

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2024

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
SCOTT SWARTZ
SARAH RAE HALLER

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY: CHRISTOPHER LANGLOIS, ESQ.
COMPTROLLER: PAUL HARTER
OTHERS PRESENT: DAWNE KELLY, ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERVISOR
PERRY NATALE, POLICE CHIEF
RALPH SOUTHWORTH, ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Supervisor Peter called the January 25, 2024 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.

Executive Session

C. Swartz made a motion at 7:01 p.m. to enter into an Executive Session of the board pursuant to Public Officers Law, Article 7, §105(1-e) and §105(1-f). Seconded by C. Bult.

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

C. Swartz made a motion at 7:25 p.m. to adjourn the executive session. Seconded by C. Kenney.

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

Presentations

East Greenbush Central School District Capital Project: J. Simons, Superintendent of the East Greenbush Central School District, highlighted a capital project that the school district would be pursuing. The capital project, which was based upon a building condition survey that had been conducted (under NYSED), assessed the needs of seven schools, the transportation department, and transportation/grounds facility within the district. The total cost for the project would be \$116,000,000.00, of which seventy-five percent of the cost would be covered by NYS Building Aid. He noted that the district had a capital reserve fund of \$2,000,000.00 and with other debt to be satisfied by 2025, the cost to taxpayers would be tax neutral. Any of the cost that had not been covered by state aid or reserve balance would be

borrowed and paid back within the grace period. Said project would address HVAC/air conditioning needs, classroom additions and playgrounds at the elementary schools; library renovations; athletic field improvements; electrical/plumbing upgrades; general site improvements and electrical service for the anticipated electrical bus fleet. He welcomed any input from the board members and thanked them for their support.

J. Dunn, member of the East Greenbush School Board, understood that the cost of the project was substantial but stressed that the school board had the best interest of all residents within the six municipalities in the district in mind. He noted that past projects had focused on the elementary schools and Columbia High School; however, this capital project would focus on the middle school to improve their athletic field, taking pressure off the high school for hosting athletic events. He encouraged anyone with questions about the project to reach out.

D. Garab, Principal of the Green Meadow Elementary School, thanked the board for their support and the Schodack Police Department for the continued visibility at the school.

S. Peter noted that Schodack had four school districts, Schodack Central, East Greenbush, Icabod Crane and Averill Park. Out of the four, East Greenbush seemed to have the highest increase in enrollment, increasing the need for the improvements to the buildings within the district. He encouraged all residents to learn more about the capital project.

Phone System – Police Department: Chief Natale stated the telephone system at the Police Department was considerably outdated and due to the increase in technology, it needed replacement. To facilitate the change, he had spoken to Northeast IS and Spectrum to obtain quotes for new systems. R. Southworth, Assistant Police Chief noted that the current system still had employees who no longer worked for the department on the system and, as there was no longer a dispatcher at the station, a newer cloud-based system would best suit. The cloud-based system, which was projected to reduce monthly costs by \$100.00 per month, would allow callers to be better connected to the department via an automated system as well as allow officers to access calls via an application on their cell phones and to receive voicemails as text messages. He added that all calls would be recorded for security purposes. Based upon discussions with both Northeast IS and Spectrum, the system offered by Spectrum was the lowest cost and the most customizable. P. Natale said that he was assured by the Spectrum Representative that a technician would be dispatched immediately if there were any issues with the system and guaranteed that the service would never be down.

Briefing of Resolution

S. Peter gave a brief overview of resolutions on the agenda. All were self-explanatory.

Board and Public Comment (Resolutions Only): 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. Swartz 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:**

- 2024-091** Amenda resolution 2024-023 as adopted January 11, 2024 as follows:
Appoint Lori Bivins as part-time Secretary to the Justice Court (not to exceed
20 21 hours per week) at the hourly rate of \$20.00 effective January 16, 2024.
5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, M. Kenney, S.
Swartz, S. Haller, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

C. Haller 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:**

- 2024-092** Authorize Supervisor Peter to execute and administer Statement of Work
agreement dated January 18, 2024 with ADP to create a custom report to
report information to the New York State Retirement System at a cost not to
exceed \$1,000.00.
5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, M. Kenney, S.
Swartz, S. Haller, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

C. Bult 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:**

- 2024-093** Appoint Charles Halvax, subject to final approval by the Rensselaer County
Civil Service Commission, as a Water/Sewer Operator (Class C License), at
an hourly rate of \$ 29.16 as set forth in CSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement
dated January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. Said appointment shall
be effective as of January 29, 2024.
5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, M. Kenney, S.
Swartz, S. Haller, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

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

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

2024-094 Authorize Supervisor Peter to execute and administer a Memorandum of Understanding with United Public Service Employees' Union (UPSEU) relative to a School Resource Officer (SRO).

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

C. Swartz 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:

2024-095 Authorize the purchase of a new, complete cloud based Unified Communications with RingCentral Phone System for Police Department from Spectrum Enterprise per estimate dated January 19, 2024 one-time installation cost of \$500.00 and monthly cost of \$309.00 for an annual cost not to exceed \$3,708.00.

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

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

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

2024-096 Authorize Town Clerk to publish a legal notice for a public hearing to seek public comment on Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2024 Amending Chapter 197, Article I entitle Senior Citizens Exemption in the Town of Schodack. Said hearing to be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at the Schodack Town Hall at 7:05 p.m.

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

C. Swartz 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:

2024-097 Authorize Town Clerk to publish a legal notice for a public hearing to seek public comment on Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2024 Amending Chapter 197, Article V entitle Disabled Persons Exemption in the Town of Schodack. Said hearing to be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at the Schodack Town Hall at 7:10 p.m.

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

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

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

- 2024-098** Ratify and affirm authorizing purchase of 9' Pro plus Western snowplow with handheld controller, and Halogen light package to be installed on 2023 Ford F-350 per quote dated November 30, 2023 and LED mini Bar light, Front and Rear mini strobe lights from Unicell Truck Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$8,189.00 (A-Fund)
5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz, S. Haller, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

Discussion Items

Zoning Code Update: S. Peter said the board would begin the review process for the proposed amendments which had been made to the town zoning code at the next town board workshop. He noted that a PDF of the amendments would be placed on the town website, but he reminded residents that it was a working document and not finalized. He mentioned that one amendment included animal husbandry, particularly regarding the number of acres for chickens. He noted that discussions would be needed regarding replacing the acres with limits to the flock size, excluding roosters and confinement to reduce the impacts on neighbors. Another amendment he highlighted was related to solar battery storage systems. He stated that the moratorium would be closing and the verbiage would be added to the proposed amendments to the zoning code. In addition to the code on battery storage systems, which had never been included, the board would also consider regulations for Air BNBs, tiny houses, old structures not being able to be torn down and rebuilt unless one wall was still standing, shipping containers and accessory structures. He mentioned a particular situation on Morey Park Road where a property owner was unable to tear a building down and rebuild due to an issue with setbacks. He added that there were no safe structures in the building to allow for it to be rebuilt, per the code. He recommended changing the code requirements to allow for the structure to be rebuilt using the same footprint as the previous building. C. Bult felt it would be a good amendment, allowing property owners to rebuild from a clean slate but he recommended stipulations be included for the time in which it could be completed.

Water/Sewer Projects: S. Peter stated that Keller Construction was making great progress with the water project down Route 9 and the sewer project on Maple Hill Road was nearly complete. He added that a meeting would take place soon with Rensselaer County to reconcile the cost of the water project. He thanked the County for their support in both projects.

Request for Proposal – Cooling Tower Replacement: S. Peter noted that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the replacement of the cooling tower at the town hall has been amended to reflect a longer completion period. As it stood, there would be a site viewing on February 16, 2024, proposals would be due on March 1, 2024 and completion would be on or before April 30, 2024. Said RFP was slated to be published by the end of January and would be sent to prospective contractors.

Volunteer Firefighter/Ambulance Worker Tax Exemption: S. Peter said an amendment was needed for the firefighter's exemption that had been passed by local law in 2023. For the exemption, volunteers had to have two years of service to be eligible, based upon the law passed by Rensselaer County; however, the law passed by the town had an eligibility of five years. Said amendment would bring the town law into line with the county and reduce the years of service to two.

Push Notifications: S. Peter said he had been contacted by a company specializing in notifications via text messages to and from subscribers, allowing municipalities to keep residents informed of events and/or issues within the town. He felt this would be particularly helpful if the board instituted brush pickup. Any interested residents would be able to submit their address to schedule a pickup, relieving the need for Highway Workers to drive aimlessly down each road. He noted that funds had been budgeted 2024 for communications which would cover the \$7,000.00 cost. If any board members were interested, he offered to send the phone number for testing the system.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Bult made a motion to adjourn the 01/25/24 Town Board meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by C. Swartz. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk