

DATE: JUNE 22, 2017

KIND OF MEETING: TOWN BOARD

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DONNA L. CONLIN

PRESIDING OFFICER: DENNIS E. DOWDS

MEMBERS PRESENT: JAMES E. BULT
MICHAEL KENNEY (*ARRIVED AT 5:50 P.M.*)
SCOTT SWARTZ (*ARRIVED AT 5:40 P.M.*)
TRACEY REX (*LEFT AT 7:07 P.M.*)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY: DAVID GRUENBERG
COMPTROLLER:
OTHERS PRESENT:

Supervisor Dowds called the June 22, 2017 Town Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

C. Bult made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of Building Inspector and discussing the appointment of a Town Clerk. Seconded by C. Rex. Candidates being interviewed for the position of Building Inspector were: Kyle Ossenfort, Joseph Tremblay and Christopher Whittet.

3 ayes 0 noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, T. Rex, D. Dowds.
Noes – 0.

(C. Swartz entered the session at 5:40 p.m.; C. Kenney entered the session at 5:50 p.m. and C. Bult left recused himself from the Executive Session discussion at 6:25 p.m. and returned to it at 6:35 p.m.)

C. Kenney made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:00 p.m., seconded by C. Swartz.

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

Adoption of Resolution

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 A WITHDRAWN resolution is so noted and italicized.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. Dowds said he would digress from the agenda to address resolution [2017-176] and asked for public comment. Hearing none he called for a motion on the resolution.

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:**

2017-176) Pursuant to Town Law §64 paragraph (5) appoint Debra Curtis Town Clerk effective July 1, 2017 at a salary of \$58,999.00 to fill the unexpired term of Town Clerk Donna Conlin. Term to expire December 31, 2017.

3 Ayes 2 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz. Noes - T. Rex, D. Dowds.

Both C. Rex and S. Dowds offered statements qualifying their Noe vote. They are as follows:

C. Rex said: "She would not be voting in favor of this resolution. The process for recent appointments has been to advertise the position, review resumes, deliberate, interview, deliberate again and finally select a candidate, just as they are doing with the Building Inspector. Recently, the Town Board was charged with filling the Assessor position - a 12 yr. Assistant Assessor interviewed along with other qualified candidates. We did not waive an open and fair process for that employee and the Town Board did not compromise the selection process. According to State Law there is no legal requirement for the Town Clerk position to be appointed immediately. Let me be very clear that my opposition is not directed at any individual. It is based solely on the fact that this appointment was not held to the same practices as previous appointments."

S. Dowds said: "I guess my approach is that...and it's not geared to any specific individual, but we've had communication that there are two individuals who are going to run for the position. I have spoken with the Association of Towns and the law is that it's "may" and not "shall" and I fully agree that Deb is absolutely deserving of the money. My position is basically, if this were a year ago, there'd be no doubt in my mind. It would definitely be an appointment but at this point since we are less than four months away from an election, it would be, from my perspective, best for the voters of the Town to appoint Deb in the continued (position) Deputy and to give her the salary that the Town Clerk would have, so with that I would vote no."

Following the adoption of the resolution, S. Dowds asked Ms. Curtis to come to the dais. Ms. Curtis said she was humbled to be appointed as the Town Clerk through the end of the year and honored that the Town Board put their faith in her. She has served as the Deputy Clerk for the past year under the Town Clerk and said she intends to continue the quality of service that was set forth by Donna Conlin in her 34 years of service. She gave a brief overview of her background and again thanked the Board for the honor.

(C. Rex left the meeting at 7:07 p.m. The Supervisor noted that she needed to attend her son's moving up ceremony at school.)

Discussion Items: The Supervisor said there will be resolutions on the July 13th agenda for the following items:

- 1) Training for: the Assessor, Court personnel and the Fire Investigation Unit.
- 2) Appointments for: Building Inspector and Assistant Assessor.
- 3) Mass Assembly Permit for Goolds Orchards
- 4) Surplus vehicle (police car)
- 5) State Wrestling Champion road plaque. S. Dowds said he cannot find any history on who paid for this signage. C. Bult said he believes fellow Board members fully support this recognition and are willing to fund the cost for the sign.

Proposed Local Law: The Supervisor also asked the Board to review three sample local laws regarding housing sex offenders in hotels/motels. He felt they should begin the process to determine what meets the Town of Schodack's needs. It was his opinion that the Stockport law was probably the best example for the Town of Schodack. C. Bult asked that the Town Attorney review them in depth to advise the Board regarding their ability to withstand a legal challenge.

Battisti Water District: S. Dowds noted there has been no response from Mr. Keller's attorney regarding the Battisti Water Supply Co.

Shared Services:

Village of Nassau: S. Dowds said he will be meeting with the Village Mayor again regarding sharing a Code Enforcement person.

Rensselaer County: The Supervisor said he will be attending a meeting on Monday night regarding a county-wide shared services plan. If one is done, it must be submitted this summer to the Governor's Office for review. C. Bult asked if the County was definitely going to file a plan. S. Dowds said he did not know. This was the first session that he was asked to attend. However, from meetings with other agencies, he knew that the County does not have to file a plan this year. C. Bult wondered if the State might consider using the efficiencies that municipalities have already instituted for shared services or must they be new. S. Dowds said when he attended a Dept. of State meeting they said that anything already established cannot be included. He was told that services that have been proposed, but not yet established, may be able to be included, but at that time it was not definite. C. Bult said the Town has proactively established shared services and wished everything we've done so far could be included.

On behalf of the Board, the Supervisor thanked Town Clerk, Donna Conlin, for her expertise and helpful guidance during the last 34/37 years. He said she is a role model and has done incredible things for the Town as well as other organizations she has been affiliated with. At this point, they simply wanted to say Congratulations and wish her the best on her retirement.

Ms. Conlin thanked the Board for the kind words and thanked her colleagues, past and present, family and friends for their continued support during her career. She has been honored to serve the Town as a public servant for the past 34 years+.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Bult made a motion to adjourn the 06/22/17 Town Board meeting at 7:17 p.m., seconded by C. Swartz. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. Conlin, RMC/CMC
Schodack Town Clerk