

Town Board Meeting held June 13, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in Schroon Lake N.Y.

Present:

Town Supervisor: Meg Wood

Councilpersons: Richard Gero, Ethan Thompson, Lynn Donaldson and Leanna Welch

Deputy Town Clerk: Melissa Armstrong

Also Present: Albert May, Brian Ritchings, Dave Williams, Paul Leah, Fran Mahler, Skip Mahler, Sue Palisano

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with a pledge to the Flag.

Public Participation

Dave Williams wanted to thank the board for all their volunteer work and dedication to this town. It's been very impressive and you all have a hard job and it's been great seeing everyone down there (by the beach stairs) working together.

Paul Leah wanted to put in a request to the board that the town re-install the floating dock at the kayak and canoe launch on Rt. 74. He handed Supervisor Wood a small packet with pictures included and stated the current stair situation is that they end 2-2 1/2 feet above the water, and is not a workable situation to get in and out of a kayak or canoe. He had talked to Dana and his solution was not good, but was to use the fishing access across the street. Technically, you have to be an angler, or fisherman to be using it, and the stairs there are only about 6 inches lower than the ones at the launch, so there is still a good drop with the dock. Included in the packet are diagrams and colored pictures. The other accesses are mostly private, the other two I can think of are quite a hike and not really accessible with a kayak or canoe.

Supervisor Wood replied, thank you for the detailed information, and the colored pictures are very helpful. If you could email me the pictures so I can print them colored at home and then I will hand them out to the board. We will review all the information, I was not aware of the difficulty here, and am happy you brought it to our attention and we will address the issue.

Brian Ritchings asked if the board was going to finish up the pay scale and wage statement before, July 1st, and adopt it? Supervisor Wood replied they had finished the full time employee pay scale, the board has made a resolution and will be in effect the first pay period of July and the next items up are part time and seasonal employees and then after that it will be the elected employees.

Councilman Thompson asked Brian Ritchings if he was looking for a step schedule or something.

Ritchings replied well I know you were working on percentages, they weren't set in stone last board meeting and Councilman Thompson replied, yes, we finished them and made a resolution. Ritchings replied I need to stop sleeping during the meetings, I guess.

Fran Mahler mentioned that in the meeting agenda for this evening, it states the public hearing will be held Thursday, June 15th, but is actually Wednesday. Supervisor Wood replied, yes, that is correct, the hearing for the proposed zoning change will be Wednesday, June 15th, at 7pm.

Resolution # 108 Approve Minutes

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to approve the minutes of April 25, May 9 and 17, 2022, seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

Resolution #109 Approve Vouchers

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to pay the bills as reviewed, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried. (Councilwoman Donaldson abstained)

General Fund \$44,735.65 Sewer \$12,934.86 Water \$1144.29 Highway \$49,416.47

Resolution #110 Second Town Board Monthly Meeting to be Suspended until October 24, 2022

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to have the second monthly Town Board meeting suspended for the months of July, August, and September, and will resume October 24, 2022, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

Brian Ritchings stated that the auction of the truck ends on the 24th of June and he has to bring it to the board that Monday which would be the 27th, so I'm not sure what to do if you don't hold the second meeting of the month. Supervisor Wood replies, without knowing the value of the truck, we are not familiar with what truck is up for auction, but recommends taking the \$400. Councilman Gero suggests that we still hold the second meeting in June, and cancel July, August, and September second meetings and resume in October. That way if there are any other items deemed necessary we can address

them on the 27th. We may also need a special meeting to appoint a new Court Clerk, if we get anyone that applies.

Resolution #111 Accept Resignation of Court Clerk, Cindy Anslow

Councilman Gero moved a resolution with regret, appreciation, good wishes, and many thanks, to accept Cindy Anslow’s resignation as Town of Schroon Court Clerk effective July 29, 2022, unanimously seconded; carried.

Resolution #112 Advertise for Town of Schroon Court Clerk

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to advertise for the Town of Schroon Court Clerk, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

Supervisor Wood states that they have already written up the job description in the Ad and that the position has changed from part time to a full time position and the Public Sector will need to be notified of the new job description as well, because it was first drafted in 2004 and has since changed. There is no hourly rate posted in the ad because it will be based on experience. She added that they, (the Town Board) does not do the hiring for this position but just approves whomever the Judge chooses. The Justice department is entirely different from the Municipal department, Supervisor Wood also stated that they will advertise until the position is filled but will try and add a deadline so if someone does apply, she can train them before her last day, on July 28th, 2022. Councilman Gero asked what would happen if no one applies and Supervisor Wood replied, she’s not entirely sure but believes the State Court system would then appoint someone. That could become expensive but we have no control over it.

Resolution #113 Approve Transfer of Severance Cemetery Plot to Town of Schroon

Councilman Thompson moved a resolution to accept the transfer of a plot in the Severance Cemetery to the Town of Schroon in the Platt Addition #35 C and D belonging to Peter and Janet Clarke in the amount of \$900.00, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

Resolution #114 Approve 2022 Summer Employees

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to approve the 2022 Summer Employees, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried. (Councilman Gero and Thompson abstained)

Golf Course

Ethan Fariss -Laborer - \$15.00

Pamela Collins- Club House Attendant - \$15.00

Anjay Ramachandran – Club House Attendant - \$15.00
- Lake Steward on Monday & Tuesday

Bath House and Boathouse

George Reeves – Laborer- \$15.00

Lifeguards

Mark Hatton – Head Lifeguard - \$18.50

Hannah Thompson – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Riley Smith – Lifeguard - \$15.00 *

Kayli Hayden – Lifeguard - \$15.00 *

Josiah Melville – Lifeguard - \$15.00 *

Addie Phillips- Lifeguard - \$15.00 *

Gabryelle Dezalia- Lifeguard - \$15.00 *

Brittany Mieras – Lifeguard - \$15.00 *

*Pending Lifeguard Certification

Boatwash

Thomas Farrell – Boat Wash Attendant - \$15.00

Carter Hart- Boat Wash Attendant- \$15.00

Robert Heinzelman- Lake Steward- \$15.00

Hunter Hennessey- Lake Steward -\$15.00

Christian Doherty- Lake Steward - 15.00

Resolution #115 Approve Bid for Cemetery Mowing and Maintenance

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to approve the bid for the Cemetery Mowing and Maintenance to Scott Stowell in the amount of \$5,000.00, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into June 1, 2022, by and between the Town of Schroon, New York , a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, 15 Leland Ave, PO Box 578, Schroon Lake, New York 12870, hereinafter referred to as the Town, and Scott Stowell of 24 Vanderwalker Rd, Schroon Lake, NY 12870, hereinafter referred to as the contractor.

The contractor shall provide general maintenance and up keep for the Severance Cemetery and Protestant Cemetery located in the Town of Schroon for the sum of \$5000.00.

The services to be rendered under this contract shall be preformed as needed June through November.

Contractor shall file Town Vouchers for board approval and payment.

The contractor certifies that he is an independent contractor and employs no other personnel.

The parties agree that insurance requirements are included in, a part of, and incorporated in this agreement.

The Town Supervisor has executed this agreement pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Schroon, at a meeting held on June 13, 2022. Margaret Wood, Supervisor, whose signature appears hereafter, is duly authorized and empowered to execute this instrument and enter into such agreement on behalf of the Town of Schroon.

Town of Schroon: Margaret Wood
Supervisor

Contractor: Scott Stowell

Councilman Thompson wanted to make sure we write a Thank You letter to Punkie Whitty for what she did at Severance Cemetery, and everyone agreed.

Resolution #116 Approve Water Tap for Larry Koller Tax Map #136.3-1-24.000

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to approve a water tap for Larry Koller Tax Map #136.3-1-24.000, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

Councilman Thompson states that we need to make sure that it is just a single tap, when Larry wrote the letter requesting a tap be put in at his properties, it lead me to believe that there may be more than one tap and we just want to make sure we don't run in to the same problem we ran in to just South of town. Supervisor Wood replied she will talk to Bill Jenks, but she believes it is just one tap.

Resolution #117 Approve Water Tap for Mark and Sue Adkins Tax Map #146.20-1-3.000

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to approve a water tap for Mark and Sue Adkins Tax Map #146.20-1-3.000, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

Resolution #118 Approve Hoffmans Iron Works to install Fencing in Park

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to approve Hoffman Iron Works to install and replace fencing in the Park in the amount of \$4,200.00, seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

Councilman Gero informed everyone that they just finished a forty five minutes ago. It was in worse shape than the other contractors thought and they did a really nice job. They pulled every post out of the concrete by hand, except for one. There are new plates at every post, all the way up through, it's secure and looks great. It was super unsafe before and on the 3rd day they were working on it there were two young children climbing the fence and it really could have been a dangerous situation. Supervisor Wood states that we hired local which means a lot to her, keeping the money in our town and she was

happy with the job they did. Supervisor Wood thanked the Mahler's for bringing it to their attention and we moved on it before a resolution was made because it was an emergency.

Resolution #119 Declare July 2022 Lake Appreciation Month

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution declaring July 2022 Lake Appreciation Month, seconded unanimously; carried.

