

**Schroon Lake Town Board Meeting held February 12th , 2024 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 Leanne Welch

Deputy Town Clerk: Jessica Botterbusch

Highway Superintendent: Joe Flores

Also Present: Albert May, Joy Koch, Alexis Connors, Dempsey Connors, Chris Veverka, Heather Francis, Rick Francis, Skip Mahler, Fran Mahler

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

Public Participation:

Heather Francis stated, I have a complaint that there is a drain that is malfunctioning at the street edge of my property. We have owned the property for about 18 months. The drains in the towns lot drains well, but ours does not. There are children that like to play in the puddles when it overflows, I do not think that is very safe. We are looking into repaving and I think that will change the angle of the pavement that will of course affect the drainage.

Supervisor Wood stated; this has been a problem for a long time. We have looked into this. That is not a town owned dry well. At once point in time, I do not know the exact date, Mike Marnell had a vacuum truck come, to vacuum out town drains and he also sent them over to do that dry well, but it was done as a favor. We are happy to work with the affected properties owners in any way that we can. We will keep in touch as we can brainstorm some ideas or solutions.

Joy Koch stated; lighting is a big concern to me. Here I am showing you a photo from my house across the lake. It's a photo showing which lights that are in town that are incredibly bright. I can see the boathouse light from across the lake. I want to ask the town to turn that light off, there are not many boats going out on the lake now. The

Horicon boat launch has turned their lights off. I would like it if we could turn that light off as well.

Supervisor Wood stated; I will say that people access the lake all the time from that location, I am not saying people go out at night but you never know.

Joy Koch stated; well that light is on all night long and it is incredibly bright. It shines two miles across the lake into my house. I would like to see the town considering to turn them off at a reasonable hour, like 10 o'clock. Possibly reducing the lumens or the color of the light so its not so invasive. The other thing is, Lake Placid Development Commission has created a Dark Sky Committee to lower the light in Lake Placid. Their intention is not to take away lights, its to reduce light, reduce lumens, to protect the night sky and the animals. Our community is really gearing up for the solar eclipse right now, and here in Schroon, that even will last one minute and 4 seconds. There is a lot of excitement about it, and reducing the lights would really help the view of the solar eclipse.

RESOLUTION #39 Approve Vouchers

Councilman Miller moved a resolution to Approve Vouchers, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

2024 Vouchers

General: \$148,523.62 Highway: \$45,155.14 Sewer: \$ 10,162.37 Water: 4,207.81

2023 Vouchers

General: \$12,643.92 Highway: \$ 3,772.28 Sewer \$30,400.15 Water \$ 9,364.70

CDBG: \$223.63

RESOLUTION #40 Approve Minutes of January, 8th, January 12th and January

23rd Public Board Meetings

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Minutes of January, 8th, January 12th and January 23rd Public Board Meetings, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

RESOLUTION #41 Approve Mahoney Notify-Plus, INC. contract for fire alarm inspections effective March 1st, 2024, using prevailing wage rates of \$153/hour for periods 8:00AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday and \$229/hour after hours, weekends and holidays; technical services to be provided at a rate of \$85/hour and \$127.50/hour accordingly

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Approve Mahoney Notify-Plus, INC. contract for fire alarm inspections effective March 1st, 2024, using prevailing wage rates of \$153/hour for periods 8:00AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday and \$229/hour after hours, weekends and holidays; technical services to be provided at a rate of \$85/hour and \$127.50/hour accordingly seconded by Councilman Miller; carried.

RESOLUTION #42 Approve Schroon Lake Farmers Market 2024 season location in Town park – Saturdays, 9AM to 1 PM, June 15th - September 14th at the Pavilion and an October Pop up

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to Approve Schroon Lake Farmers Market 2024 season location in Town park – Saturdays, 9AM to 1 PM, June 15th - September 14th at the Pavilion, and an October Pop Up seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

RESOLUTION #42 Sponsor Farmers Market application for an Adirondack Foundation Grant to ease level of food insecurity in our area

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to Sponsor Farmers Market application for an Adirondack Foundation Grant to ease level of food insecurity in our area, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

Alexis Conners stated; just a quick overview for everyone. The idea behind this is to make the farmer's market more accessible to ALL families. This grant would allow us to offer certificates to some of our food pantry recipients to allow them to shop at the farmers market and access our variety of fresh and healthy food options. I found that the certificates through the state put a financial burden on the vendors, as they can only be reimbursed at the end of the season. I think this is going to open a door and make the market more available to all our families.

Councilman Miller stated; I just want to sat Alexis, you do such a great job with this, a lot of times this is the talk of the town. To take it to the next level and try to reach out to even more people, even more local families, that is amazing. Your dedication to your mission is amazing ad your heart is so involved. We really appreciate all your hard work.

