

**Town Board Meeting held February 14, 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

**Highway Superintendent:** Dana Shaughnessy

**Town Clerk:** Patricia Savarie

**Also Present:** Albert May, Jon Senecal, Brian Ritching, Scott Ireland, David Williams, Roger Friedman, Paul McCann Jr., Kevin Lashway

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with a salute to the Flag and a moment of silence in memory of Paul Bessey who worked for the Schroon Lake Highway Department for 17 years.

**Resolution #33 Condolences for the Family and Friends of Paul A Bessey**

The following resolution was moved and seconded unanimously

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Schroon would like to send their condolences to the Family and Friends of Paul A Bessey born October 20, 1968 and,

**WHEREAS**, Paul worked at Adirondack Auto for many years until he got a full-time position with the Town of Schroon and worked 17 years for the Town where many of you would see him driving his Town truck with pride. Paul also volunteered in the Schroon Lake Volunteer Fire Department for many years and,

**WHEREAS**, Paul was married to his soul mate Bonnie for 27 years, and whenever asked how long he'd been married, he always replied, "not long enough!" and loved spending time with his three children, Veronica Anderson, Paul Bessey Jr., and Hunter Bessey and,

**WHEREAS**, Paul loved spending time with his family and working on his Classic Ford Pintos, he enjoyed it, even more, when he could combine the two as a family outing at a local car show.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Schroon hereby with great sympathy express their condolences to all of Paul's family and many friends and the Town of Schroon will never forget all that he has done for our community and the kindness and compassion he showed to others.

**Schroon Lake Association Presentation**

Scott Ireland, President of the Schroon Lake Association, stated he would like to read a statement to the Town of Schroon from the Schroon Lake Association Board of Directors.

SCHROON LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
STATEMENT

TO TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SCHROON

The Schroon Lake Association Board of Directors appreciates the significant efforts of the Town of Schroon Town Board in combating climate change and global warming, and wishes to express our support of that work, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Schroon Lake Association Board of Directors recognizes that climate change and global warming are the leading environmental, economic and social challenges of our time, with the potential to cause irreparable harm to the physical, economic, and social fabric of our community, and the land, water, and biology of the Schroon Lake watershed; and

WHEREAS, methods for effectively dealing with climate change include strategies for reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, and other greenhouse gas emissions (known as mitigation) and also strategies for preparedness in responding to the changes to the environment that are already inevitable due to increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (known as adaptation or preparedness); and

WHEREAS, climate change mitigation and preparedness strategies will include investments in public infrastructure and services, such as developing energy efficiency programs and producing renewable clean energy, as well as preparing for extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon has made significant progress in becoming engaged and informed on issues of sustainability and climate change, including designation as a Clean Energy Community, with subsequent available funding potential from NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schroon Lake Association Board of Directors recognizes the important work of The Town Board of the Town of Schroon in making The Town of Schroon a leader on sustainability, mitigation, and preparedness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Schroon Lake Association Board of Directors encourages the Town Board of the Town of Schroon to join with and invite other municipalities in advocating for an aggressive greenhouse gas emission reduction strategy, and to promote the use of renewable clean energy at the regional and state levels; and,

2. The Schroon Lake Association Board of Directors encourages the Town Board of the Town of Schroon to:

a. Lobby for climate policy at the regional and state levels.

b. Analyze how climate change will impact Town of Schroon residents.

c. Research the public revenue potential from climate legislation.

d. Evaluate existing town investments for sustainability criteria, and work to reduce investments in climate-polluting activities.

**Resolution #34 Approve Minutes**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to approve the minutes of January 28, 2022

Public hearing seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

Councilwoman Welch moved to table the minutes of January 28, 2022

seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

**Resolution #35 Approve Vouchers**

Councilman Thompson moved a resolution to pay the bills as reviewed, seconded by

Councilman Gero; carried.

General Fund \$152,138.19   Sewer \$11,359.21   Water \$7853.68   Highway \$43,719.90

CDBG/UDAG \$488.30

**Resolution #36 Approve End of Year Budget Transfers for 2021**

Councilman Thompson moved a resolution to approve the end of the year budget transfer for 2021, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