WHEREAS, lakes and reservoirs are among the Town of Schroon's most valuable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, lakes and reservoirs provide drinking water, irrigation, energy, recreation, scenic beauty, and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, these beneficial uses have been of vital importance to Schroon's history, growth, and financial health; and

WHEREAS, our lakes and reservoirs improve the quality of life for all of the Town of Schroon residents and their importance should not go unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon recognizes the need to protect these lakes and reservoirs for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Meg Wood, Supervisor of the Town of Schroon, New York, do hereby proclaim July 2022 as LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH in the Town of Schroon, and invite all citizens to take due note of the observance.

Resolution #120 Write a letter of support on behalf of the Adirondack Marathon Distance Festival for 2022

Councilman Gero moved a motion to write a letter of support on behalf of the Adirondack Marathon Distance Festival for 2022, seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

Discussion on Airstrip Maintenance

Supervisor Wood states Mr. Black, a gentleman that uses the airstrip came to her with pictures in regards to the airstrip maintenance. He is suggesting some trees to be cut and possibly lights to be put in. He had sent pictures of the trees that needed to be cut and the problem areas. Right now the ground is too wet for equipment to be brought in so they were waiting for the ground to dry. She mentioned that Phil Armstrong walked the airstrip with him last Saturday to see what areas needed maintenance. He (Phil Armstrong) just had surgery so we will wait to see what his recommendation is.

Councilwoman Welch added that the set of pictures on the North End are pictures from a residence and she's not sure if they are really in the way or if they just want them cut. She stated that she's been traveling by the Airstrip everyday and there was a lot of traffic this past weekend and they didn't seem to be in the way and right on the town line. Supervisor Wood replied that Mr. Black stated that the perspective from the air is a lot different than the perspective from the ground, and until Phil

Armstrong gives us the recommendation, we will hold off calling anyone to inspect closer. These are just suggestions, we do not have to provide these changes, this is a rural Air Strip, and we just have to tell the FAA when it is no longer in use.

Councilman Gero asked if the FAA have specific guidelines for how far the trees have to be cut back. Skip Mahler added that years ago they did, and they cut some trees back on the North end and the South end. Councilman Thompson asked Skip Mahler if he knew how that came about, if the FAA required them to do so and Skip Mahler replied that it was in their contract and it was a certain width from the airstrip. Supervisor Wood added she wanted to hold off on contacting the FAA until they had all the information. Mr. Black was a very polite gentleman, he offered to help in any way possible but not sure how much I can help him. We can look on record and see what the measurements were that the FAA used last time.

Thank You note from Veterans

On a great note, we received a thank you note from the American Legion, Terri Johnson, in regards to our Memorial Day ceremony.

Dear Town of Schroon,

Thank you for setting up the Memorial park, for our annual Memorial Day ceremony, we can always count on you to have the podium and chairs set up, and power on. Thank you for being such a big part of our ceremony, you are appreciated.

We need to make sure we thank Pat Shaughnessy, for always setting up and taking down the chairs and equipment and always being on top of everything.

Reminder of Public Hearing

Supervisor Wood would like to remind everyone of the up coming Public Hearing for June 15, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING
TOWN OF SCHROON ZONING ORDINANCE AND MAP
TO REZONE EAST SIDE OF ROUTE 9 FROM ALDER MEADOW ROAD NORTH TO ROUTE 74**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Schroon Town Board will hold a public hearing on June 15, 2022, beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 15 Leland Avenue, Schroon Lake, New York, concerning proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2022. Proposed Local Law No. 1 would amend the Town’s Zoning Ordinance and Map to rezone East Side of Route 9 from Alder Meadow Road North to Route 74, from Residential R-20 to Resort Business (B-2).

A copy of the proposed Local Law is on file and available for review at the Town Clerk’s office during normal business hours.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at the time and place of the Public Hearing all interested persons will be given an opportunity to comment on proposed Local Law # 1 of 2022

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2022

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING

TOWN OF SCHROON ZONING ORDINANCE AND MAP TO

REZONE THE EAST SIDE OF U.S. ROUTE 9 NORTH OF THE VILLAGE OF SCHROON FROM ALDER MEADOW ROAD NORTH TO ROUTE 74 FROM GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE (R-20) TO RESORT BUSINESS ZONE (B-2)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SCHROON TOWN BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 202 of the Town of Schroon Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended by revising the official Town Zoning Map to change the zoning of properties on the east side of U.S. Route 9 north of the Village of Schroon from Alder Meadow Road north to Route 74, from General Residential Zone (R-20) to Resort Business Zone (B-2).

