

**Town Board Meeting held July 10th, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in**

**Schroon Lake N.Y.**

**Present:**

**Town Supervisor:** Meg Wood

**Councilpersons:** Richard Gero, Lynn Donaldson, Leanna Welch and Steve Miller

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Erica Hedden

**Also Present:** Albert May, Chris Stone, Lynette Colden, Molly

Colden, Dax Colden, Joan Lawless, Sue Palisano, Alexis Connors, Tom

Schuhle, Jean Schuhle

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

**Public Participation:**

**Mindy Granger, Community Fund of the Gore Mountain Region**

Mindy Granger stated, Thank you for having me. I am the Chair person for the community fund of the Gore Mountain region. About a year ago, the town of Johnsbury and the Tannery Pond Center looked into an outdoor Kiosk because they do not have a chamber of commerce. A lot of people come into tannery pond center to get all their brochures because there used to be a chamber of commerce in Tannery Pond Center. They submitted for a grant, and the Community Fund went back to them with the thought that we should have more towns involved. That more towns could benefit from this. We want to support all the local municipalities, non- profits and schools with this idea. The North Creek business Alliance agreed that this would be a benefit to many towns and help us as a community. I have done a lot of research for the best product. I wanted to be sure that whatever we purchased was going to last, and not become outdated in a year or two. We want something that will last and serve us for many years. The proposal I have here is from Touch Force. They build indoor and outdoor kiosks. It would be a 24/7 available resources. It would be undercover and handicap accessible. It will be a touch screen interactive set up, it will be a directory for every business, for every non profit and

very town. It will include the websites; it will be connected to internet full time, hardwired in. We will be creating QR codes for every business that doesn't have one, so with this kiosk, it can be accessed through the QR code, which is helpful for areas that do not have internet access, as they can take a photo of it and use it to access the website at any time. We can have, HHHN listed, Food Pantries listed, Businesses, and Schools listed. It's a service to everyone. This project does have a cost of \$41,000. It did rise from last years estimate of \$37,000, because this project was delayed a year. Rise in prices and costs have occurred. We are asking the Town of Schroon to donate \$2,500.00 to our project, as you can see in the breakdown, which would bring us up to where we need to be to get this project off the ground. The town of Johnsburg has graciously offered as well as their donation, to cover the cost of installation, wiring, and set up. The only ongoing cost of this is the annual fee of \$1,399.00. That fee includes tech support, warranty and an interactive communication between us and the company. That fee would be split among the towns.

Supervisor Wood stated; how are you going to get the information to update the kiosk?

Mindy Granger stated; that's the Key. We have admin rights. We can change anything as needed. The initial listing of the entries, they will do, but we can make changes to it at anytime. We will need a point person from each town, to head up those changes to let us know.

Councilman Gero stated; with this, both the chamber and the town website can be accessed through this?

Mindy Granger stated; yes. They can go right to the website, and any website listed on the kiosk. Restaurants, hotels, towns, chambers, all of them.

Councilwoman Donaldson stated; how are you going to protect it from damages?

Mindy Granger stated; it's warranted for one, and the location is monitored with security cameras. The kiosk will physically be under cover to protect it from the elements. This kiosk is specifically an outdoor kiosk; it is designed to stand up to the elements as well as the cold.

Councilwoman Welch stated; what about the business's that are not chamber of commerce members?

Mindy Granger stated; we would have to get that information separately. We can send out mailing to the businesses in town, they don't have to participate.

Sue Palisano stated; can you clarify something for me? If I have a chamber of commerce member that is a business and this business is not in the 5 towns that this covers, will they or will they not be able to be on the kiosk?

Mindy Granger stated; it depends; we don't want to be listing things that are far out of the area. We would not list those businesses. The Chamber of Commerce website that is linked will have those businesses on their website, but we would not add them to the list that is on the kiosk. It would however still be on the Chamber Website that can be seen on the kiosk.

### **Molly Colden, Suicide Prevention Walk/Run**

Molly Colden stated; A little over a month ago we hosted our suicide prevention walk/run in town. It is our second annual run. Our first was in Elizabethtown and the second one was here in Schroon. We had the intention of moving it around every year to a different town but, the feedback was so positive from our run this year that we wanted to open the conversation to hosting it here again next year. It would still be the second weekend in June on a Saturday. I just wanted to put a bug in your ear about what our intentions are.

### **Alexis Connors, Schroon Lake Farmers Market**

Alexis Connors stated; I just wanted to give a little overview of how our farmers markets are going. Things are going great. We are having a lot of return customers; people can get their vegetables, meat, and dairy. We really have a wide range of products available. We have vendors coming from all over; I think the two from Argyle are our vendors that travel the farthest. Those two have actually said that this is the best market that they sell at. Meltwater Farm is a produce seller; they have the 20 foot tent, so they are double the size of our standard tents, and many times they sell out. They also participate in farmers markets in Albany and the Troy area and they said Schroon is a top performer. Hay-Bro farm is in the Bolton market and they say that they almost double their sales here in our Schroon Lake Farmers Market. This is all great to hear, we want all our vendors to keep coming back, and it's important for our customers to know that the vendors they love will continue to come. We have to thank our sponsors, Curtis Lumber,

Gallo Realty, Glens Falls National Bank, Homestead Carpentry Co and Loch House Inn. They have really helped us get our feet off the ground this year. Thank you.