RESOLUTION #43 Approve Posting request for bids for 2024 Park food concession, bid opening at 2:00 P.M, 3/11/2024

Councilman Miller moved a resolution to Approve Posting request for bids for 2024 Park food concession, bid opening at 2:00 P.M, 3/11/2024seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

TOWN OF SCHROON

**IS SEEKING BIDS FOR A
TOWN BEACH CONCESSIONAIRE
TO PROVIDE FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES FOR
SUMMER 2024.**

Electric is included and cement pad at location. Concessionaire will provide copies of permits as required by State and Local entities; certificate of Insurance listing \$1,000,000.00 Single Limit Liability and naming the Town of Schroon as additional Insured; Workman's Compensation coverage if needed; trash receptacles. Specifications can be obtained from the Town of Schroon Town Clerk or by calling 518 532-7737 X12

Sealed bids must be filed in the office of the Town Clerk on or before 1:00 PM March 4th, 2024. After which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The bid will be awarded at the Town Board meeting on March 11th, 2024 at 2:00 PM successful bidder will be notified promptly by letter and must be prepared to enter into a contract to furnish the required material or services.

The Town of Schroon reserves the right to reject of to waive any informality in any and all bids if in the best interest of the Town of Schroon. Bids should be clearly marked BID ENCLOSED: BEACH CONCESSION.

Erica Hedden
Town of Schroon
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 44 Appoint Earl Gould as Part Time Substitute Employee at Transfer Station, \$18.51/ hour effective 2/13/2024

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to Appoint Earl Gould as Part Time Substitute Employee at Transfer Station, \$18.51/ hour effective 2/13/2024 seconded by Supervisor Wood; carried.

RESOLUTION # 45 Affirm Town Policy 507 in Town of Schroon Employee Handbook is understood to mean all Town vehicles and/or equipment are to be locked (if possible) and keys removed from vehicles and/or equipment when not in use by a Town employee. Keys are to be kept in secure locations No person other than Town employees may drive and/or operate Town vehicles or equipment at any time. Non-employee operation of vehicles and/or equipment will be considered for unusual or emergency circumstances as Town officials or Department heads deem appropriate. Failure to follow this policy will result in disciplinary action as described in the Town of Schroon Employee Handbook

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution Affirm Town Policy 507 in Town of Schroon Employee Handbook is understood to mean all Town vehicles and/or equipment are to be locked (if possible) and keys removed from vehicles and/or equipment when not in use by a Town employee. Keys are to be kept in secure locations No person other than Town employees may drive and/or operate Town vehicles or equipment at any time. Non-employee operation of vehicles and/or equipment will be considered for unusual or emergency circumstances as Town officials or Department heads deem appropriate. Failure to follow this policy will result in disciplinary action as described in the Town of Schroon Employee Handbook seconded by unanimously seconded; carried.

RESOLUTION # 46 New truck for Water Department - TABLED

RESOLUTION #47 New truck for Wastewater Department - TABLED

RESOLUTION # 48 Approve order for Two (2) Trojan UV 3000 Plus Modules, accessories and installation, start up and 1 day of training; cost is \$101,179.00 to be paid from ARPA funds

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve order for Two (2) Trojan UV 3000 Plus Modules, accessories and installation, start up and 1 day of training; cost is \$101,179.00 to be paid from ARPA funds, by Councilman Gero; carried.

RESOLUTION #49 To Approve Due to revised quotes; amend Resolution #38 of 2024 awarding plow purchase to Huttig CDJR with quote of \$7,440.00 increased to \$7,585 plus additions to now awarded purchase to Dejana Truck and Utility Equipment having revised quote of \$7,995.00, lowest all-inclusive quote

Councilman Miller moved a resolution to Approve Due to revised quotes; amend Resolution #38 of 2024 awarding plow purchase to Huttig CDJR with quote of \$7,440.00 increased to \$7,585 plus additions to now awarded purchase to Dejana Truck and Utility Equipment having revised quote of \$7,995.00, lowest all-inclusive quote seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

(Councilman Gero Abstained)

RESOLUTION # 50 Adopt Local Law #1 of 2024 Providing a Real Property Tax Exemption for Persons Sixty-Five (65) of age or over

RESOLUTION NO.: 50
INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Welch
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Donaldson

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024
PROVIDING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS
SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OVER**

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to establish a partial exemption on real property taxation for eligible persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over and to establish the annual income limit for the exemption at \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has prepared a proposed Local Law providing such an exemption; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2024, the Town Board duly held a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2024 and heard all interested persons; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No.1 of 2024; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to file the Local Law with the New York Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law and acknowledges that the Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State; and be it

Duly adopted this 12th day of February, 2024, by the following vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Wood Aye

Councilman Gero Aye
Councilwoman Donaldson Aye
Councilwoman Welch Aye
Councilman Miller Aye

TOWN OF SCHROON

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024

A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

FOR PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OVER

BE IT ENACTED BY TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SCHROON AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose and Authority. The purpose of this Local Law is to establish a partial exemption on real property taxation for eligible persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over and to establish the income limit for the exemption. It is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §10 and Real Property Tax Law §467.