SECTION 2. The official Zoning Map of the Town of Schroon with such appropriate notation and reference as deemed necessary to reflect this amendment is hereby adopted as the official Zoning Map of the Town of Schroon.

SECTION 3. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof.

SECTION 4. All Local Laws or ordinances or parts of Local Laws or ordinances in conflict with any part of this Local Law are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing by the Office of the New York Secretary of State as provided in New York Municipal Home Rule Law §27.

Sue Palisano stated that there have been several inquiries at the Chamber with the intentions of the re-zoning. Supervisor Wood made it clear that this is purely a recommendation from the planning board and not a discussion on any specific plans.

Other Business deemed necessary

Supervisor Wood states that there has been an issue with Geese at the beach and so far there have been 10 eliminated and we're not sure who will eliminate more of them with Phil

Armstrong being out. Councilman Thompson added that the main issue, especially at the Boat Launch are Seagulls, and it's illegal to eliminate them. We could possibly put a fake owl out there to keep them away or something like a scarecrow. Sue Palisano added they are fairly inexpensive and work well.

Supervisor Wood informed us that they are reviewing their contract with Global- AVAYA, the phone system in this building. We are going to review other options since we have been having problems with them and its time to renew their contract. The library would also like to add another line. Several people suggested Spectrum Business as a phone provider and Supervisor Wood said she would look into it.

Councilman Gero states he has been in contact with DOT off and on over the past few weeks and set up a meeting for this Thursday morning at 10am with the sewer department, water department, Dana, and I, and will meet and discuss possibly moving utilities and accusation of real estate. He's not going to jump the gun, nothing has been discussed to date but will find out Thursday.

Councilman Thompson states he has two items to discuss. First off, he's spent the last 5 weeks at the beach and has been seeing a lot of stuff that he's not too happy with. There is a major lack of communication and it's petty, it's not keeping with the Town of Schroon, and it shouldn't be allowed. The only people it hurts is the towns people. The bathrooms for example, were not open for Memorial Weekend, and even if the water was checked and ready, they still would not have been open because the lack of communication. When I went to work on the stairs that fallowing Monday, there as a lot of chatter and a lot of unhappy people. People were not cordial, people were truly upset, and they had every right to be. Our efficiency, and productivity, if you want to call it that is only at about 50%, at least with what I've seen. For example, there was a meeting in which 3 of our town employees were attending, where they used 3 separate town vehicles instead of riding together, and to make matters worse, it was the wrong date,(although that was not their fault) and they had to turn around and come home. Lack of communication and the pettiness needs to stop. As far as I know, the codes vehicle is the vehicle you take, and if you don't want to ride with your coworkers, you take your personal vehicle and do not get reimbursed for gas and mileage. At some point this needs to change and I could go on and on but I will stop here and I want to end on a good note. Councilman Thompson adds on

June 3rd we had a build date and I wasn't sure who was going to show up since it was a change of date but we had a great turn out. I'm sure I am going to miss some names but I want to thank a few people. Chip Mckenna and his men have been a tremendous help and have gone above and beyond in every way. Ralph _____, the head of WOL building operations, he was like a drill sergeant, did a much better job than I ever could. He brought four guys, only 3 names I can remember, Cory, Derrik, Kurt, and 1 other. Tom Surbek, and his son Elijah, Levi Williams, Chris Savarie, Steve from Dock Street Dogs, Eric Messinger from WOL who ended up buying lunch for everyone. We couldn't be more thankful for all the help! That following Monday, Tom came back with his son and Chris Savarie worked on the stairs. This past Thursday we had another day for handrails and Chip Mckenna came and actually bought everyone lunch. Chip Mckenna and his men are there right now and will be there the next couple of nights. I want to also thank Larry Beluscio for the design, my father for helping out with the topoe, Phil Armstrong and Councilman Gero for helping with the excavation, thank you to Dana, especially Joe Flores who ran all the equipment and then when there was no equipment to run he was out there digging with a shovel. He is really one of the best guys we have and I'm super thankful for all his help. Dana provided a massive amount of supplies, and I'm thankful for that. Councilman Thompson adds he may have forgotten about someone but is thankful for all the help on this project. Councilwoman Welch suggest we put a thank you in the paper

Councilwoman Donaldson states that her work number is listed as her cell number on the Emergency Call List and would like it to be changed because people should be calling her cell, not at work.

Councilman Gero called the meeting to adjourn at 7:14 P.M., seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

I, Melissa Armstrong, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript from the minutes now on file in my office and of the whole such original minutes.

Dated: June 15, 2022 _____ Deputy Town Clerk