

Town Board Meeting held December 11th, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in Schroon Lake N.Y.

Present:

Town Supervisor: Meg Wood

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

Town Clerk: Patricia Savarie

Deputy Town Clerk: Erica Hedden

Also Present: Albert May, Brian Ritching, Joy Koch, Sue Palisano, Roger Friedman, Joel Friedman Lou Donnelly, Joe Flores

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

Public Participations:

Sue Palisano stated; thank you to the volunteers for their participation in the Olde Tyme Christmas celebrations last weekend. Thank you for Rick Gero for always stepping up when he sees a need. Everyone pulled together and made the day very special.

Resolution # 208 Approve Minutes of October 24th 2023 and November 9th 2023

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting on October 24th 2023, and November 9th 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

Resolution #209 Approve Vouchers

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Vouchers, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

General Fund \$46,543.42 Sewer \$3,386.20 Water \$4,206.93 Highway \$64,341.36

Resolution #210 Approve Budgets Transfers and Amendments

Supervisor Wood stated; for highway we are taking from fund balance \$172,777.00 and putting it towards appropriations, that is FEMA cost mostly. Hopefully we will get 75% of that back but we have not heard anything from the governor’s office about weather or not the state will reimburse the 12.5% that they have in the past. The county has passed a resolution asking her to please do so. The other transfers are just transfers to finish out the year, moving funds to where they are needed.

From			To		Amount
A00-01-1355-100	Pers. Assessor		A00-01-1355-400	Cont. Assessor	\$4,000.00
Training Cost					
A00-1-1910-400	Insurance		A00-01-1410-100	Pers. Clerk	\$3,000.00
Deputy Coverage					
A00-01-1910-400	Insurance		A00-01-1410-400	Cont. Clerk	\$1,000.00
Planning Exp.					
A00-01-1910-400	Insurance		A00-01-1430-400	Personnel	\$600.00
Reg. Extra Exp					
A00-01-1680-100	Pers. Data Proc.		A00-01-1680-400	Cont. Data Proc	\$10,000.00
Additional Tech					
A00-03-4989-100	Pers. Invasive		A00-03-4020-400	Vital	\$300.00
Additional Vitals					
A00-04-5410-400	Sidewalks		A00-04-5615-400	Airport	\$10,000.00
A00-06-7110-406	Parks/Tennis		A00-04-5615-400	Airport	\$14,016.00
Airport Repairs					
A00-06-7110-405	Parks/Beach		A00-06-7110-200	Equip. Parks	\$6,255.00
Equip. Purchase					
A00-06-7180-400	Cont. Golf		A00-06-7180-200	Equip. Golf	\$4,500.00
Equip. Purchase					
A00-06-7140-100	Pers. Ski Tow		A00-06-7310-100	Pers. Youth	\$3,000.00
A00-06-7140-400	Cont. Ski Tow		A00-06-7310-100	Pers. Youth	\$3,000.00
A00-07-8160-400	Cont. Landfill		A00-06-7310-100	Pers. Youth	\$3,000.00
Lifeguard Exp					
A00-06-7550-400	Cont. Celebrations		A00-07-8010-400	Cont. Zoning	\$300.00
Additional Exp.					
A00-09-9060-800	Health Ins		A00-08-9050-800	Unemployment Ins	\$15,000.00
Claims Unemploy					
					\$77,971.00
From			To		Amount
DA0-04-5130-400	Cont. Machinery		DA0-08-9050-800	Unemployment ins.	\$3,310.00
Claim Unemploy					

SW0-07-8310-200	Equipment		SW0-07-8310-400	Cont. Administration	\$10,000.00
Additional Exp					
SW0-07-8310-200	Equipment		SW0-07-8340-400	Cont. Transmission	\$21,000.00
SW0-07-8320-100	Pers. Source		SW0-07-8340-400	Cont. Transmission	\$30,000.00
Additional Exp					

**BUDGET AMENDMENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

A BUDGET AMENDMENT IS NEEDED TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS DA0-960 FROM APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE DA0-599 TO ACCOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES IN CAPITAL OUTLAY AND GENERAL REPAIRS>

Appropriated Fund Balance	DA0-599	\$172,777.00
Appropriations	DA0-960	\$172,777.00

To amend budget per board approval to cover additional expenditures for capital improvements.

DA0-04-5112-200	Capital Improvements	\$ 62,777.00
DA0-04-5110-400	General Repairs	\$ 110,000.00

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Budget Transfers and Amendments, seconded by Councilman Miller; carried.

Resolution #211 Approve Water and Wastewater Unit usage fee rates for 2024

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Approve Water and Wastewater Unit fee rates for 2024. Water rates per unit will go from \$47.00/ quarter per unit to \$50.00/ quarter per unit and Sewer rates per unit will go from \$249.00/ quarter per unit to \$255.00/ quarter per unit, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

Resolution # 212 Approve Steven Vincigurta job title change to MEO effective

12/20/2023, at \$20.11/ hour

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Steven Vincigurta job title change to MEO effective 12/20/2023, at \$20.11/ hour, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

Resolution # 213 Approve Larry Pierce job title change to MEO effective 12/20/2023 at

\$20.11/ hour

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Larry Pierce job title change to MEO effective 12/20/2023 at \$20.11/ hour, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

Resolution # 214 Approve Erica Hedden to work/train in Town Clerk's office during December 2023

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to Approve Erica Hedden to work/train in Town Clerk's office during December 2023, seconded by Councilman Miller; carried.

Resolution # 215 Accept Gordon Graves retirement effective 11/23/2023

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution to Accept Gordon Graves retirement effective 11/23/2023 with congratulations and thanks, unanimously seconded; carried.

Resolution # 216 Approve Mountain Medical 2024 Contract for Standard Medical Testing Services



Contractual Agreement

This agreement is made between Standard Medical Testing Services, a division of Mountain Medical Services, located at 597 Bay Road, Queensbury, NY 12804 and with Town of Schroon Attn: Margaret Wood having an address a PO BOX 578, SCHROON LAKE, NY, 12870-0578.

This agreement shall be in effect from January 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024

The responsibilities and obligations and liabilities shall survive the term of this agreement.

This agreement may be canceled by either party after thirty days of written notification.

Both parties to this agreement are independent contractors, and nothing contained herein shall be construed to place the parties in the relationship of partners, joint venture, principal-agent or employer-employee, and neither party shall have the power to obligate or bind the other whatsoever beyond the terms of this agreement.

Standard Medical Testing Services, a division of Mountain Medical Services, will be compensated for its services as follows:

Yearly Administrative Fee:	10 or more employees	\$150.00	(up 5.00)
	9 or less employees	\$ 80.00	
Urine Drug Screens		\$ 63.00	(up 1.00)
Alcohol Breath Testing		\$ 40.00	(up 2.00)
DOT/CDL Physicals		\$150.00	(up 10.00)
Onsite Charge - Other than Randoms		\$100.00	
NO Show Fee -per participant		\$ 30.00	
If collector shows and participant doesn't			
Observed Urine Collection		\$30.00	

In addition, should there be after hours, post accident testing/reasonable suspicion, there shall be a flat rate fee of \$120.00 per hour with a minimum two hour charge. Also there will be a mileage charge of 56.5 cents per mile applied.

Shy Bladder wait time is \$40.00 per hour, including after 5 pm closing time.

The fee for split specimen re-testing of positive specimens (including shipping, lab fees and chain of custody) shall be \$250.00.

The review of all Positive drug screens will be \$100.00, regardless of final outcome. This includes the MRO time for contacting physicians, donors and specialists whom the employee is being treated by.

Payment of invoices is expected within 30 days of receipt of invoice payable to Mountain Medical Services, PO BOX 13395, Belfast Maine, 04915. A late fee/interest fee of 1.5% monthly will be applied to outstanding invoices over 30 days old. We accept payment online at www.quickpayportal.com. Code is on Invoice.

Standard Medical Testing Services, a division of Mountain Medical Services attests that it will keep all information obtained from the Town of Schroon for the purpose of testing confidential unless otherwise required to disclose said information by applicable law, regulation, or subsequent agreement.

The provisions of the Agreement shall be construed, interpreted and governed by the substantive laws of the state of New York, including all matters of construction, validity and performance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed as of the day and year executed below:

Standard Medical Testing Services
Merrie Lynn Towle, BSN

Mountain Medical Services
Dr. Michael P. M. Pond, MD

Town of Schroon

Name: Merrie Lynn Towle, BSN
Title: Director of Occupational Medicine
Date: January 1, 2024

Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Please execute this agreement, retain the original, and forward a duplicate to Standard Medical Testing Services at 597 Bay Road, Queensbury, NY 12804.

Standard Medical Testing Services
A division of Mountain Medical
Merrie Lynn Towle, BSN
597 Bay Road
Queensbury, NY 12804
518-744-6560
fax: 518-409-8441
www.standardmedicals.com
standardmedicals@gmail.com

Mountain Medical Services
Michael Pond, MD/MRO
1927 Saranac Avenue
Lake Placid, NY 12945
518-523-7575
FAX: 518-523-7577
www.mountainmedical.net

354 Broadway, Saranac Lake, NY 12983
2 Hospital Drive, Massena, NY 13662
3372 St. Rte. 11, Suite H, Malone, NY 12953

Councilman Miller moved a resolution to accept the contract with Standard Medical Services to perform urine drug screening \$63.00, alcohol breath testing \$40.00 and DOT/CDL Physicals \$150.00 and a yearly Administrative Fee (10 or more Employees) \$150.00 and (9 or less Employees) \$80.00 for the Town of Schroon employees, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried

Resolution # 217 Approve HHHN contract for physical examinations and Hepatitis B

Vaccinations



HEPATITIS B AGREEMENT

The following outline describes the services agreed upon between **Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN)** and **Town of Schroon (Town)** effective **January 1, 2024** through **December 31, 2024**

Hudson Headwaters Health Network's medical staff, including physician's assistants, will provide Town employees Hepatitis B Immunizations as requested by the Town at a HHHN location convenient for the employee. The employee's medical documentation will remain in the employee's confidential medical record at the Health Center, and will be maintained according to HHHN's privacy practices.

HHHN will bill the **Town** as outlined below. These rates reflect a discount from our usual and customary rates.

- **\$93.00** each **Hepatitis B Vaccination** (series of 3 required).
 - This fee includes the administration of the vaccine.

The need for additional testing will be determined by HHHN medical staff based on the employee's medical history and examination. If the physical exam necessitates, HHHN medical staff will refer the employee to employee's physician for follow up treatment. The Town will notify each employee that payment for testing beyond the Hepatitis B (for example: chest x-ray, lab work, pap's, etc.) will be the employee's responsibility.

This agreement excludes patients that have been discharged from HHHN in accordance with HHHN policies and procedures.

The Town employee(s) will need to present a Contract Services Form to the receptionist at time of service. HHHN will provide the Contract Services Form to the Town.

HHHN will invoice Town weekly. Invoices will be sent to the following address.

Town of Schroon
Attn: ~~Michael Marnell~~ *M. Wood*
PO Box 578
Schroon Lake, NY 12870

Payment for services is expected within 30 days of invoicing. Either Party may terminate this agreement with a written notice of at least 30 days.

Michael Wood

Town of Schroon

11/29/2023

Date

Contact: Michael Marnell
Phone: (518) 532-7737
Fax: (518) 532-9474
Email: _____

Laura Pasco, ASA CFO

Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Laura Pasco
VP, Assistant Chief Financial Officer

11/17/23

Date



PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AGREEMENT

The following outline describes the services agreed upon between **Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN)** and **Town of Schroon (Town)** effective **January 1, 2024** through **December 31, 2024**

Hudson Headwaters Health Network’s medical staff, including physician’s assistants, will provide Town employees Physical Examinations as requested by the Town at a HHHN location convenient for the employee. The employee’s medical documentation will remain in the employee’s confidential medical record at the Health Center and will be maintained according to HHHN’s privacy practices.

HHHN will bill the **Town** as outlined below. These rates reflect a discount from our usual and customary rates.

- **\$149.00** each **Physical Examination**
 - This fee includes the medical history review and physical examination.

The need for additional testing will be determined by HHHN medical staff based on the employee’s medical history and examination. If the physical exam necessitates, HHHN medical staff will refer the employee to employee’s physician for follow up treatment. The Town will notify each employee that payment for testing beyond the physical examination (for example: chest x-ray, lab work, pap’s, etc.) will be the employee’s responsibility.

This agreement excludes patients that have been discharged from HHHN in accordance with HHHN policies and procedures.

The Town employee(s) will need to present a Contract Services Form to the receptionist at time of service. HHHN will provide the Contract Services Form to the Town.

HHHN will invoice Town weekly. Invoices will be sent to the following address.

Essex County-Worker’s Comp
PO Box 217
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Payment for services is expected within 30 days of invoicing. Either Party may terminate this agreement with a written notice of at least 30 days.

Meg Wood
Town of Schroon

11/29/2023
Date

Contact: Judy Garrison
Phone: (518) 873-3353
Fax: (518) 873-3356
Email: _____

Laura Pasco, Asst CFO
Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Laura Pasco
VP, Assistant Chief Financial Officer

11/17/23
Date

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve HHHN contract for physical examinations and Hepatitis B Vaccinations, seconded by Councilman Miller; carried.

Resolution # 218 Approve amendment of UDAG funded Town of Schroon loan agreement with Hometown Anchor LLC

Supervisor Wood stated; Hometown Anchor LLC has requested to extend the term of their loan for up to four years, during the four years they will pay the interest on the loan only. The loan will resume in full force at the end of four years. We will have our attorneys draft the terms in a formal agreement. The savings to Hometown Anchor LLC during this four year period will cover the cost of the engineering and repaving of a 61,000 square foot parking lot. The parking lot is basically a municipal parking lot, and it benefits a lot of people to have it repaired. I know this has spurred a lot of conversation about the revolving loan fund. The town got a UDAG grant from HUD in the late 80's. It was intended to be used to build a hotel and conference center just south of town. The hotel and conference center never came to fruition. The town was able to redirect the funds towards a new super market. Home Town Anchor LLC, borrowed that money from the town and has been repaying it for a couple of decades, plus. The repayments of the UDAG grant funds, is what created the revolving loan fund and continues to feed it. All we are doing is extending that period; we are not changing any other terms of the agreement except this four year agreement. We have received written confirmation from HUD regarding the UDAG, that they are ok with these terms. There haven't been UDAG grants in many, many years. The cost for Hometown Anchor LLC to make the necessary repairs to the parking lot are projected to be in excess of \$450,000.00.

Councilwoman Donaldson stated; so the only thing the town will received for four years is \$8,000.00 annually.

Supervisor Wood stated; correct and we will be getting a reengineered municipal parking lot that we don't have to pay for. I have a copy of all the legal contracts here, and this is to approve amending the current contract. We will send it all to the town attorney.

Brian Ritching stated; is the municipal part of this a hand shake or is it in the contract, being able to use Tops' parking lot.

Supervisor Wood stated; it's just a small town and we all use it. The town pushes snow off on that parking lot. They are just re-doing what's already there.

Councilman Miller moved a resolution to Approve amendment of UDAG funded Town of Schroon loan agreement with Hometown Anchor LLC with paying just the interest for 4 years seconded by Councilman Gero (Councilwoman Donaldson – opposed); carried.

Resolution # 219 Approve 2024 organizational meeting on Monday, 1/8/2024 at 6 P.M

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to Approve 2024 organizational meeting on Monday, 1/8/2024 at 6 P.M seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

Resolution # 220 Approve \$300 annual payment to Adirondack Park Local

Government Review Board

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made _____, 2024 between the **TOWN OF SCHROON**, hereinafter referred to as the **TOWN**, and the **ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD**, a Board duly organized and existing pursuant to the provisions of §803-a of the Executive Law of the State of New York, acting by and through its duly appointed members, hereinafter referred to as the **REVIEW BOARD**.

WHEREAS, the Review Board was created by the Legislature of the State of New York and is composed of representatives appointed by the county legislatures of the counties lying in whole or in part within the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of New York has provided only partial funding for the **REVIEW BOARD** to perform its statutory functions as outlined in Executive Law §803-a; and

WHEREAS, the **TOWN** has authorized an appropriation in the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) in support of the work of the **REVIEW BOARD** in representing the interests of the local governments of the Adirondacks; and

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. The **TOWN** agrees to pay to the **REVIEW BOARD** the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) for the services of the **REVIEW BOARD** in representing the **TOWN** in matters relating to the Adirondack Park.
2. The **REVIEW BOARD** agrees to provide to the **TOWN** the benefit of its services, including but not limited to, attendance at all meetings of the Adirondack Park Agency, attendance and participation at public hearings conducted by the Adirondack Park Agency on projects under review by said Agency, periodic reports on the activities of the Adirondack Park Agency to the Supervisor of the **TOWN**, especially as such activities affect the residents of the **TOWN** and generally to report on the administration and enforcement of the Land Use and Development Plan set forth in the Executive Law of the State of New York.

THE TOWN OF SCHROON

By Supervisor

**THE ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL
GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD**

By **Gerald W. Delaney**
Executive Director

Councilman Miller moved a resolution to Approve \$300 annual payment to Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

Resolution # 221 Approve 2024 Dog Control contract with Barks Recreation

Veterinary, \$1,250.00 Fee



Barks and Rec
270 Queensbury Avenue,
Queensbury, NY, 12804
Phone: 518-793-8055
Email: barksandrec270@gmail.com

2024 Dog Control Updates and Fee Schedule

All contracts for 2024 need to be with:

**BARKS RECREATION VETERINARY
270 QUEENSBUR AVE
QUEENSBURY, NY, 12804
518-793-8055**

Contact will be Haley Kirby, Kennel Manager

Fee Schedule

A. Yearly Administrative/Facility Fee	\$1,250
B. Daily Impound Fee	\$40
C. Flea Treatment	\$7
D. Emergency Examination	\$120
E. Daily Hospitalization (SICK)	\$ 50 (Medication is additional)
F. Euthanasia and Transport	\$100
G. Cremation (Dependent on Weight)	\$65-150
H. Spay/Neuter	\$150
I. Rabies Vaccination	\$79

To secure dog control services with BARKS RECREATION VETERINARY for 2024 calendar year, completed (signed) contracts and a check for the \$1,250 Admin/Facility Fee must be returned no later than December 20, 2023. Failure to do so will result in termination of Dog Control Services for the 2024 year. DCO's CANNOT drop off dogs after December 31, 2023, unless contracts are completed (signed) and the fee is paid.

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve 2024 Dog Control contract with Barks Recreation Veterinary, \$1,250.00 Fee seconded by Councilman Miller; carried

Resolution # 222 Approve support of the proposed designation by ESD of a point person to coordinate NYS efforts to expand Cellular Broadband coverage

Supervisor Wood stated; this is a resolution that was sent to us by the people at ESD and the county. The towns here are supporting the empire state bill and its designations and its request to designate a cellular specific point person to lead the states efforts on enhancing cellular coverage. To help ensure that every major route and corridor have adequate cell coverage as recommended by the ESD. There are two groups that try to work with providers as well as government officials around the state to get more broadband and get more cell coverage. When Lake Placid hosted the winter games last year, Verizon and the other carriers brought in cell towers on wheels. Everyone had cell coverage during that time period and it was great. Then the games ended and the carriers took their mobile towers away again, and with that went the extra cell coverage. This is a resolution telling the state that we support the effort to increase cell coverage. Historically these efforts have been “piecemealed” across the state, we are hoping to get one person designated to head this up, so that the efforts have consistency.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT’S (ESD) DESIGNATION OF A CELLULAR-SPECIFIC POINT PERSON TO LEAD THE STATE’S EFFORTS ON ENHANCING CELLULAR COVERAGE, AND FURTHER ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO IMPLEMENT A UNIFIED STRATEGY TO ASSURE EVERY MAJOR ROAD CORRIDOR HAS RELIABLE CELL COVERAGE AS RECOMMENDED BY ESD’S UPSTATE CELLULAR COVERAGE TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

WHEREAS, cellular service is vital to public safety and the economic wellbeing of communities throughout the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, county officials report that approximately 70 percent of 9-1-1 calls originate from cellular phones; and

WHEREAS, in a recent survey hosted on a State Senate website of almost 2,000 Adirondack Park residents, 99 percent of respondents reported owning a cellular phone and 67 percent reported that they rely exclusively on a cellular phone; and

WHEREAS, dependency on cellular service is significant and growing, which speaks to the absolute necessity of improved coverage and service; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York helped respond to this reality in the North Country by working aggressively to deploy COWS (Cells On Wheels) to provide adequate emergency response capacity to serve visitors to the World University Games; and

WHEREAS, state officials are proposing that Empire State Development (ESD) designate a point person to coordinate the state’s efforts to enhance cellular coverage,

similar to the manner in which ESD designated a point person to coordinate the state's efforts to expand broadband coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), which works to align all state agencies and state policy regarding renewable energy siting and implementation, serves as another successful example of the state coordinating its strategy on important infrastructure matters; and

WHEREAS, barriers to achieving the state's goals with respect to both broadband and cellular coverage enhancement continue to exist within some state agencies, including but not limited to NYSDOT right-of-way requirements, tax policy, and APA restrictions, and an approach similar to ORES would be beneficial in overcoming these barriers; and

WHEREAS, improving broadband and cellular coverage is a safety issue, a public imperative widely demanded by our constituents, and has become increasingly regarded as a basic necessity; and

WHEREAS, some state policies, especially the APA's "substantial invisibility" standard, are not keeping pace with these trends and instead becoming antiquated and counterproductive from the perspective of emergency services best-practices in place elsewhere in New York State, including co-location of multiple telecommunication systems on cell towers; and

WHEREAS, APA's longstanding claim that the telecommunications industry does not oppose the "substantial invisibility" standard is inaccurate, demonstrated most recently in comments entered by Nixon Peabody into review of the 2002 APA Tower Policy, which recommend "that the Agency modify its 2002 policy that requires telecommunications facilities over 40' tall be 'substantially invisible,'" and which characterize that requirement as an "arbitrary standard [that] is the main impediment to delivering much needed reliable wireless telecommunications service to a greater portion of the Park;" and

WHEREAS, the general public is increasingly supportive of common sense policy changes that promote a more appropriate balance between public safety and aesthetics while maintaining sensitivity to the environment, as reflected in the aforementioned public opinion survey, in which 90 percent of respondents supported changes to the APA's "substantial invisibility" standard; and

WHEREAS, the state has begun taking steps indicating that policymakers recognize these challenges, including the issuance of Empire State Development's Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force Final Report and APA's advancement of a General Permit to assist with cellular coverage expansion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schroon hereby supports the proposed designation by ESD of a point person to coordinate the state's efforts to enhance cellular coverage, and formally asks Governor Kathy Hochul to further enhance the state's efforts on broadband and cellular coverage expansion by employing a model similar to ORES that is respectful of the home rule process and designed to streamline policymaking across state agencies in pursuit of moving the state more expeditiously toward its goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schroon hereby joins emergency service and telecommunication professionals, and other towns and villages across the Adirondacks, in urging the APA and the Governor to review the 2002 APA Tower Policy's antiquated "substantial invisibility" standard, which stands as the main impediment to delivering reliable telecommunication services necessary for public safety in large portions of the Adirondack Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Adirondack Park Agency Executive Director Barbara Rice, State Senator Dan Stec, State Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Matt Simpson, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, AATV, and Adirondack Inter-County.

Councilman Miller moved a resolution to Approve support of the proposed designation by ESD of a point person to coordinate NYS efforts to expand Cellular Broadband coverage Fee seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

Discussion: Airport Hangar lease offer for Lewis Donnelly

Supervisor Wood stated, the air strip has a hanger that supposedly can accommodate two air planes. I believe we have two individuals who would like to rent the hanger. We have two separate leases, one for each interested party. I am suggesting that we raise the rent from \$250.00, to between \$275.00 and \$300.00. I'd like to discuss this and come to an agreement so we can finalize these contracts for them.

Lewis Donnelly stated; excuse me, my name is Lou Donnelly and I looking to rent the hanger. The current lease holder has offered to share the hanger with me, as it is not able to accommodate two planes. I am not here all the time, I fly in and out for business, so if he or I are not in the hanger the other can use it. There is not room for both planes.

Supervisor Wood stated; the hanger cannot be sublet. If you do not have a lease, you cannot be in the hanger.

Lewis Donnelly stated; I came tonight to specifically talk about the hanger. I don't want to lose access to the hanger. I own the Maple Leaf and the country store across the road. I live in Orange County and I commute back and fourth. In the event that I am here and we get snow, I don't want to have the plane outside to face the elements. I rent a hanger in Orange County as well.

Councilman Miller stated; you're saying that the hanger can only fit one airplane?

Lewis Donnelly stated; correct

Councilman Gero stated; years ago there were two planes in there but I don't know, maybe the standard size of planes has increased their wingspan? If he is saying that two planes can't fit in there, then we need to determine if we can offer two leases.

Councilwoman Welch stated; but it has had two planes in the past?

Supervisor Wood stated; yes, it was built for two planes, I think they need to determine if they fit, planes come in all shapes and sizes.

Councilman Gero stated; is Mr. Schroeders plane about the same size as yours Lou?

Lewis Donnelly stated; it's about the same size, his is a High wing, but there is no way we could fit two airplanes in there, unless someone had a very small plane.

Supervisor Wood stated; I think before we make any decisions on this, we need to see what the hanger can hold. Can it truly accommodate two planes? I think we need to table this and then discuss this again at a later date once we have more information.

Discussion : Local Law increasing the Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens

Supervisor Wood stated; back in 1994 we have paperwork on a local law regarding a Real Property Partial Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens. This exemption is for seniors who are lower income. When this exemption started the threshold was approximately \$12,500 income level. The current income level is \$25,000. That limit is the same as the county's limit. Some towns in Essex County have increased their limits, or gone to a sliding scale of sorts, where as their income goes up to a certain point, the amount of the emption goes down. We need to figure out what level we want to consider. The reason this has come to our attention is that some of our seniors who qualify are approaching the limit if not have gone over, and no longer qualify. If social security goes up, and so does the cost of living, they now no longer qualify for the exemption. Neil has recommended that we increase the income limit to \$35,000 Increasing this limit is not intended to get new exemptions. The intention is to keep our low income seniors who already have this exemption, to continue to qualify for it. To help those who need it. We have about 26 people in town who are currently eligible for it as is. I think that we need to think about it, discuss it. We can set a new limit or we can create a step program. This will require a public hearing, so if we know what we want to do, then we need to set a public hearing and we can get this ball rolling.

Discussion: Request for Town Resolution on control and eradication of invasive species

Supervisor Wood stated; do you want us to create a resolution out of this?

Roger Friedman stated; basically what we are looking for, this is from the Schroon Lake Association. Saying a letter was sent to Craig in Chester, Mike in Horicon and the town of Schroon. Basically we are looking to build momentum that the four points that are highlighted in that piece of paper, ended up on the table of the DEC in the form of a statewide mandate to implement those four points.

Supervisor Wood stated; and you're looking for a state wide mandate to come out of Horicon, Chester and Schroon Lake?

Roger Friedman stated; it's been a long time since we have done a joint meeting with the other town boards. Each one can do one individually or you can meet.

Supervisor Wood stated; right but what you want is a resolution, or can we condense this a little bit?

Roger Friedman stated; yes, you can or you can leave it as is, because this is how we are going to move forward with other lake associations. We are working with the Adirondack Lakes Alliance.

Supervisor Wood stated; are they passing the same?

Roger Friedman stated; they are going to be the coordinating, if we can start here with the three towns on Schroon Lake then we are going to start disseminating this information to other towns and lake associations. We are looking to influence the DEC. For instance the DEC right now will not enforce our local laws

Supervisor Wood stated; right, so if this is put into a formal resolution, where you can't lose that idea in town pages, if we just hammer it out, it might be more effective. I'll work with you on that.

Supervisor Wood stated; I think that this is basically a request that the DEC allow enforcement of local laws.

Roger Friedman stated; yes and for instance when they register their boat there's information, that makes them stake holders not just boat users. The final thing is the gate with the RFID card, which would allow a little more control of who's coming in and out of lakes. It will create more usage for our boat wash stations. Our boat wash station on route 74, does more washes on the Horicon does that launches twice as many boats. That's a problem.

Supervisor Wood stated; alright, you and I will work on this and we will work with the other two towns. If this passes with us then it will go to the Adirondack Lakes Alliance.

Discussion: Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting scheduled for 1/11/2024 at SLCS

Supervisor Wood stated; the first meeting, all their meetings are public, but the first one that we have scheduled is for January 11th at 5 P.M at the school. They picked

that day because the school does not have any games or functions going on so hopefully the parking lot will be accessible.

Discussion: FEMA status on July 2023 storm damage

Supervisor Wood stated; this is just an update all the July storm damage paper work has been completed and sent to where it needs to go.

Other Discussion:

Supervisor Wood stated; Thank you to all Town employees and volunteer whose efforts contributed to decorations in Town and the success of the Olde Tyme Christmas celebrations. Thank you to our retirees this year for all your years of service, hard work and good will.

Councilman Gero stated; I just wanted to expand on the Christmas celebrations. I want to give a shout out to Pat Shaughnessey for what he did with the band stand, also Joe Flores and Ethan Thompson they went up and got the Christmas tree and helped install it in the park. I'd like to thank Sue and the chamber, thank you for all your hard work. Most of all I'd like to thank Bonnie Bessey and family for donating the tree. Also the town guys for helping put the wreaths up.

Supervisor Wood stated; also to Keith Koslov to the floating tree, we need to expand on that next year.

Councilman Gero stated; also a shout out to Tiffany and our new Jin's Asian Garden! What a success! The food was fantastic!

Councilman Gero made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 P.M seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; 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: December 12th, 2023 _____

Deputy Town Clerk