

**DATE:** JANUARY 22, 2015

**KIND OF MEETING:** TOWN BOARD

**WHERE HELD:** SCHODACK TOWN HALL

**CLERK:** KAREN VECCHIONE, DEP.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** DENNIS E. DOWDS

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** FRANCIS CURTIS  
JAMES E. BULT  
MICHAEL KENNEY  
SCOTT SWARTZ

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ATTORNEY:** DAVID GRUENBERG  
**COMPTROLLER:** JENNIFER MULLIGAN  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** BRUCE GOODALL, TRANSFER STATION DIRECTOR;  
PETER GOOLD, ASSESSOR

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Supervisor Dowds called the January 22, 2015 meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

**Items to be discussed:**

The Supervisor said they were going out of sequence since there normally are no resolutions at this (workshop) meeting but there are two before the Board this evening. Resolution [2015-074] is for a temporary clerk due to the need in the Town Clerk's office and [2015-75] is for a proclamation for an Eagle Scout. This one may or may not happen as his residency may not be in the Town of Schodack and the proclamation needs to come from the town in which he resides. C. Curtis, in reference to [2015-74] asked if this was while the deputy is out. He asked if she would do the minor duties to which the clerk replied that she would do basic duties...licenses, phones, and some other more detailed jobs.

**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 A WITHDRAWN resolution is so noted and italicized.

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

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

**2015-074)** Authorize Supervisor Dowds to execute and administer professional temporary clerk staffing services with Fusco Personnel Inc.'s (FPI) for a full-

time temporary assignment in the Town Clerk's office at an hourly rate of \$21.50.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – F. Curtis, J. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz, D. Dowds. 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:**

**2015-075)** WHEREAS, Matthew Giordano, son of Sandra and James, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November in the year two thousand fourteen, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank a boy can achieve in scouting; and

WHEREAS, Matt started his journey in scouting as a Cub Scout in 2005, with Pack 257, and

WHEREAS, Matt has earned the Arrow of Light award, the highest Cub Scout honor, and

WHEREAS, Matt is a member of Boy Scout Troop 522, and has earned 25 Merit Badges in his 5 years of Boy Scouting, and

WHEREAS, Matt has earned the Boy Scouts of America Snorkeling award, and the SCUBA Boy Scouts of America award, and

WHEREAS, Matt has served the troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader and Order of the Arrow Representative, and

WHEREAS, as his Eagle Scout project, Matt planned the project, and coordinated all of the manpower and materials to refurbish a memorial garden for the deceased students of Columbia High School and

WHEREAS, Matt is a Sophomore at Columbia Hill High School, where he was a member of the Student Council, Lacrosse Team, Future Business Leaders of America and Ski Club, and

WHEREAS, Matt achieved High Honor Roll at Columbia Hill High School, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schodack commends and congratulates Matthew Giordano upon the auspicious occasion of being awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Supervisor Dowds will present a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed to Matthew Giordano at his Court of Honor on January 31, 2015.

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

**Items to be Discussed:**

The Supervisor advised the board of the items that are scheduled for the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Amendments to previously adopted resolutions:** Item a., regarding resolutions [2014-211] and [2014-264], has to do with the appraisal for the Resurrection Rest Home, increasing the cost from \$18,000 to \$20,000. Item b. is to amend resolution [2014-279] to include the salary and title of the Assistant Police Chief. Item c. [2015-010] is to correct the remuneration of the webmaster's salary to \$8,140 and to include \$100 for the search capabilities through Microsoft. Item d. [2015-55] is to remove the \$5000 for Planning and Zoning for Laberge. C. Curtis expressed concern regarding the frequent amending of resolutions, especially tonight regarding Resurrection Rest Home. He said that initially a quote is received and once the project is done, a final amount is determined and if it went over the quote amount, then you amend it. The Supervisor said the cost for Resurrection was an unknown and the \$18,000 was an estimate. Peter Goold, Assessor, commented that they did not know that they would have to go to court. They felt it could be negotiated. He stated that they knew that the assessment was too high because the value of nursing homes is going down. He said they had an estimate of what it was actually worth but their attorney demanded a full court ready appraisal before he would negotiate with us. The end result, with the help of our appraisal company, Empire State Appraisal Corp., was where we thought we would be. He said it was not a situation they anticipated and he would not make a practice of it. He felt that perhaps he should be a little more generous in his budget because he would like to avoid coming back to the Town Board. C. Curtis asked again, if a quote was binding? Wouldn't have to substantiate if they needed to be paid more? A. Goold said this was the fee for the court case. C. Curtis said this (fee) was for the appraisal and again, A. Goold explained they did not know what the court fee was to be. C. Curtis said the entire situation was unsubstantiated as it is a wholly exempt entity suing over an assessment that is entirely tax exempt. He said that he wanted to be on the record stating that the town ended up paying a lot of money for something that did not pay a cent in taxes. S. Dowds agreed that there are currently no taxes being paid but when the deal closes, for the \$20,000 the town paid, the taxes will be based on a \$3,000,000 assessment instead of the \$2,000,000 assessment that they wanted. A. Goold said that C. Curtis was not wrong and when the property comes out of receivership in the NYS Health Dept. which they believe will occur in about two years, then it will be taxable or it has to close down. He said that the town had to be ready with an assessment that was agreed upon by the other side or the court. C. Curtis suggested that when that does happen, the assessor may want to look at omitted taxes...taxes that should have been collected from the date of transfer. C. Bult asked if this was officially decided to which A. Goold replied that both attorneys agreed and now all that is needed is the judge's signature. He said it was shameful that the town had to pay \$12,500 on a court ready appraisal that was never needed.

C. Curtis, inquired about the web site question from M. Sherwood last month to which the Supervisor explained that the webmaster was unable to make the meeting and it has to

be rescheduled, probably for next week.

S. Dowds explained that the reserve appropriations for the debt service for 2015 were listed on the agenda. The Comptroller added that she had left off water district 2A (Inglewood) which would be added to the resolution for \$6000.

S. Dowds said that also on the agenda for the 12<sup>th</sup> would be a resolution for a local law for solar facilities for which Laberge is contracted. C. Curtis said that, right now, solar for electricity, is the "hot ticket". As a solar lover himself, he still does have concerns depending on where it is located, because it can cause issues such as glare, height, obstruction - especially with free standing solar, etc. so he does feel it is a good idea to look at updating the code. He feels that along with solar, all renewable energy sources should be reviewed, especially wind power because of issues related to windmills. C. Kenney asked if the process has been started to which the Supervisor responded that they are about a meeting away from recommendations. C. Bult asked if solar applications are being handled now on a case by case basis and if they could be held up. The Supervisor said that the issue is more with free standing as they are permanent structures. There are issues with setbacks and glare. Roof applications are not a problem. C. Bult was concerned about holding up current applications because there are currently tax incentives and he would not want that jeopardized.

The Supervisor said there were a few items not on tonight's agenda that need to be discussed. The Police Chief received a bill for \$12,979.75 which he was not aware was to be billed. C. Bult clarified for the residents that this was in relation to the hiring of a new police officer in November. He explained that, when the state implemented the tax cap, as a way for a municipality to recover expenses incurred in training an officer, if that officer goes to another locality, the originating municipality can request reimbursement from the new location. The comptroller elaborated that she had contacted DOJ to see if we could appropriate some of the federal forfeiture money to pay for the bill and unfortunately, this is not an eligible activity as it relates to reimbursement of salary. She also requested additional documentation to confirm the dollar amount and added that they asked only for salary reimbursement and not police academy training, benefits or any other expenses. S. Dowds added that the indicated term was for 3 years of which the officer had 768 days left. That is what we were asked to reimburse. In the future, they will take this type of situation into consideration during the hiring process, although it is a lesser expense than paying for the training at the academy.

S. Dowds asked Bruce Goodall, Director of the Transfer/Recycling Station, to speak regarding the electronics situation. Mr. Goodall explained that he had shipped out 74,737 pounds of electronics last year. He said that he has been researching to find a company that will take the electronics for free, as we had previously. The company he was looking at would require that the items be separated; however, it also has a three year agreement that includes one year reviews which means that the agreement could change. C. Curtis asked if that meant we could be charged to which Mr. Goodall replied, yes. The company is out of Massachusetts but is a national company. This company does its own trucking whereas with the two quotes in the Troy area, we would be responsible for trucking. C. Bult asked if because of the separation, would it require more labor to which Mr. Goodall indicated yes, explaining it would necessitate the sorting for 6 different bins. We now only use one bin. C. Bult asked about the space and if there would be additional costs for supplying storage to which Mr. Goodall replied, no. The main concern would be getting everything done, especially on Saturday, the busiest day, because all items need to be sorted and covered.

