

**TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS**  
**TOWN BOARD**  
**WORK SESSION MAY 4, 2020**

Supervisor Randall called the Work Session for the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held remotely on Zoom.

**Present**

**MEMBERS**

Howard Newton	X
Martin Perrotte	X
Vernon Bruno	X
Reginald Facteau	X
Kevin Randall	X
Donna Hamel	X
John Rock	X

**RESOLUTION #20-42**

**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 re-appoints Anice Lamora to the Board of Assessment Review, appointment effective immediately and to expire on September 30, 2024.

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Bruno**

**AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall**

**RESOLUTION #20-43**

**MOTION BY: Mr. Newton**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls recognizes the need to undertake infrastructure improvements to the Morrisonville Water District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls recognizes the need to secure grant funds to assist in lowering the cost of the improvements to the Morrisonville Water District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls is within the federally designated Northern Border Region Commission whose mission is to catalyze regional, collaborative, and transformative community economic development approaches that alleviate economic distress and position the region for economic growth.; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Border Region Commission has a grant application due June 1, 2020 for which the Town of Schuyler Falls is an eligible applicant;

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorizes the preparation of a grant application which will cost \$3,500.00 plus expenses and all actions necessary for its approval and submission by the Town Board; and **THAT** the Supervisor is authorized to execute all agreements necessary for the implementation of this work; and

**THAT** the firm of Laberge Group, 4 Computer Drive West, Albany, New York 12205, duly licensed under the Laws of the State of New York and competent engineers and planners be hereby retained and authorized to prepare the above referenced grant; and,

**THAT** in order to avoid duplication of effort, the Town of Schuyler Falls shall transmit all copies of planning/engineering documents previously or collaterally accomplished under other Local, State or Federal Programs, such planning to be utilized wherever applicable.

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Perrotte**

**DISCUSSION:** Two representatives from LaBerge, Ben Syden and Nicole Allen joined the Zoom meeting to be available in case there were any questions that they could answer. Mr. Facteau mentioned that he was told that the Town could look into getting local engineers for various projects that the Town needed. He mentioned that there are four homes on Rickson Avenue that would like to be included in the Morrisonville Water District. Mr. Newton stated that this grant that is being applied for is for a completely separate issue.

**AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall**

**RESOLUTION #20-44**

**MOTION BY: Mr. Newton**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls recognizes the need to undertake infrastructure improvements to the Morrisonville Water District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls recognizes the need to secure grant funds to assist in lowering the cost of the improvements to the Morrisonville Water District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls recognizes the need to update the Morrisonville Water District Preliminary Engineering Report in order to support grant applications to the Northern Border Region Commission, the Community Development Block Grant and New York Water Grant programs for necessary improvements.; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls has requested proposals from qualified engineering firms to update the Morrisonville Water District Preliminary Engineering Report;

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the firm of LaBerge Group, 4 Computer Drive West, Albany, New York 12205, duly licensed under the Laws of the State of New York and competent engineers and planners be hereby retained and authorized to prepare the Morrisonville Water District Preliminary Engineering Report Update for a fee of \$8,500 plus reimbursable expenses; and  
**THAT** the Supervisor is authorized to execute all agreements necessary for the implementation of this work; and

**THAT** in order to avoid duplication of effort, the Town of Schuyler Falls shall transmit all copies of planning/engineering documents previously or collaterally accomplished under other Local, State or Federal Programs, such planning to be utilized wherever applicable.

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Bruno

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Facteau asked if this bid was the only bid received. Mr. Randall told Mr. Facteau that the LaBerge Group works closely with the Town of Plattsburgh's water district and has worked on different projects with the Morrisonville Water District. Being they are familiar with all aspects of the water district; they would not have to do any additional research that would be needed to write the grant. Mr. Facteau mentioned that there are other local engineering firms capable of doing the work and wondered why an Albany based firm would be hired. Ben Syden, a representative from LaBerge, stated several reasons for them to be considered in the hiring; that being that his firm worked with the consolidation in 1999, his firm knows the water system, there is a deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> to submit the grant and that his firm is highly qualified to write the grant. Mr. Randall told Mr. Facteau that back in January at the training school in Albany, he and Mr. Facteau met with the LaBerge group and discussed the project. Mr. Facteau mentioned that he still not comfortable with it. Mr. Newton mentioned that this type of bid does not have to be put out for the bidding process. He stated that a few years ago, the Town did receive two bids, with the LaBerge group being the lowest.

**AYES:** Mr. Newton, Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Randall

**NAYES:** Mr. Facteau

Mr. Randall brought up the DASNY Grant that would include the splash pad to be installed in the Town. He would like to have Liz Tedford approved to be the grant administrator as she worked on many grants, one which includes the Town of Plattsburgh. This \$125,000 grant was secured by Assemblyman Jones when Mr. Potiker was Supervisor. Ms. Tedford submitted a proposal for the work not to exceed \$1,500.00. Mr. Perrotte said that he would like to table any discussion in regards to spending any more money on this project due to the economic impact from the COVID-19. He feels that at this time, money should not be spent on non-essential items.

Mr. Newton told the Board members that he would be reaching out to the Zoning Board, Planning Board and the Codes Officer regarding the committee that will be formed to work on the update of the towns Zoning laws. He said that the more the committee could accomplish, the less it would cost the Town to finalize the Zoning update.

Mr. Facteau stated that this time, he does not feel that the Town should spend \$25,000 to \$30,000 to rewrite the Zoning laws for the Town. He added that all non-essential expenses should be placed on pause at this time including any travel for training and training expenses. He said that the health insurance for retired employees should be revisited as this benefit would be very costly for the Town. A discussion followed on the fact that this policy has been in place since at least 1998, and the employees that would retire after the certain amount of years have a reasonable expectation for this benefit.

Due to the fact that the Zoom meeting was interrupted by hackers, the meeting abruptly ended approximately around 6:30 p.m.

**Donna Hamel/Town Clerk**