

TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS
TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Supervisor Randall called the Regular Meeting of the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>MEMBER</u>		
Howard Newton	X	
Martin Perrotte		X
Vernon Bruno		X
Reginald Facteau	X	
Kevin Randall	X	
Donna Hamel	X	
John Rock		X
Michael McCormick	X	

PUBLIC RECOGNITION Mary Sorrell, William Way, Heather Nadeau, Ricky White, Barb Benkwitt, Richard Donah

All Board Members were provided with a copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting that was held on January 28, 2020 before this meeting.

Mr. Newton made a motion to approve and accept the Minutes as presented; Seconded by Mr. Facteau.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

COMMUNICATIONS/ 1. Received two memos from Charter Spectrum listing network changes
2. Received notification from Peru Central School of their upcoming Committee Forum that will be held on March 10th regarding the 2021 School Budget.

MONTHLY REPORTS Town Clerk, Supervisor, Codes Officer, Historian, Woods Mills Water, Macey Lane Water, Morrisonville Water, Ambulance, Dog Control, Tax Collector

Mr. Newton made a motion to file the reports; Seconded by Mr. Facteau.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

RECEIPTS Town Clerk/\$658.00, Morrisonville Water/\$3,447.46, Macey Lane Water/\$485.87, Woods Mills Water/\$2,501.49, Tax Collector/\$755,634.85 Judge Van Nortwick/\$2,880.00 \$, Judge Barber/\$1,748.00, CC Treasurer-Snow Removal/\$53,432.50, NYS Records Management Grant/\$9,996.00

Mr. Facteau made a motion to file the receipts; Seconded by Mr. Newton.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Councilman/ Mr. Newton said he is submitting his report on what classes he attended at the New York City Conference. This brought up a discussion from the audience on how costly this conference is for the Town. Mr. Facteau said that although he did attend this year, he will not attend next year because of the cost and the probability that information can be obtained at other conferences that would alleviate some of the costs for the Town. Mr. Facteau stated that he thinks the Justices and Court Clerks could attend other locations for training other than NYC. He mentioned that he will not go next year because of the cost. When a discussion followed on internet training, Mr. Randall mentioned that because some of the information is a lot to grasp, being able to attend a training and ask questions is an advantage as the attendee can interact and ask questions. Mr. McCormick, the Town Attorney mentioned that some courses are mandatory as so many hours of continuing education is needed for certain attendees.

It was asked why the training is held in an expensive venue like New York City. Mr. Newton replied that there are not many venues that can hold every Town's personnel that attend the conference. When said that most Towns do not attend the NYC conference because of the cost, Mr. Randall said that it should not be judged what other Towns do. He said that he is not saying that the number of people sent this year should be the same. More on this issue will be discussed at budget time.

Highway/ A discussion was held on an invoice that was presented for payment on the work for the repairs of the Gradall. The bill was for \$20,000.00. Mr. Facteau said that he feels Mr. Rock should have obtained quotes before having the work done. He said that this is a violation of the procurement policy. Mr. Randall said that he reviewed the Procurement Policy and was not sure where repairs would fall under. Mr. McCormick mentioned that he was not sure if repairs were part of the Procurement Policy. It was mentioned that although there is money in the Highway Budget for the repairs, to deplete the budget when there is ten months left in the year is not wise to do. Mr. Facteau stated that he will not approve the payment for the repairs. Mr. McCormick advised that because the work has been completed, it would be better to approve the voucher for payment. Mr. Facteau asked about the Unifirst contract that was signed for five years. This contract will be reviewed at a later time.

Water/ Mr. Facteau said that he took some measurements of the water flow being wasted on River Street due to the hydrant being opened. He said that the water running measures up to approximately twelve gallons a minute. This water that is running is needed so a freeze-up will not occur. Even to turn down the pressure, a freeze-up might occur creating broken water pipes, it would be very costly. A discussion was held on options to take to alleviate the amount of water being wasted. This issue will be discussed more at the work session. Mr. Donah, a town resident, asked why the Town always uses LaBerge Engineering firm when there are plenty of local Engineers. He gave a list

of local Engineers to the Town Board. Mr. Randall told him that the LaBerge Group is the Engineering firm that the Town of Plattsburgh uses and because we are buying the water from the Town of Plattsburgh and the Town of Plattsburgh maintains all the water systems in Town, they have the knowledge of the water systems. The LaBerge Group has also worked on many water projects for our Town. To bring up another Engineer up to speed on the configuration and other aspects of the water system would be very costly. Mr. Facteau mentioned that he is in favor of placing an ad in the paper so that other Engineering firms would have a chance to bid on the project. Mr. Randall said that this has already been done and to start the process all over again would be going backward and delay the project. It was mentioned that the LaBerge Group and AES had already submitted a bid for the Highway Garage/salt shed project. There is a resolution in the Town Board's packet to act on tonight on this issue. It was mentioned by Mr. Randall that it is just a matter of time that the State mandates all Town to have a salt shed. If a decision is not made soon, the Town would lose any chance of obtaining a grant to help with the cost of erecting a salt shed or repairing/constructing the Highway Garage. Mr. Facteau had photos of the highway floor that needed to be repaired. He said that he spoke with several contractors who all said that it was not a major problem. He mentioned that he was told that the repairs would cost approximately four to five thousand dollars. Mr. Randall mentioned that specs would still be needed from an Engineer for this project.

Historian/ Barb Benkwitt mentioned that Leo Perry's son brought in an old globe that was used for lighting in the Town. Mr. Perry was a former historian. She said that the Historian's office is always looking for old items from the Town.

NEW BUSINESS/ Mr. Newton mentioned that he would like to attend the Dog Control's conference in May that will be held in Guilderland. He stated that he would not need a hotel, as he has friends that he could stay at. He said that he does not feel that anyone on the Board knows the obligations of a Dog Control Officer. After some discussion on the cost of mileage and other costs that still would be needed, Mr. Newton withdrew his request.

Mr. Facteau asked what the status is on having the Town Hall opened five days a week. This issue needs to be discussed further with the personnel involved.

Mr. Donah said he would like to see the Town purchase a lighted sign in front of the Town Hall so meetings, events and other items could be placed for the public to view. A discussion followed on how expensive to install one would be. It was asked if there was a possibility for the events happening in the Town could be placed on the fire departments sign as there was more traffic on that road. Mr. Randall said that in the past the fire department has done so. He will ask if this would be a possible.

Mr. Facteau asked what the status is on the Town's website. Donna Hamel said that Mr. Potiker was willing to update and make changes to the website as needed. Mr. Facteau mentioned that he would like to take care of the website. He said that all he would need is a computer and a key to the offices. After some discussion, Mr. Facteau will contact Mr. Potiker regarding the website.

Heather Nadeau, a resident on Mason Street, brought to the attention of the Board a request made by William Connors, of (Connors Sand Pit LLC.), for a new mining permit. If NYSDEC approved this it would extend his mining land permit by (7) acres. She stated that if approved, the proposed area would also allow Mr. Connors to mine right up to and through the access road that the town has a right of way to. She stated that the Town had constructed the road from the approved right of way. If this issue is not addressed, she fears that Mr. Connors could close the existing road and the Town could lose the land where the right of way was. She was also concerned that the 25-foot set back areas were being infringed upon. She said that if this were to happen, it could possibly allow erosion and make the Town road unusable. This matter will be looked into further.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #20-34

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2019, Anice Lamora submitted her resignation for the Board of Assessment Review Board, and

WHEREAS, to date, the Board has not filled the position and Anice Lamora has indicated that she would stay on as a member to that Board, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls appoints Anice Lamora to the Board of Assessment Review, appointment effective immediately and to expire on September 30, 2024.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Facteau

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

RESOLUTION #20-35

MOTION BY: Newton

WHEREAS, according to section 29(10) of the Town Law, the Supervisor must prepare and file with the Town Clerk within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year an annual financial report accounting for all monies received and disbursed by him, together with the certificates of the banks or trust companies where Town monies are deposited, showing the amount of monies on deposit, and

WHEREAS, the Accountant has requested an extension of the filing of the 2019 report with the Office of the State Comptroller for an additional 30 days, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the request and the Supervisor shall submit to the Town Clerk and the State Comptroller a copy of the Annual Financial Report on or before April 30, 2020.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Facteau

DISCUSSION: Mr. Newton would like to have the Board members e-mail addresses included in the Annual Financial Report.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

RESOLUTION #20-36

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board authorizes the fee of \$8,650.00 plus reimbursable expenses, approximately 500.00) to the LaBerge Group for professional services in regards to the matter of the Town Highway Garage and Salt Shed Study.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Randall

DISCUSSION: Two quotes were received. AEDA/\$10,000 and LaBerge. Mr. Facteau thought that local engineers should have a chance to bid. He would like to see this project go out to bid again. He said that he has nothing personal against the LaBerge Group. Mr. Randall explained that this has been in the works since 2018 and has already gone through the bidding process.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Randall

NAYES: Mr. Facteau

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

MOTION FAILED

RESOLUTION #20-37

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

WHEREAS, in accordance with the water supply agreement between the Town of Plattsburgh and the Town of Schuyler Falls Morrisonville Water District, the Town of Plattsburgh notified the Town that the annual metered water rate for the 2020 calendar year will be raised to \$2.32 per thousand gallons, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Schuyler Falls needs to raise the water rate charge to the customers in that district to reflect the increase and.

WHEREAS, for the year 2019 there was a deficit of \$25,637.00 in regards to water usage due leakage and other factors, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the new water rates for the District will be the charge of \$65.00 a quarter for individual hook-ups.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Randall

DISCUSSION: Mr. Facteau stated that he had no idea about the water rates going up almost one-half. Mr. Randall told him that he does not want to see the rates go up but if the rates are not raised, the Morrisonville district residents are going to have a shortfall in the purchase of the water from the Town of Plattsburgh. He said that although there is approximately \$287,000.00 in the unallocated fund balance for that district, the fund balance should not be used to offset the water costs. He said that the money in the fund should be used for repairs and upgrades. When asked if this resolution for the rate increase could be postponed, Mr. Facteau was told that the bills for the second quarter need to be sent to the district residents. Mr. Randall explained that there probably will be deficient to pay for the water supply at year's end, as the rates should have been reflected in the December Billing.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Randall

NAYES: Mr. Facteau

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

MOTION FAILED

CLAIMS

General Abstract for the Month of February	\$ 54,998.99
Highway Abstract for the Month of February	\$ 23,381.05
Morrisonville Water Abstract for the Month of February	\$ 53,315.02
Woods Mills Water Abstract for the Month of February	\$ 53,140.69
Macey Lane Water Abstract for February	\$ 30,975.47
Audit only Abstract for the Month of February	\$ 3,209.87

Vouchers for Claims (#202000221-#202000340)

Vouchers for Audit Only (#202000212-#202000220)

Payroll Vouchers (#202000191-#202000211)

A discussion was held regarding the claim to be paid to Vantage Equipment, LLC to repair the Gradall in the amount of \$20,806.56. It was said that the repairs had been completed. Questions concerning the Highway Superintendent's ability to spend that amount of money was discussed. Mr. Facteau thought that this might be a violation of the Town's procurement policy. Mr. Randall told the Board members that he would contact the State Comptroller's office for a ruling.

Mr. Newton made a motion to pay the claims with the exception of the claim submitted to pay the Gradall bill to Vantage Equipment in the amount of \$20,806.56. This motion was seconded by Mr. Facteau.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno

PUBLIC FORUM Mr. Way mentioned that he thought copies of the resolution being presented at the meeting should be available and on the Town's website before the meeting.

Mr. Newton made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. This motion was seconded by Mr. Facteau and unanimously approved. Executive Session entered into at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Newton made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 9:10 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Facteau and unanimously approved. Roll call was taken and all Board members were accounted for. Mr. McCormick, Town Attorney who attended the Executive Session stated that no decisions were made.

Mr. Fecteau made a motion to have the Supervisor request from the State Comptroller's Office an audit of the Town. Mr. Newton seconded the motion.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Fecteau, Mr. Randall.

NEXT MEETING

Work Sessions (if Needed)	Monday	March 2, 2020	6:00 p.m.
		March 16, 2020	

Regular Meeting	Tuesday	March 24, 2020	6:00 p.m.
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ADJOURNMENT Mr. Newton made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Fecteau; and was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. ADJOURNMENT/9:15 p.m.

Donna Hamel/Town Clerk