

Second Town Board Meeting held January 23rd , 2024 at 8:30 A.M. at the Town Hall in Schroon Lake N.Y.

Present:

Town Supervisor: Meg Wood

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

Town Clerk: Erica Hedden

Highway Superintendent: Joe Flores

Also Present: Alexis Conner, Earl Gould

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. with a salute to the Flag.

Public Participation:

Alexis Conner stated; Good morning everyone. I wanted to start by talking about the Adirondack Foundation Generous Acts. This grant is due February 13th, I know the next meeting isn't until February 12th, so I wanted to bring it up now, to give the board time to chew on it. The idea is that I want to create a food assistance program inside the farmers market. We have been having some challenges with SNAP and other food programs. The issues that I see are it defines who can use them and what they can buy, even what vendor they can buy from. I am working through an idea and I am talking about this now, I might be able to get the food pantry to back this instead of the town. The board meeting is today and I wanted to be sure to bring it to your attention. We currently have those 5 dollar wooden tokens that we use as out market cash. My thought is that if I can get funding through this grant I can supply a minimum of 20 families with \$20.00 a week, they would get the market certificate that could be handed out through the food pantry. Then on market days the person can give me that certificate and ill exchange it for market tokens, which are accepted as cash from all our vendors. We had such a successful market last year; we have over 5,000 customers, 10 tables in the summer, and 16 tables in October. The big "miss" that I saw was that not everyone can shop at the farmers market. It's fresh, its local but our growing season is short and things are more expensive. I want this market to be open to everyone and something that everyone can utilize, no matter what their budget is. If not everyone in the community can have access to the market, I

think that is a big issue that I would like to resolve. Aside from that, something very special about our farmers market, it's not just a market. People sit out at tables, reading a book with a cup of coffee and just enjoy the experience, and want everyone in our community to have that experience. To shop, to feel welcome. The idea is that if we can create this food access program, then it can become a market for everyone. The funding I am asking for from the Adirondack Foundation is \$4,800.00. That would cover 20 families at \$20.00 per week for 12 weeks. I have talked to the food pantry and they said they believe there are about 20 to 25 families that would take advantage of this, and they would keep track of that. Some times it would be the same families every week, sometimes it might be someone who is out of work and needs a little help along the way. I have the paperwork here and the actual application here for you. I also have a physical sponsorship agreement, in which the town would fill it out agreeing to sponsor this idea. We currently are not a non-for-profit, we would like to be. It takes a couple years to get that certification because I need to show financials and this last year was our first year.

Supervisor Wood stated; I think this is a great idea, this completely fits with the Adirondack Foundations mission, and it fits with your mission and the mission of the food pantry. If you think it would be better for you and the food pantry to go with the food pantry, to have them sponsor you, that would be good as well. That might also help them with their grant applications.

Alexis Conner stated; I know in a dream world if they are able to they would. I just wanted to bring this up to you, so that if the food pantry said they were unable to, then I wasn't asking the day before the grant was due at the next meeting. Just the way the schedules lined up.

Councilwoman Donaldson stated; can you explain to me what you mean by "limited" for the assistance programs?

Alexis Conner stated; there are a few different things, SNAP, if the farmers market enrolls in SNAP through the state. There has to be specific farmers and they limit which farmers accept it. If they sell fresh baked goods, they can't accept it; only produce sellers can accept it. The market can't just accept SNAP for the entire market it is very limited. Another example is Fresh Connect Checks, which are through the Farmers Markets in New York State, which puts a very big burden on the farmers. It requires them

to accept the checks, then send the check into the state and then wait for the state to reimburse them. That process can take a long time and that puts the burden on the farmers to have to wait to receive their funds.

Supervisor Wood stated; have you talked to the Cornell Cooperative Extension?