Each week we also have live music and a community booth. This past weekend we had the Adirondack 46ers there. They counted not how many people that came to their booth but how many meaningful conversations they had. They said that they had 45 different conversations that lasted approximately 10 minutes each, and that they were really able to engage with the people. They said they normally set up at trail heads, but they have a much better response at our farmers market. They are excited to come back next year, they had a great display and we look forward to seeing them return next year. We have the Schroon Lake Food Pantry returning with their booth again. They also said that the week after they had set up a booth at the Farmers Market they received an influx of donations, so it really helped raised awareness.

We have a big day coming up August 19<sup>th</sup>; it's our Family Day at the Market. Every week at the market I have made up coloring sheets for kids. On the 19<sup>th</sup> we are really going to target activities for the kids, scavenger hunts and coloring sheets. We want to get the kids engaged. Also, every week at the market I sell Market Tokens. They are little wooden chips worth 5 dollars. The idea behind it was to create a little sub economy in the market. If for any reason the wifi is out, or the vendor for whatever reason can't accept a credit card, the customer could pay with these Market Tokens. An idea we are doing for family day is also that every child will get one of these 5 dollar tokens, so they can have some spending money for the market, to get them involved. We have even sold the tokens in bulk; customers buy them as gifts for their friends and family members. We also have hats and tote bags, it's been really rewarding to see them worn around town, even the governor was wearing one of our hats. We love to see reoccurring community support. The Loch House has been helping with setting up tables, and they offer free cookies and lemonade on their porch. It has been wonderful to have their help in fostering that community spirit.

I just wanted to give you an overview of how well things are going. We have had over 200 visitors to the market each time, and the fourth of July we have over 400! It's been really great to see such participation from the community and to see people enjoying the Farmers Market.

**Resolution #133 Approve Minutes of June, 12<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve the Minutes of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried

**Resolution #134 Approval of Vouchers**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to Approve the Vouchers, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

General Fund \$59,701.43      Sewer \$ 39,297.86      Water \$ 4,585.48  
Highway \$83,564.89              CDBG/UDAG \$255.92

**Resolution #135 Approve purchase of 1998 Toro Multipro 1100 Sprayer for application of fertilizer and pesticides at the golf course in the amount of \$4,500.00**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to Approve the purchase of 1998 Toro Multipro 1100 Sprayer for application of fertilizer and pesticides at the golf course in the amount of \$4,500.00, seconded by Councilman Miller; carried

Supervisor Wood stated, we did a lot of research, and has had many conversation about they best way to approach the application of fertilizer and pesticides for the golf course. We have come to the conclusion that investing 4500 dollars on an older multipro is a better way to go, rather than investing \$45,000 to \$50,000 for a brand new one. One that would only be used a couple times a year on a nine hole golf course.

**Resolution #136 Approve Second Amendment to 1995 Lease Agreement with AT&T/New Cingular Wireless PSC, LLC, successor in interest to Adirondack Cellular Company, LP to extend AT&T cell tower equipment located at the Town water tower on Route for a period 11/01/2025 through 10/31/2040.**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Second Amendment to 1995 Lease Agreement with AT&T/New Cingular Wireless PSC, LLC, successor in interest to Adirondack Cellular Company, LP to extend AT&T cell tower equipment located at the Town water tower on Route for a period 11/01/2025 through 10/31/2040., seconded by Councilman Miller; carried.

Supervisor Wood stated, with much negotiations and discussion we have finally come to an agreement with AT&T. We will renew for Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, we are raising the monthly rental fee to \$2,000.00 from approximately \$175.00. The rental fee will also

increase annually by 3%, rather than by 2% for a 5 year period. As well the 5 year periods will be limited to 3, so a total of 15 years, instead of the previous 30 years.

**Resolution #137 Approve purchase of two 250-gallon Norwesco 42337 White Doorway Water Tanks for the Wastewater Department; total purchase price to be \$1,000.00**

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Approve purchase of two 250-gallon Norwesco 42337 White Doorway Water Tanks for the Wastewater Department; total purchase price to be \$1,000.00 seconded by Councilman Gero; carried

**Resolution #138 Approve payment of \$437.50 to Moriah Central School for use of their swimming pool for lifeguard training in May. This amount is 50% of the total cost.**

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to approve payment of \$437.50 to Moriah Central School for use of their swimming pool for lifeguard training in May. This amount is 50% of the total cost. Seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried

**Resolution #139 Approve appointment of Steve Miller to replace Ethan Thompson on Town Board committees: Water & Sewer; Youth Commission; Economic Development; Buildings & Grounds; Planning/Zoning/Codes; Transfer Station.**

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution to approve appointment of Steve Miller to replace Ethan Thompson on Town Board committees: Water & Sewer; Youth Commission; Economic Development; Buildings & Grounds; Planning/Zoning/Codes; Transfer Station. Seconded by Councilman Gero; carried

**Town Board Committees for 2023**

Highway & Sidewalks – Council Members Gero and Welch

Water & Sewer – Council Member Miller and Supervisor Wood

Lake/Watershed – Council Member Gero and SLA Rep Roger Friedman

Fire Department & EMS – Council Member Donaldson and Supervisor Wood

Youth Commission – Council Member Miller and Supervisor Wood

Chamber of Commerce – Council Member Gero and Supervisor Wood

Economic Development – All Board Members

Boat House/Beach/Parks – Council member Gero and Supervisor Wood

Buildings & Grounds – Council Members Miller and Welch

Library – Council Member Donaldson and Supervisor Wood

Golf Course – Council Member Welch and Civic Committee with Volunteers

HHHN – Council Member Welch and Supervisor Wood

Planning/Zoning/Codes – All Board Members

Transfer Station – All Board Members

**Resolution #140 Approve Tom Farrell summer employment at boat wash station, \$15.11/hour**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Tom Farrell summer employment at boat wash station, \$15.11/hour. Seconded by Councilman Miller; carried

**Resolution #141 Approve the hiring of Julia Reed for the position of Clerk to the Supervisor at a rate of \$21.95 Effective date 7//2023**

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution to Approve the hiring of Julia Reed for the position of Clerk to the Supervisor at a rate of \$21.95 effective date 7//2023. Seconded by Councilman Gero (Councilwoman Donaldson – opposed); carried.

**DISCUSSION: Town docks, boat launch and boat inspection station**

Supervisor Wood stated; there have been some issues at the town docks that people have not been happy with, to include the boat launch and the boat wash station. We do have a local law regarding the use of the town dock. It states in the law that a person can dock their boat on town docks for up to 4 hours twice in a 24 hour period. We have had a problem with people leaving their boats for longer then that, for days. There is no over night parking at the docks. We did have an example before Fourth of July that there was a boat left over night. We did contact the police regarding this matter. We decided to create a letter of warning; we put it in a plastic sleeve and attached it to the boat, without boarding the boat. The boat did move after that. We will continue with these actions regarding boats parking overnight, if this issue persists then further action may be required.

At the boat launch we do have an AWI employee doing boat inspections for invasive species. The town does have an invasive species prevention type of law that was passed. A

while back we gave it to the DEC to vet it, to make sure they didn't have any problems with it, and we need to forward it to their legislative department to have them review it. In the mean time AWI employees are not town employees, so as far as having the AWI employee trying to enforce something can be challenging. We did have a situation with someone, where he refused to get his boat inspected.

#### **DISCUSSION: Golf Course maintenance**

Supervisor Wood stated; this is on the agenda just to keep the conversation going about the golf course maintenance. The gold course employees seem to be doing an excellent job. I have had no complaints about the golf course this year. I'm hearing all good things.

#### **DISCUSSION: Severance Cemetery maintenance**

Supervisor Wood stated; as some of you may know, when a private cemetery can no longer function privately the state mandates that municipalities take them over, and the expense of them. There are regulations in place that apply to different kinds of cemeteries. Cemeteries that are being managed by municipalities have specific rules. One example is that the municipality must maintain and clean up in the spring and fall; and must mow at least twice a year. It has been difficult to find someone who can mow and maintain for the town for a reasonable price, but we did find someone. He is from Moriah, he loves working in cemeteries, to explore the history of them. I do have copies of the requirements up in my office; anyone is welcome to a copy if they wish.

#### **DISCUSSION; Sunscreen Dispensers**

Supervisor Wood stated; I wanted to let you know that the sunscreen dispenser that the county got through a grant arrived today. It is easy to use, just put your hand underneath and sunscreen squirts out. I do not know what brand it is. Hopefully that will be installed and ready soon for the summer season.

**Thank all Schroon Lake Fire and EMS personnel; Chamber of Commerce members, Town employees and community volunteers for their efforts to make our 7/04 celebration successful and relatively incident free.**



Supervisor Wood stated; I wanted to thank all the Schroon Lake Fire and EMS personal, the Chamber of Commerce, Board members, volunteers, town employees and everyone who participated in our Fourth of July celebration.

**Thank you to volunteers: Dave Williams and Chris Savarie for their many hours of help in our park and Rick Gero and Dave Willams for their many hours of work on the docks**

Supervisor Wood stated; I don't know if many of you know but we have had a couple people who have been volunteering their time and energy. They have been helping out the town, cleaning up the town park in the corners and many other tasks. Dave Williams and Chris Savarie. They both have been a great help to the town and our community.

Councilman Gero stated; I just wanted to say that the town is very lucky to have Ethan Thompson in his position. Over a period of time, with what he can do "in house" and what he can accomplish. He is going to save the town a lot of money. I've worked with him and seen his talent; there isn't anything he can't do. I would also like to thank Chris for her service to the town. There's a saying out there that no one is irreplaceable, but I think in this case that isn't true. Chris is irreplaceable.

Supervisor Wood made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 P.M seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

I, Erica Hedden, 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: July 14th, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Town Clerk