

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

KIND OF MEETING: TOWN BOARD

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DEBRA L. CURTIS

PRESIDING OFFICER: DENNIS E. DOWDS

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY: DAVID GRUENBERG

COMPTROLLER: PAUL HARTER, COMPTROLLER
OTHERS PRESENT: KEN HOLMES, SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
KERRIE JOINER, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
NADINE FUDA, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING
BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION
OPERATIONS
NICK DEFRUSCIO, ASSISTANT BUILDING INSPECTOR

Supervisor Dowds called the September 22, 2016 Town Board Workshop Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

Briefing of Agenda

Health Benefits: A presentation was given by Mike Grinnell and Kirsten Tudman of CPIHR. They are the brokers in charge of the health insurance for the current and retired employees of the Town of Schodack. According to Mr. Grinnell, the current plan offered from CDPHP will no longer be available after December 1st. This is due to health care reform which increased the minimum number of members participating from 50 to 100. Ms. Tudman explained that two carriers, CDPHP and MVP, have similar plans to the current one. Both carriers offer an EPO copay plan (which is the closest to the current plan) and a high deductible plan. Depending on what carrier is chosen by the Town Board, employees and retirees would be able to choose one of the two plans if the Board authorizes it.

A. Gruenberg asked, with the member amount increased to 100, if the town could combine with other municipalities? Mr. Grinnell stated you must have one EIN number in order to do so. C. Bult questioned how school districts are able to combine? Mr. Grinnell stated by using a BOCES program they are able to share services such as insurance. He continued that another current insurance option for town employees is NYSHIP. This insurance includes both state and municipal employees. NYSHIP is most popular for employees close to retirement as it is the only insurance able to be used outside NY.

C. Bult inquired about future legislation to revert back to the 50 member regulation.

Ms. Tudman stated that it is possible for the legislation to revert back but it is highly unlikely that it would occur before the December 1st deadline. For this year, all employees would need to attend an open enrollment meeting offered in November to select a new plan. S. Dowds mentioned that due to the upcoming deadline, the Board would need to review the overall cost and make a decision by the October 13th board meeting.

S. Dowds explained that during the meetings with employees (regarding insurance change), the general consensus was that they preferred to stay with CDPHP. C. Bult continued that employees were willing to pay a little more for a good plan. He also mentioned that, after talking to employees, it seemed they were being led toward a high deductible plan. S. Dowds stated the employees were only presented options and no one was advocating for one plan over another. Ms. Tudman stated the main information presented at the meetings was for the high deductible plan as it is different from the current copay plan. C. Swartz asked if employees would be able to keep current doctors. Ms. Tudman said that if CDPHP is selected they would; however, if MVP is selected the employee would need to contact their doctor to see if they accept that insurance. C. Bult inquired if retirees had been notified of the possible insurance plans. S. Dowds said not at this time but once a decision has been made they will all be notified of the options. S. Dowds suggested, in regards to having the three options (EPO, High Deductible and NYSHIP), the Board should select only one. C. Bult asked that board members be made aware of any future insurance meetings as they were unaware of the previous meetings.

A. Gruenberg asked if the NYSHIP plan would be in the chart for employees to compare plans. C. Swartz also questioned if the charts could be made and given out ahead of time. Mr. Grinnel said yes copies of the charts would be available prior to the open enrollment meeting.

Procurement Policy: Paul Harter, Comptroller, gave a brief explanation of proposed changes to the town's procurement policy. The current policy states that purchases under \$500 are at the discretion of the department head. Any purchase above \$500 requires 3 quotes. The revised procurement policy would increase the dollar amount to \$1,500. Quotes would not be required; however obtaining the best price would be optimal. He felt that increasing the amount would speed up purchases. The rest of the policy would remain the same and follow state guidelines.

C. Bult questioned why any change needed to be made. He explained that after our audit on purchasing practices, the \$500 limit seemed acceptable. Emergency situations do occur but are rare and handled as needed. C. Kenney expressed concern that the \$1,500 seemed too high without obtaining quotes. He suggested that more information be gathered.

Building and Planning/Zoning Training: C. Bult inquired if having both Nadine Fuda and Nick DeFruscio out of the office for training at the same time would cause operational issue. S. Dowds reassured him that it would be ok and they did this last year.

Peppinos Italian Mexican Grill Liquor License: S. Dowds stated that it was discussed at the previous meeting and there have been no new developments.

Legal Notices for Water/Sewer Hearings: S. Dowds announced that these would be on the October 13th meeting. The Town Clerk's office will see that they are put in the paper.

Transfer Station: S. Dowds explained that the proposed contract with Barton & Loguidice (B&L) would assess possible improvements to the Transfer Station. The cost for the services would be \$21,700. C. Swartz and C. Kenney cautioned that we should be mindful of the budget and before proceeding. C. Bult commended Bruce Goodall for the improvements that he had already done cost free. C. Kenney agreed and suggested looking into other options that would continue to be of little to no cost.

Budget: A. Gruenberg inquired how close the cap was for the proposed budget. Mr. Harter said we were around .63 and would need to do some work before the budget is presented. C. Bult asked when the board would be presented with the budget. S. Dowds stated that the budget would be presented to the Town Clerk by the Comptroller on September 30th and the Town Clerk will present it to the Board on October 4th at 5:00pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

C. Swartz made a motion at 7:40 p.m. to enter into executive session to discuss employee concerns in the Building Department and Planning/Zoning. Seconded by C. Rex.

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

C. Bult made a motion at 8:40 p.m. to adjourn the executive session. Seconded by C. Rex.

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

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Bult made a motion to adjourn the 09/22/16 Town Board meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by C. Rex. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Deputy Town Clerk

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