02/14/2022

<b>GENERAL</b>				AMOUNT
TO		FROM		
A00-01-1330-400	TAX COLLECTOR CONT	A00-01-1220-400	SUPERVISOR CONT	\$ 500.00
A00-01-1620-400	Buildings Contractual	A00-01-1620-100	BUILDINGS PERSONNEL	\$ 37,624.79
A00-01-1620-400	Buildings Contractual	A00-01-1910-400	INSURANCE	\$ 12,000.00
A00-01-1620-400	BUILDINGS CONTRACUAL	A00-01-1010-400	TOWN BOARD	\$ 2,500.00
A00-03-4020-400	Vitals	A00-02-3620-400	SAFETY CONTRACTUAL	\$ 110.00
A00-06-7110-200	Parks Equipment	A00-06-7110-100	Parks Contractual	\$ 1,372.84
A00-06-7110-200	Parks Equipment	A00-06-7110-400	Parks Contractual	\$ 13,932.90
A00-06-7550-400	CELEBRATIONS	A00-06-7560-400	PERFORMANCE ARTS	\$ 50.00
Total				\$ 68,090.53
<b>HIGHWAY</b>				
DA0-04-5110-100	GENERAL PERSONNEL	DA0-04-5110-400	GENERAL CONTRACTUAL	\$ 724.35
DA0-04-5112.200	CAPITAL OUTLAY	DA0-04-5142-400	SNOW REMOVAL CONT	\$ 23,023.24
DA0-04-5120-400	BRIDGES CONTRACTUAL	DA0-04-5142-100	SNOW PERSONNEL	\$ 24,601.60
DA0-04-5130-200	MACHINERY EQUIP	DA0-04-5130-100	MACHINERY PERS.	\$ 3,155.11
DA0-04-5130-200	MACHINERY EQUIP	DA0-04-5130-400	MACHINERY CONTRACTUAL	\$ 6,000.00
DA0-04-5130-200	MACHINERY EQUIP	DA0-08-9060-800	Health Insurance	\$ 5,172.34
TOTALS				\$ 62,676.64
<b>SEWER</b>				
SS0-07-8130-200	TREATMENT EQUIPMENT	SS0-07-8110-200	ADMIN EQUIPMENT	\$ 3,000.00
SS0-07-8120-400	ELECTRIC	SS0-07-8110-400	ADMIN CONTRACTUAL	\$ 3,000.00
SS0-07-9060-800	HEALTH INSURANCE	SS0-07-8110-400	ADMIN CONTRACTUAL	\$ 500.00
TOTALS				\$ 6,500.00
<b>WATER</b>				
SW0-07-8310-400	Admin Contractual	SW0-07-8310-100	ADMIN PERSONNEL	\$ 1,000.00
SW0-07-8320-100	POWER PRSONNEL	SW0-07-8310-100	ADMIN PERSONNEL	\$ 2,300.00
SW0-07-8320-400	POWER CONTRACTUAL	SW0-08-9060-800	Health Insurance	\$ 2,200.00
SW0-07-8330-400	PURIFICATION CONTRACT	SW0-07-8310-100	ADMIN PERSONNEL	\$ 4,200.00
SW0-07-8340-100	TRANSMISSION PERSON	SW0-07-8310-100	ADMIN CONTRACTUAL	\$ 3,400.00

SW0-07-8340-200	TRANSMISSION EQUIP	SW0-07-8310-100	ADMIN CONTRACTUAL	\$ 600.00
SW0-07-8350-400	WATER METERS	SW0-07-8310-100	ADMIN CONTRACTUAL	\$ 1,000.00
SW0-07-8340-400	TRANSMISSION CONTRACT	SW0-07-8310-100	ADMIN CONTRACTUAL	\$ 2,000.00
TOTALS				\$16,700.00

**Resolution #37 Accept Resignation of James Chadbourne from Schroon Lake Park District**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to accept James Chadbourne’s resignation from the Schroon Lake Park District as Commissioner, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

**Resolution #38 Approve Neil Chippendale to the Schroon Lake Park District**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to approve Neil Chippendale to the Schroon Lake Park District until 12-31-2022, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

**Resolution #39 Approve Jen Slothower as a trustee on the Schroon Library Board of Trustees**

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to approve Jen Slothower as a trustee on the Schroon Lake Library Board of Trustees until 12-31-23, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

**Resolution #40 Approve Schroon Lake Public Library Annual Report**

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to accept the Library Annual Report for 2021, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried

**Resolution #41 Approve Larry Reid as member of Town of Schroon Zoning Board of Appeals**

Councilman Thompson moved a resolution to approve Larry Reid to the Zoning Board of Appeals until 12-31-23, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

**Resolution #42 Approve Town Justice Court records for fiscal year 2021**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to accept the Year End 2021 Audit of Court Records, seconded by, Councilman Thompson; carried.

**Resolution #43 Approve Town of Schroon Historian’s Annual Report for 2021**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to accept the 2021 Historian Annual Report, seconded by, Councilwoman Welch; carried.

**Resolution #44 Approve Essex County Youth Bureau agreement for 2022**

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thompson, who moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, The Town of Schroon has again decided to run a youth service program(s), and

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon has approved the appointment of its Youth Commission members and,

WHEREAS, the Youth Commission has been authorized to expend at least \$30,525.00 to cover the 50/50 match required by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Schroon approved the 2022 application and authorized the Youth Commission to expend at least \$18,000.00 for the 2022 youth services program(s), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk sends a copy of this resolution to the Essex County Community Resources office, 7533 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932.

This resolution was duly seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson and was adopted.

#### **Resolution #45 Confirm termination date for employee Kyle Taylor as 1/20/2022**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to terminate Kyle Taylor effective January 20, 2022 as and employee for the Town of Schroon Highway Department seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

#### **Park Staircase Status**

Councilman Thompson stated he had received new specifications and plans for the stairs at the beach from Larry Belluscio and will try to get something nailed down soon on this project.

#### **Employee Handbook Status**

Supervisor Wood stated the Board is working on this and that there will be a Safety Committee Meeting in the near future.

#### **Court Alterations Status**

Councilman Thompson stated that the grant for the Court Room was approved for \$30,000.00 and that most of the renovations are complete. The final bill came in and was \$3,900.000 under estimate which is great news. The electrical work was done by me, Councilman Gero and Phil Armstrong and cost \$2700.00. The door openers are the last piece we are waiting on and they are on backorder. The grant will cover all expenses.

#### **Old Fire House Status**

Supervisor Wood stated everything is prepped for the cement wall to come down inside the old Fire House and Supervisor Wood will have Phil Armstrong and Patrick Shaughnessy take the wall down. The roof issue is next and I need to follow through with that with some help from the Board. Councilman Thompson stated that structurally the Fire House is in good shape but it does need the roof replaced and to replace it would cost thousands. It is a great space for Parks equipment, Water Department and equipment that needs storage through the winter months.

## **Committee Assignments**

### TOWN BOARD COMMITTEES - 2022

BOAT HOUSE, BEACH, PARKS GERO, WELCH

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS THOMPSON, WELCH

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GERO, WOOD

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT, EMS DONALDSON, WOOD

GOLF COURSE WELCH, CIVIC COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

HIGHWAY, SIDEWALKS GERO, WELCH

HHHN WELCH, WOOD

LAKE, WATERSHED GERO, SLA REP FRIEDMAN

LIBRARY DONALDSON, WOOD

PLANNING, ZONING, CODES ALL

TRANSFER STATION DONALDSON, WOOD

WATER, SEWER THOMPSON, WOOD

YOUTH COMMISSION THOMPSON, WOOD

## **Broadband News**

Supervisor Wood stated that the Public Service Commission invites public comment regarding Broadband Assessment Program to study the availability, affordability and adoption of residential and commercial broadband internet access across New York State. The purpose of the study is to help determine what steps are needed to ensure that all of New York's consumers have access to the internet. Councilwoman Welch stated that she took the survey and it was very easy the site to go to is [www.empirestatebroadband.com](http://www.empirestatebroadband.com) the survey must be completed by March 18, 2022.

## **Discuss Codes Officer's Assistant Position**

Supervisor Wood stated we need to hire someone to help Jon Senecal with the Short Term Rentals we have discussed it and talked about and the assistant and could use Jons computer and down load the Essex County Property Tax information into his system and that could be used as our people process applications and also do FOIL request. Jon stated it should be no more then 8 hours a week, if that is what you want to do that's fine. Councilman Thompson and I had a discussion on it and he brought up a good point and said you could make it up like a packet and have them ready to go. I really think if you are going in this direction we start someone with Short Term Rentals and see what happens, it could change in six months. Councilman Thompson stated that this first year is going

to be the busiest and after that it will be every three years, I'm thinking we will only need this extra help for one year, after that it should be fairly easy.

### **Discuss Summer Youth Employment**

Supervisor Wood stated we have talked about having some of our youth to help out with different things in the summer time and getting them certified as Lifeguards so we have them through Labor Day also we need help in the Parks, if the Board would like I will talk to Chris Stone to see if there is money for that.

### **Discuss Highway Department**

Dana Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, stated we are in a crisis up at the Highway, losing two men. During budget I asked you to adopt the Essex County Highway Wage Statement, which is, HEO \$20.82, MEO \$18.96 and Laborer \$17.00 to start and they went up 6% this year for cost of living. On our wage statement if we can move the Highway Employees up a grade from Laborers to Grade 4, MEO to grade 5 and HEO to grade 6 it would help. We are at the point where we have to make a move in order to hire someone and going through my budget I know I can afford to pay them more. If we can move on this it might possibly help with hiring someone. Supervisor Wood stated that hopefully we can hire someone who has a CDL license so they would not have to be trained. Councilman Gero stated they are setting up places in the state to be trained but there is no final decision yet and they are doing the training in three phases. Supervisor Wood stated I just want you to know we are working on this we also have the big picture if we do it for the Highway it will effect all the other employees, so whatever we do we are fair to everyone. Dana stated I'm at the point where it is getting ugly and can become a safety issue. I barely have enough crew to do road construction this summer. Councilman Thompson stated he and Councilman Gero had discussed it and tried to come up with some ideas and one of the ideas was to go up a grade, but what do you do with the rest of the employees. Do you treat all the employees in Town the same and bring them all up a grade, which is a budget time fix. Councilwoman Donaldson stated that not every position in Town has the same problem. I don't think a Library position is harder to fill compared to Highway. Councilman Gero stated that the Highway position is competing with everyone in Essex County and private sector as well, the demand is a lot higher, everybody is in the same boat and scrambling for CDL drivers. DOT has had 32 people come and go since last summer and can't keep them once they are trained. Moriah has a program were they have a set salary for the HEO, but if you have less then two years experience with a CDL they start you out with a couple dollars less. We are competing with everyone now and this is the most competitive position that we have in this Town and this is the one

we should put the most emphasis on because it is the hardest to get replacement and bodies for. I understand how the other departments feel but he has to be able to maintain our roads. Councilman Thompson stated I think we are in agreement to do something for Highway. Councilman Gero stated this is a restructuring of the pay scale which I believe is behind the times and we can't keep up fast enough. To fill these positions we need to be some what competitive and we are not that far off. Councilman Thompson stated if you look at the County's pay scale and take into account what they pay for their Health Insurance ( they pay 20% and our employees pay 13%) it is about the same pay. With the employees we have now, we would have to bring up our current Highway employees and hire a CDL driver and a Laborer and it ends up not to be a huge increase to the Highway budget. Supervisor Wood stated that we can do it at the next Board Meeting February 28, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. to further discuss this.

### **Discuss Ski Hill**

Councilman Thompson stated that he took pictures of the warming hut area and as you can see it is in very poor shape. We need to decide if we want to continue to offer a ski tow or do away with it or is it worth doing again. It is hard to justify it with the weather we have been having. I think the electrical is 90% O.K., but the building need to come down and new put up. We get the cable inspected every year and the Department of Labor gets involved. You need two operators who have had CPR and first aid. If we get this going it is going to take a lot of volunteers and Town employees to make it happen. If we do this, we should do things little by little, one see if it is going to work and two see if there is any interest in it. Supervisor Wood stated getting an assessment of it done and a cost plan and concentrate on the ski hill for next year and if we know what we need to do then we can make a decision if it is worth it. Councilman Gero stated the most important thing is we need to make sure we can man it and we need to reach out to the other organizations to see if they are willing to help. Councilwoman Donaldson stated you have to make sure it is going to be used. Councilwoman Welch stated Youth Commission has a meeting Thursday and we should get them thinking about for next year and see if there is interest. Roger Freidman stated I have been involved in the ski hill for a number of years. The biggest problem we had was a lack of snow. If you can't have it open for Christmas vacation and Presidents week and all the week ends then what do you need to make that hill work. The missing link is snow making, you have a hydrant by hole 6 that I believe works that you could hook up to and then you will need to have it mobile and have a big fan gun. If you don't have the snow you are not going to be open. If you can get a snow making machine everything else will fall in place, which is where you have to start. You need to have

someone come and give you a price on the machine and tell you what you need and then maybe apply for a grant. If you solve that portion of the puzzle and you are continually open people will come and use it. Councilman Thompson stated the problem I have is climate change do we learn to live with it or fight it. Do we make snow or do we live with it and decide not to move forward with it, I don't know the answer. Dave Williams stated our kids really enjoyed using the hill and the Gore program and they had people show up because it was open and we had snow then. Skiing is very expensive so if you decide this is something good for our community, you will get local people but you will get other people from around the area, if you are consistently open that is going to happen. The other thing about the snow making piece is, it has changed immensely, at Gore they now put in piles and then they have the equipment to move it around and then you have to groom it. Supervisor Wood stated lets think about this and get some pricing and see if there is even and interest.

**Change the Time for Town Board Meeting**

Councilman Gero made a motion to change the time of the Town Board Meeting for February 28, 2022 from 6:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

Town of Schroon  
Town Board Meeting  
Monday  
February 28, 2022  
At 1:00 P.M

Supervisor Wood stated at the next meeting they will discuss the Wage Statement for the Highway, ski hill, lifeguard pay and youth employment and she will ask the Library staff if they would like to have more hours helping Jon Senecal with short term rentals and FOIL request. I will talk to the Chamber to see what there ideas would be for the ski hill and snow making and as Dave said it would be great for business and bring more people to Town.

Councilman Gero made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

I, Patricia J. Savarie, 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: February 22, 2022\_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk