

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2019

KIND OF MEETING: TOWN BOARD

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DEBRA L. CURTIS

PRESIDING OFFICER: DAVID B. HARRIS

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY: PHILLIP DANAHER, ESQ. (*Deputy Town Attorney*)

COMPTROLLER: PAUL HARTER

OTHERS PRESENT: BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION
OPERATIONS

JAY GIRVIN ESQ., LABOR ATTORNEY (*Arrived at 7:43 p.m.*)

Supervisor Harris called the August 22, 2019 Town Board Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All were present as noted above.

Presentation

J. Buono, Vice President of Partners with National Grid and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), illustrated how a program offered by National Grid would reduce energy costs for the town. He noted that more than seventy-four municipalities in New York have taken part in this program including the Village of Hoosick Falls and the Town of Nassau. He explained a survey had been conducted for all lights located at the Police Department, Highway Department and Town Hall. A quote had been generated for the replacement of all non-LED lights and ballasts with an estimated savings of over \$7,000.00 per year. He said National Grid offers two payment options which include either a lump sum payment with a ten percent discount or a twelve month payment plan at zero percent. He noted there was a promotion that would end on September 30th which would give an additional discount of \$2,000.00 if the town chose to replace bulbs in all three locations. He stated the total project cost would be \$32,175.00 after all savings. S. Harris asked if all lights would be replaced. Mr. Buono said all that were not LED. C. Swartz asked if the street lights in the town hall parking would also be replaced. Mr. Buono said yes and added that regular street lights would not be included. He noted that after January 1, 2020, National Grid would be replacing any street lights that go out at no charge. This would be a great savings to the town as it would drop the rate from \$3.65 per light to around \$.40 by decreasing the wattage from 400 watts to 30 watts. S. Harris asked what the next step would be. Mr. Buono said the Supervisor would sign the agreements, the work would be scheduled to begin in November and be complete by November 30th. He added that the town would not be billed for the project until January of 2020. He noted that, as the program was set through the state, the project was not required

to go out for bid. He said an inventory had been conducted; however, another would be done by Lockheed Martin prior to the start of the project and assured them that it would be reviewed by their five engineers to ensure the estimated savings would be accurate. C. Bult asked what the warranty would be for the lights. Mr. Buono said if the lights go out for any reason within one to five years of installation, the company will come to change out the bulb and/or ballasts free of charge. If the bulbs fail within five to ten years of installation, the company will mail a new bulb to the town at no cost and it would be the towns responsibly to change it. S. Harris asked what the payback period would be. Mr. Buono said approximately 4.45 years by paying the lump sum. S. Harris asked the life expectancy of the bulbs. Mr. Buono said 50,000 hours per bulb or approximately 50 years. C. Swartz asked if the bulbs would have a slow warm up or produce instant light. Mr. Buono said as there was no need for warming of the bulb, the light would be instant. Deputy Atty. Danaher suggested that the board consult with other local municipalities that have completed the conversion. Mr. Buono said North Greenbush, Poestenkill and Schaghticoke had completed their projects and welcomed the board to contact them. C. Swartz asked if there were funds in the budget for a lighting upgrade. P. Harter said nothing had been designated for the lights; however, the funds could be appropriated from the fund balance. He noted that with the billing not being charged until January 1st, they could budget for 2020.

S. Harris said the board members had been given a proposal from Tom Garrett of Siemens regarding a new program being offered. He explained the program would send out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) at no cost to the town to seek additional options for converting the lights to LED.

Discussion Items

All items below correspond to the meeting agenda:

- 1. Sole Assessor Reappointment:** S. Harris said it was his opinion that Karen Justus was doing an adequate job as Assessor. He noted that she had taken courses to meet state requirements and was fully qualified. He added that she was able to prove all assessments during the grievance process and it was his recommendation to reappoint her. C. Swartz said he noticed that Ms. Justus was required to complete the Cost, Market and Income Approach to Value by 05/11/2019. He noticed that it was not listed as completed and asked what would happen if she had not. S. Harris said he was not sure. He explained it may have been a course that she had completed but was not included in her packet. He said he would ask her and if the course was satisfied, the board could proceed with the reappointment if it was their desire.
- 2. Sewer District no. 6, Extension no. 5:** S. Harris explained the sewer extension for Stewarts had been sent back and redone by Clough Harbour & Associates. It is now pending the engineer's final approval.

