

TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS
TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 28, 2022

Supervisor Randall called the Regular Meeting of the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>MEMBER</u>		
Howard Newton	X	
Martin Perrotte		X
Vernon Bruno	X	
Reginald Facteau	X	
Kevin Randall	X	
Donna Hamel	X	
Michael Snider	X	
Michael McCormick	X	

PUBLIC RECOGNITION Rich Dabrowski, Richard Donah, David Desrocher, Susan Picard, Barb Benkwitt, Shannon & T. J. Rabideau, Penny Cowen, Larry Whalen, M. Emde, Joseph Lewis

All Board Members were provided with a copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting that was held on May 24, 2022.

Mr. Bruno made a motion to approve and accept the Minutes as presented; Seconded by Mr. Facteau.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

MONTHLY REPORTS Town Clerk, Supervisor, Woods Mills Water, Morrisonville Water, Macey Lane Historian, Supervisor, Codes Officer, Dog Control

Mr. Newton made a motion to file the reports; Seconded by Mr. Bruno.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

COMMUNICATIONS/ 1. Certificate of Achievement from PERMA for filing claims in a timely manner.

2. Received certificate of Final Special Franchise Full Values for the 2022 assessment roll from the NYS Dept of Taxation and Finance.

3. Received notification from NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program that the Town has submitted all documents demonstrating completion of the LED Street Lights-Decorative Fixtures Program.

RECEIPTS Town Clerk/\$762.00, Woods Mills Water/\$1,120.58, Macey Lane Water/Zero, Morrisonville Water/\$4,115.30, Judge Barber/\$1,601.00, Judge Van Nortwick/\$1,618.00, CC Treasurer-Snow Ice 2nd payment/\$55,655.00, Charter Franchise Fees/\$17,271.00, CC Treasurer-Mail Fees for taxes/\$194.00, CC Treasurer Mortgage Tax-10/1/21-03/31/22/\$41,828.49, Cash-Music in the Park Food/\$119.50

Mr. Newton made a motion to file the receipts; Seconded by Mr. Facteau.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

Mr. Newton made a motion to file the minutes of the Planning Board dated 05/12/2022. This motion was seconded by Mr. Randall and was Unanimously Approved.

Mr. Bruno made a motion to file the minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals dated 05/16/2022. This motion was seconded by Mr. Facteau and was Unanimously Approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Councilman/ Mr. Facteau asked for an update on a Zoning Board Appointment as at the last meeting of the Zoning Board, an adjournment until next month was needed as there was not enough members for a quorum. Mr. Randall replied that names have been submitted to the Zoning Board Chairman for review. Mr. Randall mentioned that there was a quorum to move forward at that meeting, but it was the decision of the applicant whether they would want to adjourn until a full board was present.

Mr. Facteau inquired on the update of the playground equipment that was ordered some time ago. Mr. Randall said that he will check on the status of the order tomorrow.

Mr. Facteau said that he had several calls from residents asking about installing an outdoor sign in front of the Town Hall for upcoming information regarding meetings and events. Mr. Randall told him that this has been reviewed several years ago and the cost to install a sign back then was around \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Mr. Facteau commented that the Music in the Park event at the River Street Park was very nice even though it wasn't widely attended. He asked if some future Music in the Park events could be held possibly at the Salmon River Park. Mr. Randall told him that the Salmon River Park is not set up electrically to host the events. Mr. Randall mentioned that he had other bands lined up for the month of July and August. He said that next year, he will start earlier to hire the bands as most of the bands he contacted had other commitments lined up. Mr. Bruno told him that he would work with him to secure bands for next year as that is what he does for the Clinton County Fair.

Mr. Facteau asked if there had been any decision made as to the matter on Christiansen Drive regarding the right-of-way that the Town owns and the septic system that a resident wants to install there. Mr. Randall told him that on the advice of the attorney that it would not be in the best interest of the Town to do so.

Highway/ Mr. Snider told the board members that his crew have been busy doing shoulders and ditching of the roads.
Historian/ Barb Benkwitt told the Board members that the tour around several historical places in the Town that was hosted by AARCH was a success despite the rainy weather. She mentioned that the Town's 175th anniversary is next year. She asked for any volunteers that would want to help plan events for this celebration.

Supervisor/ Green-up day was a success in the Town. A dumpster was placed at the Town Hall to coordinate with the notice that the Codes Officer would be inspecting properties for excessive garbage.

Mr. Randall received a response from FEMA thanking him for his comments against the new flood mapping for the Town.

OLD BUSINESS/ Mr. Newton asked if any clarification was received on the ownership of the Methodist Church on Main Street. Although it was thought that the Methodist Church was not owned by the Town, the question will be referred to the Assessor.

Mr. Randall received an e-mail from Murnane Building Contractors regarding the Highway Garage Floor project that they had submitted a bid for. This was the only bid received for this project. They stated that if they can use a different type of drain trench, they could offer a bid price reduction of \$17,500.00. It was decided to discuss this at the next work session.

Solar on Earth contacted Mr. Randall to see if the Board made a decision to switch to their company to lower the Town's energy bills. Although it was thought that a motion was done a while ago, **Mr. Newton made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Solar on Earth. This motion was seconded by Mr. Randall and was Unanimously Approved.**

Mr. Randall mentioned that a few months ago, the Highway Superintendent gave the Councilmembers three scenarios on how he would like to proceed with the paving of the roads this year. A resolution will be done for the next month's meeting as this needs Board approval. A discussion followed on money that would be left over on the agreement expenditure. Because a shoulder machine is needed for the Highway department, Mr. Snider will research whether the remaining funds that was received from CHIPS could possibly be used for this purchase.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #22-52

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges the resignation of Roland Dashnaw from the Board of Assessment Review effective June 1, 2022.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Fecteau

DISCUSSION: Mr. Randall expressed his and the Town's gratitude for the many years of Mr. Dashnaw's service to the Town. It was mentioned that a proclamation could be given to him.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Fecteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #22-53

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

RESOLVED, that the Regular Town Board Meeting that was schedule for Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. be rescheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Bruno

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Fecteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #22-54

MOTION BY: Mr. Fecteau

WHEREAS, Michael Snider, Highway Superintendent, has a position at the Highway Garage for a MEO/Mechanic, and

WHEREAS, applications were submitted and candidates were interviewed by Mr. Snider, be it hereby, RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves the hiring of Harold Barcomb Jr. for this position with a starting salary of \$21.74 an hour.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Bruno

DISCUSSION: Starting date pending until receipt of all pertinent approval by CC Personnel and medical clearance.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Fecteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #22-55

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

WHEREAS, Michael Snider, Highway Superintendent, has a position at the Highway Garage for a MEO, and

WHEREAS, applications were submitted and candidates were interviewed by Mr. Snider, be it hereby, RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves the hiring of Robert Bordeau for this position with a starting salary of \$21.55 an hour.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Randall

DISCUSSION: Starting date pending until receipt of all pertinent approval by CC Personnel and medical clearance

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Fecteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #22-56

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls approves the following General Fund Budget Transfers.

From: A.1990.400 Contingent \$ 4,500.00

To: A.1910.400 Unallocated Insurance \$ 4,500.00

To cover cost expenses through the 2022 year-end

SECONDED BY: Mr. Mr. Bruno

DISCUSSION: Certain items needed to be added that were not covered by the current policy.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Fecteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #22-57

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

WHEREAS, the Schuyler Falls Town Board has recognized deficiencies that have accrued to the Morrisonville District Water System mains over its 70+life and in the effort of maintaining the Health & Safety of residents drinking water to homes located in this system; and

WHEREAS, these deficiencies have been verified by the Town of Plattsburgh Water & Waste Water Department and Laberge Group the engineering firm hired to investigate the upgrade needs of the existing system; and

WHEREAS, the Morrisonville Water District has a long history of serious uncorrected deficiencies dating back over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, after recognizing this issue a preliminary engineering study and maps were prepared by LaBerge Group to look into the feasibility of updating the municipal town Water lines to provide reliable clean palatable drinking water to this location of the Town; and

WHEREAS, after completing preliminary engineering obtained by Laberge Group and the results investigated by the Town Board and as water improvements was recognized as a priority in the Towns completed comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, after applying for and receiving two grants, one from CDBG (\$1,250,000) and one from USDARD (\$1,300,000) and a USDARD Bond for (\$5,562,000) at 1.75% -38 years and holding all required public hearings and a special informational meeting at the Morrisonville Fire Station on June 27th 2022 to hear public discussion for or against the project and after an informational power point presentation followed by said public discussion all participants agreed that the update was needed with no persons objecting.; and

WHEREAS, the Town board was part of the public informational meeting and heard no objections to moving forward with this project and in the interest of maintaining and attracting new residents to live and build or buy homes in the Town of Schuyler Falls by providing them with a new updated palatable drinking water supply;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board will move forward with the upgrades to the Morrisonville Water District using Laberge Group engineering so that these water safety deficiencies of high-concern will be resolved and mitigated for the residents of the Morrisonville Water District. This project is scheduled to begin in 2023 and projected to be completed by the end of 2024.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a parallel path of further funding for this project will continue through applications already applied for and a future WIIA application becoming available projected sometime in July of 2022.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Randall

DISCUSSION: Mr. Facticeau stated that he received several phone calls from the water district users. It was said that they would like to have a vote held for the district users to inquire how many residents are in favor of this project and how many are against going forward with this project. He said that he sent an e-mail to the Association of Towns with some concerns he had with the amount to be borrowed and paid back by the district users and if a vote could be held. He stated that at the informational meeting, a presentation was held with approximately 12 water district users.

Mr. Randall replied that two Public Hearings were held besides the Informational Meeting. Letters were sent out to all district users informing them of the informational meeting. He said that he has been working on this project for 2 ½ years and he said that all information on the project has been given at the monthly Town Board meetings and through media coverage.

Shannon Rabideau said that the letter that was sent out stated that the meeting on the 27th was an informational meeting and had nothing in it that stated that the project was going to move forward. T J Rabideau read aloud the letter that was sent.

Mr. Randall explained that there is a timeline on what needs to be done next to not lose the grant monies secured to date or the \$5,562,000.00 bond that has also been secured. He said that none of the monies would be used until after the bidding process. If the bids were to come out to be much higher than planned, the project could be scrapped altogether.

It was said that the resolution wording states that the Board will move forward with the upgrades. After some discussion and with the Town Attorney's help, it was suggested that the wording in the eighth paragraph could be changed to possibly not hold up the process of pursuing the upgrades, but to not include the wording of moving forward with the upgrades.

Resolution 22-57 was amended as follows:

RESOLUTION #22-57

MOTION BY: Mr. Newton

WHEREAS, the Schuyler Falls Town Board has recognized deficiencies that have accrued to the Morrisonville District Water System mains over its 70+life and in the effort of maintaining the Health & Safety of residents drinking water to homes located in this system; and

WHEREAS, these deficiencies have been verified by the Town of Plattsburgh Water & Waste Water Department and Laberge Group the engineering firm hired to investigate the upgrade needs of the existing system; and

WHEREAS, the Morrisonville Water District has a long history of serious uncorrected deficiencies dating back over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, after recognizing this issue a preliminary engineering study and maps were prepared by LaBerge Group to look into the feasibility of updating the municipal town Water lines to provide reliable clean palatable drinking water to this location of the Town; and

WHEREAS, after completing preliminary engineering obtained by Laberge Group and the results investigated by the Town Board and as water improvements was recognized as a priority in the Towns completed comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, after applying for and receiving two grants, one from CDBG (\$1,250,000) and one from USDARD (\$1,300,000) and a USDARD Bond for (\$5,562,000) at 1.75% -38 years and holding all required public hearings and a special informational meeting at the Morrisonville Fire Station on June 27th 2022 to hear public discussion for or against the project and after an informational power point presentation followed by said public discussion all participants agreed that the update was needed with no persons objecting.; and

WHEREAS, the Town board was part of the public informational meeting and heard no objections to moving forward with this project and in the interest of maintaining and attracting new residents to live and build or buy homes in the Town of Schuyler Falls by providing them with a new updated palatable drinking water supply;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board will move forward with the process of pursuing the upgrades to the Morrisonville Water District using Laberge Group engineering so that these water safety deficiencies of high-concern will be resolved and mitigated for the residents of the Morrisonville Water District. This project is scheduled to begin in 2023 and projected to be completed by the end of 2024.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a parallel path of further funding for this project will continue through applications already applied for and a future WIIA application becoming available projected sometime in July of 2022.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Bruno

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Randall

NAYES: Mr. Facteau

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #22-58

MOTION BY: Mr. Bruno

WHEREAS, the Codes Enforcement Officer has found everything in compliance with the Earth Waste Systems Inc. Junkyard, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the renewal of Earth Waste Systems, Inc. Junkyard License.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Newton

DISCUSSION: Effective Immediately through June 30, 2023.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #22-59

MOTION BY: Mr. Facteau

WHEREAS, this Town Board hereby authorizes the Town's participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Friends of the North Country, Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, is hereby authorized to assist the Town to prepare and submit an application to New York State Homes and Community Renewal for the purposes of Community Development within the Town's jurisdiction, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign and execute associated documentation for the aforementioned NYS Homes and Community Renewal CDBG Application., and be it further

RESOLVED the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing in accordance with NYS Homes and Community Renewal CDBG directives on July 19th, 2022 at 5:45 PM. Appropriate notice will be provided of the location, date, time, and reason for the hearing in the Town of Schuyler Falls official newspaper.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Randall

DISCUSSION: This contract amount is \$1,450.00

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

CLAIMS

General Abstract for the Month of June	\$26,602.54
Highway Abstract for the Month of June	\$ 8,190.69
Morrisonville Water Abstract for the Month of June	\$ 5,631.82
Woods Mills Water Abstract for the Month of June	\$ 549.97
Macey Lane Water Abstract for June	\$ 523.90
Audit only Abstract for the Month of June	\$ 2,457.23

Vouchers for Claims (#202200789-202200880)

Vouchers for Audit Only (#202200771-202200772)

Payroll Vouchers (#202200738-202200770)

(#202200783-202200788)

Mr. Newton made a motion to pay the claims, which was seconded by Mr. Bruno.

AYES: Mr. Newton, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Facteau, Mr. Randall

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

PUBLIC FORUM: Mr. Dabrowski asked how the Macey Lane Water District project is progressing. Mr. Randall told him that work is still being done on the engineering and surveying part of it.

Mr. Dabrowski told the Board members that the article in the newspaper regarding the Codes Officer conducting an inspection of properties for excessive garbage was good. He added that nothing seems to have been done to date. A discussion followed on properties that are in disarray. Mr. Randall told him that just today, he contacted the real property office regarding the procedures that need to be done to possibly demolish some of the homes that are abandoned and are beyond repair. Before, the Town could hire a company to demolish the homes after the Town's unsafe structure law was followed. That amount could have been relevy on to the property tax. The Treasurer's office now has procedures that need to be followed before all this can happen.

Mr. Dabrowski spoke of a property that has not been paying taxes for quite some time. He was told to contact the Assessor to possibly get an answer to this question.

Michael Emde stated that he had e-mailed a request twice to the Supervisor on his desire to be appointed to the Zoning Board. He asked what the status of his request was. Mr. Randall told him he only received his request today and two names, that included his, were given to the Chairman of the Zoning Board for review.

He explained that although the Town Board does the approval, the Chairman of the Zoning Board would make the referral.

NEXT MEETING

Work Sessions (if Needed)	Tuesday	July 5, 2022	6:00 p.m.
	Monday	July 18, 2022	6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting	Tuesday	July 19, 2022	6:00 p.m.
Public Hearing	Monday	July 19, 2022	5:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT Mr. Facteau made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Bruno and was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. ADJOURNMENT/9:30 p.m.

Donna Hamel/Town Clerk