Section 2. Exemption Granted. Real property owned by persons 65 years of age or over shall be exempt from Town taxes to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation, subject to the following conditions:

1. The income of the owner, or the combined income of the owners, of the property for the applicable income tax year must not exceed Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000).
2. The real property must be the legal residence of the property owners.
3. Applications for the exemption must be filed annually. The applicable tax year for purposes of reporting income on the exemption application shall be the second most recent calendar year. For taxpayers whose income tax returns are filed on a basis of a fiscal year rather than a calendar year, the applicable tax year shall be the most recent fiscal year for which an income tax return has been filed.
4. All the requirements, provisions and conditions of Section 467 of the New York Real Property Tax Law and amendments thereto shall apply to the exemption, exemption eligibility and exemption applications provided for in this Local Law.

Section 3. Repeal, Adoption and Supersession. This Local Law supersedes any Town of Schroon Local Laws, Resolutions or Ordinances previously adopted regarding a real property tax exemption for persons aged 65 years or over pursuant to Section 467 of the New York Real Property Tax Law.

Section 4. Severability. If any part of this Local Law is declared invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect or impair in any way any other provision and all other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing by the Department of State as provided in the Municipal Home Rule Law.

RESOLUTION # 51 Approve 2023 Year End Budget Transfers

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Approve 2023 Year End Budget Transfers, seconded by Supervisor Wood;

Table 1

FROM		TO		Amount	
A00-01-1330-400	TAX Coll. Cont	A00-01-1330-100	Tax Coll. Pers	\$10.94	
Additional Exp					
A00-01-1010-400	Town Board Cont	A00-01-1420-400	Attorney	\$283.50	
Additional Exp					
A00-01-1355-100	Assessors Pers	A00-01-1410-100	Town Clerk Pers	\$1000.00	
Additional Exp					
A00-01-1680-100	Central Data Per	A00-01-1680-401	Compress plan	\$11571.00	
Compreh. Plan					
A00-01-1220-400	Supervisor Cont	A00-01-1680-401	Compress Plan	\$1000.00	
Compress Plan					
A00-01-1910-400	Insurance	A00-01-1680-401	Compress Plan	\$1000.00	
Compress Plan					
A00-01-1650-100	Cent. Comm. Pers	A00-01-1680-401	Compress Plan	\$2000.00	
Compreh. Plan					
A00-06-7180-100	Golf Per	A00-06-7140-400	Ski Tow	\$651.50	<i>Inspector</i>
Ski Town Inspect					
A00-08-9060-800	Health Ins	A00-08-9050-800	Unemployment Ins	\$2000.00	
Additional Exp					
DA0-04-5142-100	Snow Removal Per	DA0-04-5110-100	General Pers	\$4600.00	
Additional Exp					
DA0-04-5130-400	Machinery Cont	DA0-04-5110-400	General Cont	\$33000.00	
Additional Exp					
DA0-04-5130-200	Machinery Cont	DA0-04-5110-400	General Cont	\$14000.00	
DA0-04-5142-100	Snow Removal Per	DA0-04-5110-400	General Cont	\$16000.00	
DA0-04-5120-400	Bridges	DA0-04-5110-400	General Cont	\$18000.00	
Additional Exp					
				\$105116.94	

FROM		TO		Amount	
SS0-07-8130-200	Tr&Disposal Equi	SS0-07-8130-400	Tr&Disposal Cont	\$14670.00	
SS0-07-8130-100	Tr&Disposal Per	SS0-07-8130-400	Tr&Disposal Cont	\$2352.00	
SS0-07-8110-400	Admin. Cont.	SS0-07-8130-400	Tr&Disposal Cont	\$3000.00	
SS0-08-9060-800	Health Ins	SS0-07-8130-400	Tr&Disposal Cont	\$5000.00	
Additional Exp					
SW0-06-9060-800	Health Ins	SW0-07-8340-400	Cont. Transmission	\$5000.00	
Additional Exp					

RESOLUTION # 52 Accept Building and Grounds 2023 Report

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Accept Building and Grounds 2023 Report seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

RESOLUTION # 53 Accept Town Historians' 2023 Report, with thanks to Loris

Clark

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Accept Town Historian's 2023 Report, unanimously seconded; carried.

DISCUSSION: Affordable Connectivity Program

Supervisor Wood stated I just wanted to mention, there is a resolution that the county is urging towns to pass. It's a resolution urging congress to continue funding the affordable connectivity program. This has to do with broad band and the federal government continuing to fund connectivity around the country. This was something they talked about at the county level today, I just wanted to bring it up and put it on everyone's radar.

DISCUSSION: Bills

Supervisor Wood stated I just wanted to state this on record, the Lake Champlain Lake George region Planning Board's bill for the fourth quarter 2023 is the correct amount, however the report that came with it omitted one of the items. We are waiting for that correction from Glens Falls National Bank. We do not need a resolution; I just wanted it on the record that there is a correction.

DISCUSSION: Schroon North Hudson Historical Society – Pomeroy Foundation

Grant

Supervisor Wood stated; the Pomeroy Foundation awards historical marker plates for historical buildings. The historical society is trying to apply for one of these markers. The town has supported them in their efforts. I got a thank you note from Brenda Borquist and along with several others. They were successful in their grant application and hopefully they will have that ready this year.

Councilwoman Donaldson stated; thank you very much for all your hard work with that.

DISCUSSION: Employee safety equipment and gear Employee Handbook requirements

Supervisor Wood stated; we have had a safety committee in the past. Councilwoman Donaldson has been doing research at the county level. We need to decide if we are going to revive the safety committee and who will be on it.

DISCUSSION: Golf Course Committee to reorganize

Supervisor Wood stated; its time to start thinking about the golf course. Phil McCoy wants to get a committee together to help reorganize the golf course. Just putting it on the radar.

DISCUSSION: Youth Commission met 2/05/2024 at SLCS to discuss Bylaw updates and activates

Supervisor Wood stated; the youth commission had their meeting last Monday on the 5th. The youth commission is working with the county and the town to update their by laws. Dee Oloctt gave Naomi an up to date rules that were approved by the county. So we need to sit down and go through what we want to add or change. This is something that the Youth Commission will do.

DISCUSSION: April 8th Eclipse

Supervisor Wood stated; the county and ROOST have been preparing for this for over a year now. The eclipse will be in April, which can be a dicey time for the weather. The town of Schroon is not formally promoting any events. I understand that most of the rooms we have available around town during that time frame are booked up already. The county and the DEC are very strongly stressing that people should not go into the back country or climb our local mountains during the eclipse to try to get a better view. The weather that time of year can be very unpredictable and it is a safety concern. We will be posting a sign at the lake, warning of the danger of the ice, and to stay off at that time of year. The school has some glasses that will be coming in soon; the library will also have some, as well as the Chamber of Commerce.

I got a call regarding a young gentleman with the Civil Air Patrol service in Maryland. He is Geri Heinzleman's grandson. He is coming up here for the eclipse with about 10 people and four chaperones. He is partnering with NASA to do some tests during the solar eclipse. Young man is interested in science and civil service.

DISCUSSION: Black fly, mosquito abatement

Supervisor Wood stated; we haven't treated our waters with BTI in years. We stopped because the person who was providing the service at the time, we didn't think the service provided was adequate. I am going to do some research, try to get some ideas of cost. I have heard \$14,000 and up to \$20,000. So I will get some more figures with that and do some more homework. I will also reach out to Chestertown and Horicon. There are a couple outfits that do service our location. It's a large undertaking. We would have to let people know, if we are spraying on a road and the property owner doesn't want their property sprayed then we have to honor that. There has to be a lot of communication between us and the home owners. BTI goes in streams, fast running cold water. That is for the black flies. It all boils down to how much money it costs and who is going to do it. The village of Lake Placid has all sorts of information about black flies on their website, its very educating.

DISCUSSION: Tennis Court

Supervisor Wood stated; the comprehensive plan is underway, the tennis court is up for discussion. There has been talk about the courts, the nets, the lines, the whole nine yards but it all comes down to cost. Last year we cleaned it.

DISCUSSION: Park Pavilion usage/ reservations

Supervisor Wood stated; I'd like to figure out how we want to handle the usage at the pavilion before the next, March meeting. It's always been first come, first serve. We have some good reasons why we should start doing reservations with it. We need to create a plan to keep it organized.

DISCUSSION: Comprehensive Plan next meeting 6:00PM Wednesday, February 28th

Supervisor Wood stated, the next meeting is here at 6:00PM on Wednesday the 28th. It is open to the public. I got an email from Dan Ireland and Joan Lawless; they are on the library board. The Schroon lake central school has been without a librarian for a few years and the library collection is in disarray. The new school superintendent is to get that going

again and back to its full potential. Community volunteers are reorganizing the collection. The CVES School library system director is going to come to Schroon Lake and help the folks that are doing this to teach them the automated system. They asked if our library could spare Jane, could lend her expertise to the library for a couple hours to help out. I said absolutely.

DISCUSSION: Thanks to Town Highway Department crew for snow removal efforts

Supervisor Wood stated; Thank you to the town Highway crew for all their snow removal efforts.

Councilman Gero made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 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: February, 16th, 2024 _____

Town Clerk