3. **2019 Youth Agreement:** S. Harris explained that by signing the agreement with Rensselaer County Department for Youth, the Town would be reimbursed \$3,140.00 for the Schodack Day Camp.
4. **Water Rate & Sewer Rent Hearings:** The Supervisor said the waiving of the October 20th date was an annual practice and the hearing would take place in early November.
5. **Fall Clean-up:** S. Harris said the fall clean-up days were originally scheduled from October 10th to 12th; however, B. Goodall realized that was Columbus Day weekend. Mr. Goodall recommended rescheduling the dates for October 17th to 19th as to not interfere with the holiday weekend. S. Harris asked if the fees would be the same as last year. B. Goodall said yes. He noted some items would be free and others would be up to fifty percent off. C. Rex asked if Mr. Goodall had any suggestions for changes to the fee schedule for the fall clean-up. B. Goodall said yes. He explained that the price for tires had increased and if the price remains the same from last year, the town will be losing money. He said he would have his recommendations for prices in the resolution for the next meeting.
6. **Snow & Ice Removal Agreement for 2019-2020:** S. Harris said this agreement would allow the town to be reimbursed for snow and ice removal on Stony Point Road.
7. **Human Resource Manager Training:** S. Harris explained that this conference was necessary to ensure that Kerrie Joiner, Human Resources Manager, is up to date on all law changes that will occur in 2020.
8. **Budget Meetings:** The Supervisor noticed there had been a change for the time of the budget presentation meeting on October 4, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The town clerk said she had made the request for the time change; however, if it was not convenient for the board members, 5:00 p.m. would be adequate. C. Bult said he was concerned that they may not have a quorum for the meeting and recommended going back to the original time. It was the consensus of the board to hold the meeting at 5:00 p.m. S. Harris said a few dates had been suggested for the review of the 2020 preliminary budget. He asked that all members email him or Dawne Kelly regarding their preferences.
9. **Execute Memorandum of Understanding by and between Town of Schodack and United Public Service Employees Union** (*This item was not discussed.*)
10. **Dumpster:** S. Harris said he had spoken to the local fire companies about donating a dumpster for training purposes. He noted that as they were still deciding, the town had two options in the interim. They could either sell the dumpster outright or have it purchased by ACC Containers Inc. with the option of the company donating container to the fire companies if they need it. C. Bult asked if a new dumpster was being requested for purchase. B. Goodall said yes. He explained only one quote

had been received so far but was awaiting others. C. Swartz asked if the old dumpster was not usable. B. Goodall said the doors were damaged.

Recycling: S. Harris asked for an update on the town's cost for recyclables. B. Goodall said the costs are still increasing. He said they were still covered under the Albany County Contract; however, they were being assessed a \$15.00 monthly surcharge above the market price. He noted that they had not seen any increase in pricing for garbage and C&D due to the contract being active until December. S. Harris explained he had been looking into the feasibility of installing an enclosure for all three containers and had met with Laberge to review the engineering required. He added that they were also reviewing potential grants. B. Goodall said the grants included options for advertising which would pay half of his salary and benefits or a capital improvement grant which would pay fifty percent of equipment costs. S. Harris said it was also discussed about a redesign to create better flow and to comply with NYSDEC regulations. B. Goodall added that there was a safety issue that was brought to their attention by an individual from PESH regarding the lack of fencing around the containers. It was not within regulation. They were informed that for every thirty inch drop, a forty-two inch fence was needed.

C. Bult said he was impressed with the work done by the Highway Department on the sidewalk at the town hall. He felt it was a great improvement and thanked Ken Holmes for his efforts. S. Harris said the repairs were completed for the Board of Elections and noted that there was more repair needed than anticipated.

Executive Session

S. Harris made a motion at 7:47 p.m. to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of meeting with Labor Counsel under attorney-client privilege. Seconded by C. Bult.

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

S. Harris noted that no further business would follow the executive session.

C. Kenney made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:35 p.m., seconded by C. Bult.

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 08/22/19 Town Board meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by C. Bult. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk