

Present:

Town Supervisor: Meg Wood

Councilpersons: Richard Gero, Steve Miller, Leanna Welch (Lynn Donaldson- Absent)

Town Clerk: Erica Hedden

Building and Grounds: Ethan Thompson

Also Present:

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

Public Participation: None

REQUEST TO PURCHASE PORTABLE A/C UNITS

RESOLUTION # 139-2024

INTRODUCED BY: Supervisor Wood

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Welch

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the purchase of 5 Portable A/C units from Home Depot for a total of \$1,675.25, for use at the Town Hall while the existing building wide A/C is offline due to repairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the purchase of 5 Portable A/C units from Home Depot for a total of \$1,675.25

DULY ADOPTED JUNE 11, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 4 **NAYS:**

AYES: Councilpersons Miller, Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

REQUEST TO APPROVE VOUCHERS

RESOLUTION # 140-2024

INTRODUCED BY: Councilperson Gero

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Miller

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve vouchers

General: \$42,429.41 Highway: \$54,580.09 Sewer: \$13,319.36 Water: \$ 4,383.93

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves vouchers

General: \$42,429.41 Highway: \$54,580.09 Sewer: \$13,319.36 Water: \$ 4,383.93

DULY ADOPTED JUNE 11, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 4 NAYS: _____

AYES: Councilpersons Miller, Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

REQUEST TO SET WATER WORKSHOP PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTION # 141-2024

INTRODUCED BY: Supervisor Wood

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Gero

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve setting a date of July 20,2024 at 8:30AM for a Public Meeting Water Workshop

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves setting that date of July 20, 2024 at 8:30AM of a Public Meeting/ Water Workshop to be held at the Town of Schroon Meeting room.

DULY ADOPTED JUNE 11, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 4 NAYS: _____

AYES: Councilpersons Miller, Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

DISCUSSION: TOWN HALL PHONE SYSTEM:

Town Clerk Hedden stated; I have been looking into a new phone system for the town. Our current phone system is the old analog system, we have a lot of issues with static and white noise. The issues tend to come and go, the current company we use says its out old copper wires, but the static comes and goes frequently. They say there is nothing they can do about it. This has been an ongoing issue. At one point in line our line three was so bad, when someone would call in, the static was so loud, I would have to ask them to call back. Then I would have to stay on the phone to keep line three occupied, so when they called back it came through on either line 1 or line 2. So far, I have spoken with 3 companies and retrieve quotes from them. All are digital systems, so their phone lines go through the internet. They all claim crystal clear calls, they all offer caller ID, which we currently do not have, they all offer voicemail to email, which we currently do not have. These companies only offer phone systems that go through the internet. If the internet is down, yes, the phones will be down, but the voicemail system will still work. Just because our internet may be out, the caller's internet is not, in that case it goes to voicemail. Typically, when our internet goes down, it is because our power is out. I started to explore this idea based on call quality issues, but then realized, switching may save the town on the monthly bill. These internet-based phone systems charge by phone, not by phone line, which for the town is a cheaper way to go. There of course are still international fees, but Canada is included in the standard bill. The current phone company we have, our bill varies, month to month depending

on call volume. Some months it's the base amount, other months its double even triple the base amount. The digital phone systems monthly bill does not change. It's over the internet, there would be no change in our monthly billing amount.

So, where I am at right now, is I am playing phone tag with another company, I am waiting to hear back.

Councilperson Welch stated; I was curious when we talked before, why are we getting charged for long distance calls now a days? How can the bill fluxgate so much?

Town Clerk Hedden stated; exactly, one of the companies just off the top of my head, their monthly quote was 381 dollars, that would be the flat rate.

Councilperson Miller stated; who's our internet provider?

Town Clerk Hedden stated; Spectrum. So, if we went with a new company, we would get all new phones. There are two companies that I was most impressed with, they offer similar contracts. The new phones, we can buy them on our own or we can sign a three-year contract with them and they will provide the phones for free and they offer a warranty on the phones. So, if anything were to go wrong or break with the phones, they just send a new one. If we were to buy the phones outright, they are about 80 dollars a piece and they do come with a one-year warranty. Before we make any decisions, I need to find our current contract with our current phone provider, I need to see if we are still locked in, or if we have flexibility in that contract. We do have two lines I believe that are alarm systems, at water and sewer, those would have to stay the old analog. They have to work weather there is power or internet. I need to reach out to our current provider and see what terms we are under, before we go any further.

All three of the companies that I have spoken to so far provide similar services. Internet based phone systems, caller ID, and voicemails to emails. If someone leaves a voicemail on our phone line, you will get an email that says you have a voicemail and you can listen to it through your computer. I think this is a great feature for our more mobile departments like water, sewer or highway.

Another thing that I have been looking into for the town, is a mass alert system. I know this isn't high on the propriety list. I just wanted to start looking into this, get some more information. I have a zoom call later today with Everbridge, I have had a preliminary meeting with two other companies. Ever Bridge is the company that the state uses for their NY ALERT system, also the county uses them. They are the a little higher on the price range, because of their nationwide reach. So, I am looking into others as well.

Supervisor Wood stated; the county is looking into a new system as well; we can see what they are going to.

Town Clerk Hedden stated; would you be able to get me the name of the company the county is looking into? I would appreciate that. The basics is these systems can call, text or email and message we want. We would use this for mass notification, waters out, flash floods in certain areas of town, ice storm, warming shelters, and other type of emergency alerts. Other items too, the work the county was doing on Hoffman rd., we could have sent out road closures and a notification to let people know the road was open again, so it doesn't have to be emergencies all the time. This is just a tool, we could use, we don't NEED it, but it could help us reach out citizens quicker in the event of an emergency. It would help

us, help our town citizens. I just wanted to bring this up to the board, let you know what I have been working on. Think about it, I will continue to gather more information, please come see me if you have any questions.

Also, I have been working on a social media policy for the town, I gave everyone a copy to review. I did talk to the town attorney about it. I wanted to find out if we needed to have a policy and if we did, did there need to be special terms in there. He said no, he said that because a Facebook page is not required for municipalities, that we didn't absolutely have to have a policy. I do think as a Town, it is a good idea for us to have one. I contacted several other towns that have Facebook pages, to see what their policy looked like, and this one I have is similar to theirs. Upon speaking with other towns, I suggest that we do not allow comments on our Facebook page. Some towns do, some towns don't. I am afraid that there could be some negativity brought to the page, as well as, we don't want people expecting to contact the town through the Facebook page. If someone has an issue with their water line, or their road, we don't want them to reach out to the town Via Facebook messenger expecting an answer. Facebook would not be used to communicate with the town. The idea behind the Facebook page is that it would basically be a digital bulletin board. We would use it for emergency notices, meeting notices, road closures, hydrant flushing, town hall hours, and anything that I would post on the bulletin board downstairs. Town business.

DISCUSSION: GOLF COURSE

Councilperson Welch stated; thank you Erica. In regards to our last meeting, I made some phone calls to some golf courses in the area regarding tournament fees. I have it all written down. Ticonderoga, I am waiting to hear back, but I did speak to someone at green mansions. They do not charge a group to have a tournament, green mansions charges \$100 per person to play and that includes cart. At times they may charge a rental fee of the building because they are not open to the public. Their entry fee does not go to the club, it goes to the tournament. Westport, even through they are a private club they charge \$45 per person which includes cart, food is separate. Tournament fees are charges by the tournament. The Newcomb golf course does the same thing, she wouldn't give me their rate but they pay for the golf, the cart and the food, everything is separate. Something I found interesting, Westport does a three-day tournament, and for that they do charge a rental fee of the club. Westport said they have at least one, three-day tournament. We need to look into the budget, to help us determine where we are at with the golf course, I think knowing where the budget stands would help us make some of these decisions.

Supervisor Wood stated; the golf course is also in need of a new sprayer. We are looking into this, to find one that is in good shape and will last us several years. The last one we purchased, we thought would last for several years but turns out it did not. Yesterday Mr. Swinton said he would email me everything he has in regards to getting a new machine. John mentioned there is \$1,600 dollars in tournament money that may be able to used for this. We need to look into it.

DISCUSSION: WATER BILL ISSUES

Councilperson Gero stated; do we have a resolve for some of the water bills that have not been reading well?

Town Clerk Hedden stated; not yet. So, what I am finding is that there are some water meters out there that have not been reading well historically. When that happens the water usages 'catches up' when the meter reads, which translates to a larger than expected bill on the customer's part. I am trying to find a resolve for this. I need to work with the water department to learn a little more about how this happens and what they think we can do to resolve it. We need to come up with a standard

resolve for issues like this, but first I will work with the water department to get their input and try to figure out a way to get these problems that arise from time to time, figured out. Each situation is different and, in some cases, I am unaware of the issue until the owner comes in to tell me there haven't used any water. So, I think moving forward, the system needs a 'self-audit' so to speak. One thing we can do to start with is replace our really old manual meters. We still have a few manual meters out there that are over 20 years old, we can start by getting those replaced. I want to start doing mailings to help educate our water users as well as letter to let them know if we find or we think there may be an issue. Another thing we can start doing is more frequent readings for the accounts that we know have some issues. I can load the gun and do what's called Interim read, these reads do not generate a bill, but just log what the meter is currently at. This is a great way to monitor some accounts. I know the water department is very busy, but those interim reads are something I can help out with as well.

Councilperson Gero stated; I love the letters idea, also the closer monitoring and communicating more with our customers. As problems arise, we need to address each one.

DISCUSSION: SURPLUS

Town Clerk Hedden stated; I have been working on trying to gather surplus items. I'm waiting to hear back from Highway. I've contacted the Sewer Department; they don't have anything yet. I know Parks has some items for surplus, so I'm trying to get that ball rolling, I know there has been a lot of interest out there for surplus.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

INTRODUCED BY: Councilperson Gero

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Miller

Supervisor Wood moved a motion to go into executive session at 9:45 AM to discuss medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or relating to appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline or removal, seconded by Councilperson Gero

EXECUTIVE SESSION

INTRODUCED BY: Councilperson Gero

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Welch

ADOURN MEETING AT 10:43 AM

INTRODUCED BY: Supervisor Gero

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Welch

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 10:43AM, carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted by

Erica Hedden

Town Clerk