

DATE: JUNE 24, 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: PAUL HARTER
OTHERS PRESENT:

Supervisor Harris called the June 24, 2021 Town Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call.

Executive Session

C. Swartz made a motion at 7:01 p.m. to enter into an executive session of the Town Board pursuant to Public Officers law Section 105(f), pertaining to a personnel matter. 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 to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:06 p.m., seconded by C. Swartz.

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

Briefing of Agenda

S. Harris summarized the resolutions on the agenda. He noted that resolution 2021-175 would be withdrawn due to changes made with the Governor rescinding the State of Emergency related to COVID-19.

Board Discussion

State of Emergency: S. Harris stated that the State of Emergency for the Town of Schodack, which had been extended on June 10, 2021, would be allowed to expire as there was no further need.

Department of Motor Vehicles Satellite: S. Harris was happy to report that the Satellite DMV would be reopening the week of July 12, 2021, resuming operations to County Residents.

Adoption of Resolutions

Prior to voting on the resolutions, S. Harris asked if any public comment had been received via email. The Town Clerk said no.

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 A WITHDRAWN resolution is so noted and italicized.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:

2021-174) Appoint Alan Roehr, Jr. as part-time police officer at an hourly rate as set forth in resolution 2020-317. To be effective June 26, 2021.
5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – J. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz, T. Rex, D. Harris. Noes – 0.

2021-175) *Withdrawn: Authorize and adopt the Town's Implementation Plan prepared in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 106 of the Laws of 2021, and prohibit the assessment of any fees and penalties, and/or the re-levying of any delinquent water charges, with respect to qualifying Town water customers for the period of time prescribed in said law.*

Presentation – Telephone System

P. Harter said a proposal had been received from Northeast IS to upgrade the telephones for all town departments to a cloud-based system. He noted that the town board had recently approved the purchase of a Mitel Phone System for the Highway Department, identical to the one purchased in 2019 for the town hall; however, for the cost to replace the highway phones, the town could purchase the cloud system for all four town locations (Town Hall, Highway Department, Police Station and Transfer Station) instead. He said the town had noticed a total savings of \$12,000.00 in the past two years with the Mitel System and felt that the town would continue to see savings with the cloud, as well as not experience a need to purchase a new phone system in the future. S. Harris said he had reviewed the proposal and asked why the town was charged taxed as they were tax exempt. Ryan Sapienza, Senior Project Manager for Northeast IS, explained that the cloud-based system was subject to federal taxes which were non-negotiable, even for municipalities that were deemed as tax exempt. S. Harris confirmed that the charge for installation would be \$6,109.33. Mr. Sapienza said yes, with a monthly charge of \$1,321.40. P. Harter noted the town would see a rate increase for internet and cloud storage but assured the board that savings would still be noticed. S. Harris questioned if all departments at all locations would be reachable through an extension,

without having to dial a full number. Mr. Sapienza said yes but added that each location would be separate to ensure if one location lost service, not all phones would go down. C. Swartz questioned why a two-year-old phone system needed to be replaced and asked what the original cost of the Mitel System was. P. Harter said the cost had been \$19,000.00. He noted that the current Mitel System had a viability of at least five years but the added cost to switch the Police and Highway phones to the same system was more costly than switching all to the cloud. He added that the Mitel System would need a software upgrade soon. C. Swartz asked what the trade-in value would be for the Mitel System. Mr. Sapienza said \$500.00. C. Swartz said he was wary of purchasing a new system, especially with the recommendation for switching the town payroll from ADP to Paylocity with a negative outcome. C. Bult said he shared the same concern as C. Swartz. C. Rex questioned if the memory needed for the cloud system could become full and require additional storage to be purchased. Mr. Sapienza said no. S. Harris thanked Mr. Sapienza for his time and advised that the board needed additional time to review the proposal before deciding.

Board Discussion Continued

Cannabis: S. Harris said, under new state regulations, the town had an option to allow or ban retail dispensaries to sell cannabis. He expressed his concern that customers could potentially consume said cannabis and drive causing a safety hazard; however, if it was the consensus of the board to allow the sale, he would support their decision. C. Swartz asked if the town had the option to opt-out disallowing the dispensaries. Atty. Langlois said yes, the board did have the option to opt-out but a decision would need to be made by December 31, 2021. He noted the board also had the option to amend the zoning code to limit the area(s) where said dispensaries could be located. C. Swartz felt, as there was time to make a decision, the board should wait. This was due to the potential for any change in regulations within the next few months. Atty. Langlois agreed but cautioned to not wait too long.

Dog Impound Fee: S. Harris said an email had been received from Maggie Banker, Dog Control Officer, seeking approval to implement a set impound fee for dogs picked up within the town. The Town Clerk clarified that the impound fee would be a separate fee charged to the dog owner, on top of any shelter fee for either the DCO's facility or Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. She added that an impound fee, which Ms. Banker recommended to be set at \$35.00, was already allowed in the town code under §109-7(c); however, there was no set dollar amount. C. Bult felt the fee should not be charged to an owner based upon the first running at large incident as it could be an isolated event and said he would be more in favor of an incremental fee schedule based upon the number of occurrences, if allowed by law. Atty. Langlois said it would be allowable but reminded the board that any impound fees must be used for support of the dog control program and could not be placed in the general fund. S. Harris asked counsel to review the feasibility of the impound fee based upon the number of times a dog is found running at large.

Battisti Bond: S. Harris said he had been contacted regarding a bond for the Battisti Water District for the needed improvements. He was informed that letters would be needed from the PSC and Rensselaer County Health Department regarding the dire state of repair for the water system. P. Harter recommended that Barclay Damon, Bond Counsel for the Town, be contacted to draft a bond resolution. He noted the resolution would be necessary before

breaking ground because the town would not be eligible to apply for a bond afterwards. C. Rex asked when the bond needed to be created. S. Harris said within the next thirty to sixty days.

1777 Columbia Turnpike: C. Swartz said he was happy to see the site of the old town hall had been secured from illegal parking. He asked when the contract with NYS DMV was set to expire for use of the lot. S. Harris said there was not a set end date for the contract. C. Bult thought the agreement allowed for either party to end the contract so long as there was a certain number of days' notice given. C. Bult felt this would not be necessary unless there was an offer made to buy the property and advised that no other group should be given permission to utilize the lot. C. Swartz agreed but felt the agreement with NYS DMV should be changed to annually or a set term, if necessary. He noted that in the agreement, the Highway Department was required to plow the lot for DMV use, which was an added burden. S. Harris agreed to review the agreement for any necessary changes.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Bult made a motion to adjourn the 06/24/21 Town Board meeting at 7:37 p.m., seconded by C. Kenney. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk