

**Present:**

**Town Supervisor:** Meg Wood

**Councilpersons:** Richard Gero, Lynn Donaldson and Leanne Welch, Steve Miller arrived at 9:05AM

**Town Clerk:** Erica Hedden

**Water Superintendent:** William Jenks

**Highway Superintendent:** Joe Flores (arrived at 10:45AM)

**Also Present:** Hunter Alison, Dave Clark

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

**Public Participation:**

None

**REQUEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION BY NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION D/B/A NATIONAL GRID FOR A PERMIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) AND NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NYSDOT) FOR PERMISSION TO BURY A PUBLIC UTILITY LINE BENEATH THE WIDTH OF TOWN HIGHWAY LOCATED ON NEW YORK STATE FOREST PRESERVE LAND RESOLUTION # 176-2024**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilperson Donaldson

**WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION**

**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Welch

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the New York State Constitution, Article XIV was amended to allow certain public facilities, including public utility lines, to pass over or through State Forest preserve land; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of this State Constitutional amendment, the New York State Legislature added § 9-2103 to the Environmental Conservation Law (“ECL”), creating a procedure by which a public utility may bury a new public utility line within or beneath the width of any state highway, county highway, or town highway located on State Forest preserve land; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the passage of the State Constitutional amendment and accompanying legislation, public utilities were prohibited from laying their facilities across State Forest preserve

land; and

**WHEREAS**, George Cowan owns property with a street address of 252 Hollow Road in Schroon Lake, New York (Town of Schroon, Essex County), which is located within the Adirondack Park Boundary and adjacent to State Forest preserve land (hereinafter referred to as the “Property”); and

**WHEREAS**, Hollow Road is a Town of Schroon Road 2.01 miles in length running from Charley Hill Road to a dead end; and

**WHEREAS**, no public utility lines presently exist on Hollow Road; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Cowan requests Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid (the “Company”) extend electric services approximately 6,177 feet (or 1.17 miles) from the Company's nearest distribution facilities on Charley Hill Road to the Property (the “Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, significant portions of Hollow Road pass over State Forest preserve land, requiring the Project to obtain a permit pursuant to ECL § 9-2103 allowing the Company to bury approximately 3,113 feet of the requested electric service extension beneath the width of those portions of Hollow Road that pass over New York State Forest preserve land (the “Permit”); and

**WHEREAS**, the application for the Permit must include a resolution from the governing body of the town where the project will be located indicating their approval for the project, attesting the width of highway will only be used for eligible purposes, and attesting the project will both minimize the removal of trees and vegetation and restore the area to a pre-project condition to the maximum extent practicable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project’s final design is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

**WHEREAS**, the narrative section of the Company’s application for the Permit shall be substantially the same as the one attached hereto as Exhibit “B”, and

**WHEREAS**, Exhibit “A” shows the Project will bury a public utility line beneath the width of Hollow Road in a manner consistent with the requirements provided under ECL § 9-2103; and

**WHEREAS**, the burying of the public utility line beneath the width of Hollow Road will minimize the number of trees and vegetation necessary to complete the project; and

**WHEREAS**, Exhibit “B” affirms the Company’s commitment to minimizing the removal of trees and vegetation and demonstrates a plan to restore the area to pre-Project condition to the maximum extent practicable;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by this body, pursuant to all the forgoing, that the Town of Schroon hereby supports the Company’s application for a permit from the DEC and NYSDOT to bury approximately 3,113 feet of a public utility line beneath the width of Hollow Road located on New

York State Forest preserve land, noting that the Project will only use the width of Hollow Road for purposes permitted pursuant to ECL § 9-2103 and the Project minimizing the removal of trees and vegetation and plan to restore the area to pre-Project condition to the maximum extent practicable ; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests and New York State Department of Transportation.

**DULY ADOPTED AUGUST 20, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:**

**AYES:**   4   **NAYS:**       

**AYES: Councilperson Donaldson, Gero, Supervisor Wood, Welch**

**REQUEST TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF A TIMER FOR LIGHTS AT THE PAVILION AND SET HOURS**

**RESOLUTION # 177-2024**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilperson Welch

**WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION**

**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Donaldson

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the purchase of a timer for the lights at the pavilion in the amount of \$520.00

**WHEREAS**, as well as establish a 10:00 PM closing time for the pavilion, winter hours can be adjusted according to need. Signs will be ordered to reflect the closing time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the purchase of a timer for the lights at the pavilion in the amount of \$520.00, and a closing time of 10:00 PM for the pavilion, and the ordering of signs.

**DULY ADOPTED AUGUST 20, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:**

**AYES:**   4   **NAYS:**       

**AYES: Councilpersons Donaldson, Gero, Supervisor Wood, Welch**

**REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES**

**RESOLUTION # 178-2024**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilperson Donaldson

**WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION**

**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Gero

**WHEREAS** the Town Board of the Town of Schroon understands that invasive species are almost impossible to eradicate and new ones keep on threatening the welfare of the Adirondack Park; and

**WHEREAS** the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has rules and regulations to prevent the spread of invasive species within the Adirondacks, they are based upon of voluntary compliance (although the Town of Schroon enacted a local law to protect our lakes, but lacks the agreement of other agencies to assist with enforcement of this law); and

**WHEREAS** those who avoid compliance with the rule of “clean, drain & dry” have been breaking the law but there is no real enforcement. The bottom line is that education and a law without enforcement are not enough to stop the spread of invasive species and as invasive species spread, they become the continual problem of the new host waters, lake associations and the local taxpayers. In the Adirondacks, millions of dollars are spent to remove invasive species and this will only continue to multiply until there are real teeth to prevent this trend; and

**WHEREAS** the current partnership between the DEC, the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) along with many lake associations and Adirondack municipalities needs a major makeover. For some lakes, AWI offers lake steward coverage for 40 hours per week, but what happens during the other 128 hours of that week; and

**WHEREAS** when all boaters understand that the fate of an Adirondack Lake, pond or river can be compromised by their lack of diligence, only then can we proudly state that we have succeeded in our mission; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** be it

**RESOLVED,** that the following 4-point plan will address the needs of most Adirondack lakes and should severely limit the spread of invasives in the Adirondack Park:

- 1) the time has arrived that lake stewards should have the authority that if they are convinced that a boat coming to launch (and has no proof of being decontaminated) and is coming from a body of water that has invasives, they should have the ability and authority to prevent that boat from launching and order that boat to be decontaminated. The DEC and AWI need to buy into this concept now. To those who state that mandatory inspections and decontamination (if necessary) infringe upon the Fourth Amendment of our Constitution, enforced “clean, drain and dry” is

really no more restrictive than buckling your seatbelt or stopping for a red light. The emphasis on educating the public on how to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species is critical piece of the solution, but until this becomes automatic behavior more communities need a local law similar to the Town of Schroon's in order to protect their future and,

- 2) communicating the proper message to all boaters is a key factor. In New York State motorized boat registrations need to be renewed every 3 years. When registration renewals are sent to boat owners this is an opportunity to inform boat owners of their obligation concerning the spread of invasive species (along with promoting the message that lake stewards have the authority to prevent launches for watercraft that have not been decontaminated as previously stated) and that boat owners need to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. To take this one step further, perhaps during the renewal process boaters need to sign a pledge that they understand the rules and,
- 3) for the DEC and AWI there should be absolutely no differentiation between a DEC boat launch and a public boat launch owned by a municipality or another entity. AWI must be provided with the resources to expand lake steward hours as well as manning all Adirondack decontamination stations and,
- 4) during the many hours that lake stewards are not on duty, the partners in the fight against aquatic invasives must collaborate and propose something like a gate type mechanism that could be solar powered and potentially use a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) card as successfully used at ski centers and given to a boater for a single launch and a single retrieval after a boat has been decontaminated.

**AND LET IT FURTHER be**

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution by the Town Board of the Town of Schroon along with similar resolutions to be passed by the Town Boards of the Town of Chester and Town of Horicon will be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Interim DEC Commissioner Sean Mahar, Senator Daniel Stec, Assemblyman Matthew Simpson, the Adirondack Lakes Alliance, Adirondack Watershed Institute, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, the Adirondack Park Agency and other Adirondack Lake associations.

**DULY ADOPTED AUGUST 20, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:**

**AYES:   4   NAYS:**

**AYES: Councilpersons Donaldson, Gero, Supervisor Wood, Welch**

**REQUEST TO PURCHASE A TABLET FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENTS NEW READING SOFTWARE**

**RESOLUTION # 179 -2024**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilperson Donaldson

**WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION**

**SECONDED BY:** Supervisor Wood

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the purchase of a Galaxy Tab Activ 5 from CTS Mobility

**WHEREAS**, a data plan for a monthly service charge of \$20.00

**WHEREAS**, a case for \$19.79 from amazon.

**WHEREAS**, total not to exceed \$640.00

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the purchase of a Galaxy Tab Activ 5, a monthly data plan and a case for the Galaxy Tab Activ 5 for the water department.

**DULY ADOPTED AUGUST 20, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:**

**AYES:**   4   **NAYS:**       

**AYES:** Councilpersons Donaldson, Gero, Supervisor Wood, Welch

**REQUEST TO APPROVE 90 DAY CLEANING CONTRACT WITH MARIA DZIAMBA**

**RESOLUTION # 180-2024**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilperson Donaldson

**WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION**

**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Welch

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve a 90 Day Cleaning Contract in the amount of \$1,425.00 per month, to start on 8/20/2024 with Maria Dziamba.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the 90 Day Cleaning Contract with Maria Dziamba starting on 8/20/2024 for a monthly amount of \$1,425.00.

**DULY ADOPTED AUGUST 20, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:**

**AYES:**   5   **NAYS:**       

**AYES:** Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson, Gero, Supervisor Wood, Welch

**REQUEST TO SET BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES**

**RESOLUTION # 181-2024**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Supervisor Wood

**WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION**

**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Welch

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the following dates for budget workshop

**9/11/24 at 9AM            9/17/24 at 11AM            9/25/24 at 9AM            10/9/24 at 9AM**  
**10/15/24 at 1PM            10/23/24 at 9AM            10/30/24 at 9AM**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the following dates for budget workshops

**9/11/24 at 9AM            9/17/24 at 11AM            9/25/24 at 9AM            10/9/24 at 9AM**  
**10/15/24 at 1PM            10/23/24 at 9AM            10/30/24 at 9AM**

**DULY ADOPTED JUNE 11, 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:**

**AYES:   5   NAYS:**

**AYES: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson, Gero, Supervisor Wood, Welch**

**DISCUSSION: WATER WORKSHOP**

**Key Points:**

- Exploring new billing categories
- Meter size will be determined by water department
- Meter size recording
- Could we separate Water bills from Sewer Bills
- Billing cycles

**ADOURN MEETING AT 11:17AM**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilperson Donaldson

**SECONDED BY:** Supervisor Wood

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 11:17AM, carried unanimously

**Respectfully Submitted by**

**Erica Hedden**

**Town Clerk**