C. Curtis said "due diligence" is the best we can do. S. Dowds agreed that the Massachusetts firm is the best choice. Mr. Goodall added that they could charge if need be but residents have not been very receptive to that. J. Jensis mentioned that he has seen more items along the road. Both the Supervisor and C. Curtis stated that they felt this was the most viable option. The Supervisor stated this will be on February 12<sup>th</sup> agenda. He then asked Mr. Goodall about the fluorescents to which Mr. Goodall said that Elots was the only vendor that will take light bulbs. If we are under contract it would be 7 cents per bulb; if not, it would be 10 to 12 cents per bulb. It is a minimal difference.

S. Dowds said he received a letter from Schodack Central regarding a sewer connection. He said he would set up a meeting and include himself, a board member, attorney Bill Ryan, Ken Holmes and Laberge. He handed out a preliminary study that was commissioned by the Rensselaer County IDA through the Laberge Group. It basically asks if Schodack Central gets a sewer line from Castleridge to the high school, how then does it get to Route 9? It suggests three alternatives, one involving Maple Hill Rd which might be the most viable. It is very preliminary, nothing more than ideas at this point and something for the future. He has not had a chance to review it yet and asked them to read the document for the Feb. meeting. C. Curtis asked if this was now a public document to which S. Dowds said, yes.

S. Dowds stated that he received a letter from The Anchor asking for contributions. He has spoken to Joanne Benson and advised her that it would be put into consideration for 2016 as it was not budgeted for 2015.

The Supervisor stated that this was Jennifer Mulligan's last meeting as she has accepted a position with another entity and that on behalf of himself and the Town Board, he wanted to thank her for an incredible job over the last 8 years. She has taken this town to the financial perspective it is at today, saving us hundreds of thousands of dollars through both short and long term acumen. C. Curtis interjected that when he was given the news, he congratulated her but told her that he was also very saddened but he realized that when opportunities come along, you need to grab them. He added that she has done a lot for the town and will be missed. The rest of the board concurred.

S. Dowds said that the job notice for Comptroller has been in the paper for three days and there have been, thus far, two returns. Friday is the deadline and he will try to start interviewing next week. He added that they needed to discuss the issue of salary. C. Bult said that the salary has to be in line with the credentials of the person and it should reflect that. He said that it would be somewhat difficult to discuss the salary until you know the person and what they would be bringing to the position, as far as experience and qualifications. Laura Palmer will be full time until a replacement is found. C. Swartz asked if there is a temp service that they could use until they find the right person to which the Comptroller responded, yes. C. Bult agreed that they should not hurry into this and was concerned about the situation and wondered if they would need additional help. The Comptroller added that hiring a temp can have issues as that person may be pursuing full time employment and might not stay. She said that there has been much cross training in the office, with the exception of training Laura on the payroll. It will be a heavy burden as January is a busy month and payroll and vendor payments will be the extent of what will get done. She added that if there is going to be an extended period of time before hiring, then perhaps even a higher level temp person should be pursued. C. Bult said he did not want Laura overwhelmed and that if we got someone, even if they could spend a week with the Comptroller, the better it would be. C. Kenney agreed and added that we should bring in

someone to help as they would not have to rush as they went through the process to find the right person to fill that job. C. Bult added that it would buy time and still have someone to help even to process vouchers. S. Dowds said he wanted to discuss with Jen and Laura what is needed in Jen's absence. She added that the new human resources manager, Kerrie Johnson, may be an aid during this transition time.

C. Bult asked if they had heard anything more about the parcel next door being "gifted" to the town. The Supervisor said he believed the occupants were now gone but he had not recently spoken to Dr. Drumm but in previous conversations, he had indicated it is still on going.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Curtis made a motion to adjourn the 01/22/15 Town Board meeting at 7:58 p.m., seconded by C. Bult Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Vecchione  
Schodack Deputy Town Clerk/RMC