Alexis Conners stated; yes. I work really closely with Mary at the Adirondack Harvest. I am enrolled in a 6 month class, they meet once a month and we meet with about 50 different farmers' market managers. This is a New York farmer's market federation. I have also been talking with the state and the department that works with SNAP, and their feedback was to not enroll and it's too complicated.

Supervisor Wood stated; Are any other farmers markets around the state starting to do this as well?

Alexis Conners stated; not that I know of. A lot of them are enrolled in SNAP, the larger markets. A specific program like this that is catered through the food pantry is specific to this program right now.

Councilman Gero stated; I think it would be nice to be the one that initiates this but I do agree with Supervisor Wood, that this might be a better fit for the food pantry. This could also benefit them in their grant power, having helped a local organization like this with their funding, might get them more grants. We can draft a letter of support.

Supervisor Wood stated; we want to support you, we just want to make sure that we are going through the right channels that work the best. If the best avenue is the town, great, if the best avenue is the food pantry, great. Let's find out what works best for both parties and then we can move forward.

Alexis Conners stated; this is a report I've created to give a snap shot of our year.



In 2024 we set out to continue to bolster local economic vitality, bring in more local foods, support more farmers and more shoppers, and encourage healthy habits in our community.

2023 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was the first season of the Schroon Lake Farmers Market. Throughout our 12-week summer season we serviced ~5,000 shoppers in total and hosted 9 local vendors, 6 local musicians, and 3 local organizations, and 1 ice cream social. Outside of our summer season we hosted a pop-up Harvest Market in October which saw 800+ shoppers and hosted 15 vendors. Beyond the statistics, the Market became a place for catching up with your neighbor, meeting new faces, and having genuine conversations. We set up tables and chairs for folks to stay and listen to the music, eat fresh breakfast and had coloring and farmer focused activity sheets for the kids. Shoppers came for the food and stayed for the community.

2023 SEASON HINDSIGHT

1. Shift hours to 9am-1pm
 - In season tracking showed shopping peaks to be 10am & 12pm
 - More preferable for vendors who are making and baking fresh food the morning of
 - Expands net to reach for farmers coming from farther away with a longer commute
2. Extend the market season past labor day
 - Growing seasons in the region run late, still a bounty of fresh food into September
 - Other area markets go later into the fall
3. Host market permanently at the Town Pavilion
 - When hosted at Town Hall there is a danger concern for proximity of vendor stalls and shopper foot traffic to Broad Street and Leland Ave, especially as the market grows. Being a family friendly space with hundreds of daily shoppers this is not ideal.
 - With permanent cover we will never have to cancel a market, ensures sales for vendors and access for shoppers.
 - Covered market is a perfect rainy day activity for locals and tourists.
 - Pavilion allows room for the market to expand (Town Hall fits 10 booths. We were able to fit 18 tables for our Harvest Market that was held at the Pavilion.)
 - Consistent and great location = economic success for farmers, market, town.

2024 SEASON - PROPOSED DETAILS

Saturdays, 9am - 1pm
June 15 - September 14
Town Pavilion

Alexis Conners
585-944-0097
schroonlakefarmersmarket@gmail.com

Supervisor Wood stated; that's great. I think this is a catalyst for us as well to revisit how we utilize our facilities.

Councilman Gero stated; I agree, I think we need to put a reservation date on a calendar and if it's not available then it's not available. We have to use our facility use forms and be consistent so there are not instances of "double booking" I think having it at the pavilion is a great idea, I think its beneficial for everyone. You won't have to worry if its going to rain, people can come in and stay dry, and stay out of the heat as well. I am in full support. I have nothing but positive things to say about what you have created here. You do a fantastic job.

Councilwoman Welch stated; I agree with Rick. I think it's a great idea and I think we need to make sure people are applying to use our facilities. They can use them, but we need to know, so we can warn people about availability. Let's work on polishing that up for the next meeting, our facilities use procedures.

Councilman Gero stated; we really appreciate the effort you put into this.

Alexis Conners stated; thank you, I appreciate your support

Supervisor Wood stated; I agree. I think this is a great time for us to work on our facilities use procedures, to get that cleaned up. Let's work on that. We need to make it easy to use and more readily available for everyone to see. Let's iron out the details on this.

Supervisor Wood stated; yes. So in conclusion, you're going to speak with Carol from the food pantry to see if they want to be your sponsor, or support you in any way they can. Then we will know how we want to proceed with our resolutions at the February meeting. Excellent.

Earl Gould stated; I wanted to come today to say that I am interested in the position at the transfer station. I missed the two calls that were sent to me. They came in through voicemail and I missed those, that is my fault. I am still interested in the position,

Supervisor Wood stated, we did fill the position but we are always looking for people who are willing to work on an as needed basis, is that something you would be interested in?

Earl Gould stated, Yes I would like to get on the list

Supervisor Wood stated, excellent, Go upstairs and talk to Susan Drescher and she can get you squared away. We can get the paperwork started and at our next meeting we can add you to our list for folks that are on call.

RESOLUTION #35 Grant a waiver by the Town Board of the residency preference and Hire John Dower FTE Schroon Lake Transfer Attendant at \$18.51/hour effective 1/26/2024

Councilwoman Donaldson stated; who is going to be training him?

Supervisor Wood stated; Chip has agreed to come on for a few hours to help train him, so we will need to pass a resolution to approve Chip returning on an as needed basis.

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution to Grant a waiver by the Town Board of the residency preference and Hire John Dower FTE Schroon Lake Transfer Attendant at \$18.51/ hour effective 1/26/2024, unanimously seconded; carried.

RESOLUTION # 36 Hire Richard McCray as Temporary Employee, effective 1/26/2024 at \$18.69/ hour

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution to Hire Chip as a laborer on an as needed basis effective 1/26/2024 at \$18.69. Unanimously seconded; carried.

RESOLUTION # 37 Amend the 1/08/2024 organizational meeting minutes to include, item 16 Hourly Pay Rates, to list Kevin Bryerton, Laborer Temporary Employee at \$18.51/ hour.

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Amend the 1/08/2024 organizational meeting minutes to include, item 16 Hourly Pay Rates to list Kevin Bryerton, Laborer Temporary Employee at \$18.51/ Hour, Councilwoman Welch seconded; carried.

RESOLUTION #38 Approve Highway Department purchase of a new plow per lowest quote of \$5,813.80 from Huttig; current plow to be sold to the Transfer Station for current book value.

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Highway Department purchase of a new plow per lowest quote of \$5,813.80 from Huttig; current plow to be sold to Transfer Station for current book value, seconded by Councilman Miller; carried.

Highway Superintendent Joe Flores stated; another thing I wanted to talk about was some safety aspects. I got all the guys good HI-VIS winter jackets. I really want to address some safety gear and some ideas I have.

Supervisor Wood stated; going over your budget and looking at what your expected revenues and expense are is very helpful. This is going to really guide us as to what we can do this year verses next year, verses 5 years from now. We need to figure out what category those type of expenses come out of.

What we want to do is have a safety program for you, that is what we want to work on. We have to figure out how to do that with the current budget.

Councilman Gero stated, let's use gloves as an example, when you need to order safety gear, order it in bulk. Rather than running to Curtis every time someone's glove rips, have them on hand, so there's no hold ups for safety gear. I also really want to get a safety shoe program started here. This could be for all departments not just highway.

Highway Superintendant Joe Flores stated; I was thinking it could be more of a clothing allowance rather than just a boot allowance.

Councilman Gero stated; we had that at DOT. We had a clothing allowance and then a safety boot allowance.

Councilwoman Donaldson stated; the county does one allowance that covers both boots and clothing.

Councilman Gero stated, anything that we can do, will be helpful.

Supervisor Wood stated; why don't Rick and Joe get together and try to get something together for this. Work through it, look at the numbers and see what it would take to start a safety program.

Councilman Gero stated; not only do we need a program but we will need a policy to go along with this. A policy that says you need to wear this safety gear. Anywhere there is a chance of a foot or toe injury, you need to wear the safety shoes. At DOT we would get disciplined if we weren't wearing our safety gear. If we are going to have a program in place like this, we need a policy that says that workers need to follow it. I think we need to take this opportunity to expand on this. This will benefit our employees, keep them safe and help them stay safe. It will help us as a municipality as well.

Councilman Gero stated; I just wanted to say again, that you're doing a great job. The clean up after the storms has been great! As well as fast! I have heard a lot of great things about how well the highway department is functioning.

Supervisor Wood stated; another thing to add, we need to explore other places to move our snow, other than dumping it right by the beach. I know our options are very limited. We don't own property that would be a good place. That's why we are very limited. Do you have a list of things that you want to prioritize? I know you want to clean out the garage.

Highway Superintendent Joe Flores stated; I got a few prices from several places for a dumpster, \$871.00 for a 20 yard dumpster from Crown Point, Lee said it would be approximately \$700.00 if we could do it in a day. There's a lot of stuff upstairs that needs to be thrown away. There's definitely some things that can be recycled, some metal that can go to the transfer station. There is a lot of stuff up there that has about 3 inches of dust on it.

Supervisor Wood stated; one of the things we want to do is look into doing a safety committee. We had one before but we didn't have the full support of all department heads so it sort of dissolved, it went idle. Now we would like to get this going again. If Rich and Lynn are going to be looking into safety gear and concerns for the highway department, maybe it's time to bring this committee back to life. A safety committee that oversees ALL departments.

Councilman Gero stated; I am willing to do this again, but we need the full support of our departments. This is to benefit everyone, not to create new rules and make things harder. This is for their benefit. This will help tighten up procedures as well. It's so easy to forget your gloves or your safety glasses, but if there is a rule in place, maybe it will help remind them to be safe. Take a moment to remember your safety gear. Safety First. This includes organization, having the things you need, ready and available. You get a call in the middle of the night, you need cones and signs, have them ready to go. This committee is so much more than just safety gear. I see only good things coming out of this.

Supervisor Wood stated; ok just to recap. I am going to meet with Susan and see where safety items fall into her bookkeeping. I would like to keep a running tally of where we are at the end of every month, budget wise. Looking into these other things, we are going to work with Lynn for safety gear and allowances, clean the upstairs, and then at some point get to us an inventory list, as well as software for your computer.

Councilman Gero stated; we also need to look into what signage we need for the garage. For example “No smoking” signs, “don’t leave vehicle unattended” “ emergency procedures” that type of things. This will all take time, we are not suggesting that all this get done RIGHT NOW, but let’s work on this. One last thing, how is the heating system?

Highway Superintendant Joe Flores stated; yes that is another thing on my list. The heating system is inadequate. I think we need to add some monitor heaters to the building.

Supervisor Wood stated; Thank you for coming in Joe and filling us all in, we appreciate your time. Moving on, I got an email from Phil McCoy about the golf course. He wants to resurrect the golf course committee. He wants to keep the town board informed, none of us golf. He said the golfers want to go back to paying for their carts and fees, inside.

Councilman Miller stated; can we hire a concessioner?

Supervisor Wood stated; we have tried, It’s so hard to plan for this type of business. If we have a rainy summer, then how much food do you buy? There can be a lot of differences, day to day, week to week in the amount of people that golf. It isn’t consistent.

As a side note, interviews are going on for the water position, we have had several interviews. Hopefully we will be able to make a decision soon and get someone in there to work with Bill.

Another item, Ethan Thompson understands that we are replacing the water truck with a new plow attached to it; he was wondering if he could have the V plow that is on the current water truck, put on the building and grounds truck. He said it would save a tremendous amount of time for him in regards to plowing. I told him that if we do get a new water truck, that would be talked about.

Moving right along, the Adirondack Artisan Crafters run by Birdie Bolton, she was here for a meeting and she said she wanted to do Thursdays again. At the end of last summer Sue Palisano and I were talking about safety issues for the fourth. We talked about having no vendor sales at the park during Fourth of July. We could have food, but no vendor sales. Fourth of July is on a Thursday, which is the problem. Nothing is being decided on, this is just a suggestion. We don’t know what the affects of the hotel will be

this year, people walking down town and crossing the street. We are just expressing our safety concerns.

Councilman Gero stated; the vendors could come in off Fairfield Ave, just like we did for the fall festival.

Supervisor Wood stated; we need to explore different ideas. Do we move them, do we allow them, or do they set up elsewhere? These are the things we need to think about. The beach is going to be full with bounce houses and things like that. Those are not vendor sales, that's entertainment.

Supervisor Wood stated; moving along, I am going to have Jane post this on our website; the county has passed a resolution about dogs chasing the deer herd. We do not need to have a meeting or a resolution about it. This is just an FYI that this is a resolution



Resolution No. 5

Essex County Board of Supervisors

January 8, 2024
Organizational Meeting

RESOLUTION ORDERING THE CONFINEMENT OF DOGS TO PROTECT THE DEER HERD

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Monty, who moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, it has been determined by this Board of Supervisors, and substantiated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, that the deer population in Essex County is suffering from severe depredation due to dogs attacking, chasing or worrying deer; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of this Board of Supervisors to protect the natural resources of this County from unnecessary depredation, a duty that this Board has conscientiously accepted over the years.

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 120 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, that this Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby orders, that all dogs in the County shall be securely confined during the period of time beginning with the required publication of this notice and ending on May 1, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to such law, if any dog shall kill or cripple any deer, the owner of such dog shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of \$100 for the first deer killed or crippled and \$150 for each additional deer so killed or crippled, to be recovered in an action brought by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

This resolution was duly seconded by Supervisor Barber, and adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF ESSEX)ss:

I, **JUDITH A. GARRISON**, Clerk of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution filed in this office on the 8th day of January, 2024, and that it is a correct and true copy thereof.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 8th day of January, 2024.



Judith A. Garrison
Clerk of the Essex County Board of Supervisors

I received a call from Susan Heinzleman, her son worked as a lake Stewart in 2022, he is on track to go into the Air Force Academy and is apart of the Civil Air Patrol service in Maryland. His unit is partnering with NASA to do different type of tests on April 8th for the eclipse. She understands that airports can be leery of people being around them, but they would like to camp at the airport to be able to do their testing. There will be about ten kids and four adults coming up in vans and would like to be able to camp in the airport area. She understands about the IFFY weather situation that time of year.

Councilwoman Donaldson stated; I think that's a safety issue, planes coming in and out, also the weather.

Supervisor Wood stated; she was just asking, I told her I would bring it up. It's a neat thing, to partner with NASA. The park area will be clear.

Councilman Gero stated; what about the golf course?

Supervisor Wood stated; I am not sure, I just wanted to make sure everyone was aware and to give it some thought. We can reach out to Ethan Tyrell about that as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION,

Councilwoman Donaldson made a motion to enter Executive Session at 10:45 AM. Executive Session ; Reason: 105; F. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

Executive session closed at 11:21 AM, no action was taken and return to Regular Meeting.

Supervisor Wood stated; the water department truck, I was told that it had a leaking head gasket. I'm told that it is not in good shape.

Councilman Gero stated; we need to think about our options. If we order a new truck, it could take months and months to get one, so we have to consider the timing of all this too. We need to look into exactly what the water department needs for a truck, and we need to really compare whether we fix or replace. We need to see the figures.

Councilman Gero made a motion to adjourn at 11:32 A.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: February, 6th, 2024 _____

Town Clerk

