

**Budget Workshop to Discuss 2023 Budget held September 29, 2022, at 12:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in Schroon Lake N.Y.**

**Present:**

**Supervisor:** Meg Wood

**Councilpersons:** Richard Gero, Ethan Thompson  
(Lynn Donaldson and Leanna Welch - Excused)

**Town Clerk:** Patricia Savarie

**Budget Officer:** Chris Stone

**Also Present:** Albert May

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. with a pledge to the Flag.

**Resolution #160 Decrease Water and Sewer Units at 1106 US Route 9**

Councilman Thompson moved a resolution to decrease the water and sewer units from 3 to 1 units because of construction going on at 1106 US Route 9, Tax Map #147.54-2-2.000, owner Jin Feng Ni, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

**Resolution #161 Hire Schroon Lake Public Library Substitute**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to hire Shirley Richards for the Schroon Lake Public Library Substitute at the rate of \$15.97 an hour, seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

**Resolution #162 Second Town Board Monthly Meeting to be Suspended until January 23, 2023**

Councilman Thompson moved a resolution to have the second monthly Town Board meeting suspended for the months of July, August, September, October, November and December and will resume January 23, 2023, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

**Resolution #163 Amend Resolution #152 of June 8, 2020**

Resolution #152 Hire a Full Time Water Department Operator Trainee Employee

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to hire Chris Farris for a full time position as Water Department Operator Trainee at the rate of \$18.00 an hour effective June 22, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Amend Resolution #152 of June 8, 2020 to state:

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to hire Chris Farris for a full time position as Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee at the rate of \$18.00 an hour effective June 22, 2020, seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried

**Resolution #164 Amend Resolution # 136 of July 12, 2021**

RESOLUTION #136 to Approve Scheduled Raise for Chris Farris

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to approve Water Department Operator Chris Farris his scheduled raise from \$18.36 and hour to \$19.36 an hour effective June 22, 2021 and \$250.00 for passing his C License, seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Amend Resolution #136 of July 12, 2021 to state:

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution to approve Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee Chris Farris his scheduled raise from \$18.36 and hour to \$19.36 an hour effective June 22, 2021 and \$250.00 for passing his C License, seconded by Councilman Thompson; carried.

**Discussion on Budget 2023**

Chris Stone, Budget Officer, stated that our revenues are up and I will appropriate \$100,000.00 which will go into the general fund. I have not received the workers compensation figure for 2023. Retirement for 2023 decreased \$51,861.00. Payroll Figures for General and Highway have been increase 3.306% plus a Stipend added. There are a few people in the General Fund that will still need to be adjusted. Overtime hours were computed based on 200 Hours/HEO and MEO, 100 Hours Auto Mechanic, Sidewalk plow 50 hours, Landfill 40 hours/person, Parks 75 hours/person. Stipends added; .732% Grade 1 -0, Grade 2- \$.13, Grade 3-\$.14, Grade4- \$.16, Grade5- \$.17, Grade 6- \$.19, Grade 7- \$.21. The Health Insurance increased - Gold 6 – 8.9% and Silver 19 6.6%, the retirement policy 5%. The Projects to be considered, Highway Garage Roof, Parks Building Roof, Bandstand, Boat Docks and cleaning of Tennis Courts and fixing the bank on the road side of the Tennis Courts. Equipment to be considered – Greens Mower, New Broom sweeper for Hockey Rink, new Water Department Truck. Miscellaneous items; Town Hall – Back fence needs to be repaired and painted, outside of Buildings needs to be pressure washed and repaired and flower bed need attention,

cleaning contract needs to be reviewed and see how many hours they are doing because they are not cleaning properly, the heating system on this side of the building needs to be consider for replacement in the near future. The Medical Center have a unit that is out and needs to be replaced. All outside of building need to be cleaned and landscape needs attention. The Club House needs a shade for the window, painting and carpets cleaned or removed and new flooring. The Pavilion Golf Course needs to have a cement slab poured. There is a request from the VFW or Veterans (Don Sage) for banners with Veteran pictures. The Board would like to wait on this, how do you decide who goes up and where they are located and for how long.

Supervisor Wood stated she would like to see quarterly reports from all the departments so we are all in the loop with each department and that it is recorded in the minutes. Supervisor Wood stated from what she is hearing up at the County our Transfer Station expenses will be up for recyclables in glass. We will need to have all recyclables cleaned and no garbage or they will not take them. We may need someone to patrol it and tell people to clean there recyclables before we can accept them.

Councilman Thompson went over the Wage Scale for the 2023 Budget. I did it on a 3.306% increase plus their yearly step of 0.732%. There is a 10% difference between each grade level. I don't see how any Municipality can keep up with inflation right now. In my opinion you need to average it out over a number of years and hope next year is lower. Supervisor Wood stated there are other things that we can do for the employees since we cant keep up with inflation these could be add on that are not taxable, like a higher wage would be, so they have a little more value that way. Councilman Gero stated I like the idea of a safety shoe program because it would allow us to reinforce a safety policy. If we allow them \$100.00 a year for boots then they do not need to be wearing sneakers to work everyday. Chris Stone stated I think you should include gloves, eye wear, ear plugs and safety vest. Councilman Gero stated you can buy all of that in bulk and save the Town a lot of money and do away with all those trips to Curtis Lumber everyday.

Councilman Gero stated he had gotten an email on the EV Charging stations from Nationalgrid with big incentives coming up next year. We need to think about it down the road. This is a really good website and tells you every stage that you need to be

at and how you require the funding, I think now is the time to do it. It does add to the economy, if people know we have EV Charging stations here, maybe they would stay here over night and visit our shops and restaurants. Councilman Thompson stated I have concerns if you reach critical mass and everyone has chargers I'm trying to understand where it fits in a municipality when all of a sudden businesses are putting them in and charging for them, where does that leave us? The fast chargers would be great to have better then the level 2.

Councilman Gero made a motion to adjourn at 2:01 P.M., seconded by Supervisor Wood; carried.

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: October 5, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk