Atty. Langlois said the town could contact Mr. and Mrs. Lashway and, if there was no issue or claim, then they could move forward with the sale. S. Peter assured Mr. and Mrs. Roohan that this was simply a formality and hoped to have the resolution authorizing the sale on the next agenda.

Open Discussion

Sewer District #5 Disinfection: S. Peter said they were further exploring the cost for a disinfection system for the East Schodack Sewer District. Said cost could potentially be covered using American Rescue Plan Funds. To mainstream maintenance of the system, they would be looking to install the same system as in Sewer District #8, which the Water/Sewer Department was currently trained on.

Building Department Vehicle: S. Peter said that a quote had been received listing two options, a truck and an SUV, for vehicles to replace the Ford Escape used by the Building Department. Based upon the rising gas prices and the number of miles driven, he felt the SUV would be a better choice. He added that the Ford Escape had mechanical issues and needed to be replaced soon. C. Rex asked what the availability of the vehicles would be as she had heard it could take months for inventory to be delivered. S. Peter said it could take a few months but should not be much more than that. C. Swartz felt, as the Building Department had only 1.5 employees (1 Full-time Building Inspector and 1 Part-time Building Inspector) using the two vehicles that they currently had, was it necessary to replace the Escape. He asked if there was another department that had a vehicle that could be used in the interim. S. Peter noted that the current truck for Highway Superintendent would be retired and repurposed for the Park. The Police Department would be retiring a Chevy Blazer but the vehicle had over 100,000 miles on it. C. Swartz suggested utilizing the surplus police vehicle rather than purchase a new vehicle at this time. C. Bult asked how often the Escape was used for data collection. D. Kelly said, in the past, they usually collected on Mondays and Fridays as Gary Ziegler was not usually in on those days.

S. Peter suggested working with the Comptroller's Office to determine the number of miles charged by employees for town business and assess whether another vehicle was needed.

Housing Choice Voucher Program: D. Kelly noted that a resolution would be on the next agenda to authorize the Supervisor to sign the annual certification of the Housing Voucher Program.

Telephone Upgrades – Highway Department: C. Bult said he had met with B. Brahm, Interim Highway Superintendent, regarding the inability for outgoing calls to be made from the phones at the Highway Garage. He noted that a new system had been approved in 2021; however, the installation had not occurred. He recommended revisiting the installation, which

would most likely need an updated quote as prices were certain to have changed. S. Peter said he would reach out to Northeast IS to update the quote.

Road Striping: C. Bult said, during his visit at the Highway Department, B. Brahm would be contacting Rensselaer County to obtain pricing for road striping on town roads. The roads projected for striping were Sunset, Miller and Bunker Hill Road.

Highway Grader: C. Bult asked, as the grader at the Highway Department had not been used in years, could it be deemed as surplus and used as a trade for the purchase of a mini excavator. He noted that vehicles were generally deemed as surplus and sent to auction; however, he felt it would be a better option to submit it as a trade. Atty. Langlois said, if the grader was surplus, the town could choose to sell it out right. He was unsure if bids would be required and would look into the matter.

Private Road to Sewer District #8 Station: S. Peter noted that he was alerted by residents in the area of the private road into the Sewer District #8 station of individuals parking their cars along the road to access the river. He had been in contact with Amtrak to install a gate to prevent further issue.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds: S. Peter said B. Brahm was still working on quotes for the repaving of the end of Schuurman Road and the town hall parking lot. They were trying to get a final cost before Bellwood Lane was paved.

Noise Ordinance: S. Peter informed the board that samples of noise ordinances from other municipalities had been included in their packet. Based upon those examples, he felt the Schodack Code was minimal, with an outdated quiet time of midnight to 6:00 A.M.

Zoning Code Update: S. Peter said one board member was left who needed to review the proposed zoning map. He noted that adjustments had already been made based upon suggestions from the other board members who had reviewed the map.

Route 9 Water/Sewer Improvements: S. Peter said he had attended a meeting with Rensselaer County regarding the proposed infrastructure improvements on Route 9. The County advised that they would be moving forward with the water improvements. They anticipated sending out bids soon for the project and Laberge would be meeting with the landowners of the potential sites of the water tower. As for the sewer improvements, they were holding off for now.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Day: S. Peter stated that D. Kelly was working with A. Shaughnessy from Rensselaer County to create a link for registration, connected to the Town website. They anticipated reserving 150 to 200 time slots but noted that they were not obligated to pay for all slots if they were not reserved.

Executive Session

C. Bult made a motion at 7:48 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, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

S. Peter informed the audience that no further business would be conducted following the executive session.

C. Swartz made a motion at 8:06 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, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Kenney made a motion to adjourn the 05/26/22 Town Board meeting at 8:06 p.m., seconded by C. Bult. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk

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