

TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS
TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 23, 2024

Supervisor Smith 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>		
Jason Bruno	X	
Martin Perrotte		X
Vernon Bruno	X	
Tim Aubin	X	
Mindy Smith	X	
Kelsi Russell	X	
Michael McCormick	X	
Michael Snider	X	

PUBLIC RECOGNITION Rich Dabrowski, Timmy Provost , Crystal Narducci, Mary Sorrell, Jason Rock,, Phil VanNortwick, Penny Cowan, Peggy Garner, Howard Newton, Barb Benkwitt, Ryan Smith, Kevin Randall, Mary Sorrell

All Board Members were provided with a copy of the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting that was held on January 3, 2024.

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

AYES: Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

MONTHLY REPORTS Town Clerk, Supervisor, Codes Enforcement, Woods Mills Water, Morrisonville Water, Macey Lane, Historian

Mr. Vernon Bruno made a motion to approve and accept the reports as presented; Seconded by Mr. Aubin.

AYES: Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

COMMUNICATIONS/ Charter has sent communications about the different music choice channels changing and updating

RECEIPTS Town Clerk/\$435.00, Morrisonville Water/\$2,385.50, Macey Lane Water/\$2167.71, Woods Mills Water/\$1,150.44, Judge Barber/\$2,896.00, Judge VanNortwick/\$2,739.00.

Mr. Jason Bruno made a motion to approve and accept the receipts as presented; Seconded by Mr. Aubin.

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway /No report given

Water/No report given

Town Clerk/No report given

Supervisor/No report given

Councilman/ No report given

CLAIMS: Mr. Vern Bruno made a motion to pay the claims; Seconded by Mr. Aubin. Mr. Vern Bruno questioned the towing charge on one of the vouchers. Mr. Snyder explained that one of the men got stuck, the department tried to handle it themselves and was unsuccessful.

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #24-18

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

WHEREAS, The Association of Town's Annual Meeting will be held from February 18th-21st in New York City and WHEREAS the Town Board must name a voting delegate to represent the Town of Schuyler Falls in voting during the Annual Business Session, it is hereby,

RESOLVED that the Town Board appoints Mindy Smith as delegate to cast the vote for the town, pursuant to Section 6 of Article 3 of the constitution and bylaws of said association.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #24-19

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to enter into a labor management agreement between the Town of Schuyler Falls and Teamsters local 687 to hire Peter Eastman Jr. for the position of MEO mechanic

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves the hiring of Peter Eastman Jr. for this position with the following pay rate of \$23.74 an hour as set forth in the approved union contract.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION#24-20

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board acknowledges the Town Justice position is vacant, effective December 31st 2023

RESOLVED, that an ad for this position will be placed in the newspaper and on the town's official website.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #24-21

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

WHEREAS, Philip VanNortwick has been elected to the office of Town Justice for the Town of Schuyler Falls, and HE as a respective officer above, does hereby undertake with the Town of Schuyler Falls, that

HE will faithfully perform and discharge the duties of HIS office, and will promptly account for and pay over all monies or property received as Town Officer, in accordance with the law; and **RESOLVED** that this undertaking of the Town Justice is further conditioned upon that he will well and truly keep, pay over and account for all monies and property coming into his hands, **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town does and shall maintain insurance coverage, presently with Ming Insurance Agency in the sum of \$5,000 per employee plus an additional \$250,000 for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and \$50,000 for the Town Supervisor to indemnify against losses through the failure of the officers, clerks and employees covered there under faithfully to perform their duties or to account properly for all monies or property received by virtue of their positions or employment, and through fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by the officers, clerks and employees covered there under and Town Justice Philip VanNortwick will be so covered by such insurance.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION 24-22

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

WHEREAS, Friends of The North Country, Inc. assisted by the Town of Schuyler Falls with administration of a HUD Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program in 3011, and **WHEREAS** five year liens are associated with funding assistance utilized for housing rehabilitation and the liens decline over a specific term, and **WHEREAS**, a request in writing has been received from an individual who received assistance from the Town's program who would like consideration by the Town for a discharge of the lien in the amount of \$5,911.75 as of January 23, 2024 and **RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls, grants the request to a discharge of the lien for project #SF-17-07

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION 24-23

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes \$3,476.97 for the purchase of Edmunds Software Service Licenses, IPS Mobile App and One Galaxy Tab S9 Ultra for the Code Enforcement Department

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #24-24

MOTION BY: Vern Bruno

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town received and opened three sealed bids on December 21, 2023 for water improvement (Phase One) for the Macey Lane Water Improvements, and **RESOLVED** that after review of the bids, the bid is awarded to Ed Garrow and Sons, Inc. who was the lowest bidder and was able to meet all specifications.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #24-25

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act (AFFH) mandate across the nations is to address inequalities in others that cause unequal and segregated access to housing and the platform it provides for a better life, and WHEREAS the rule is intended to foster local commitment to addressing local and regional fair housing issues and

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Schuyler Falls adopts this resolution

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION#24-26

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

WHEREAS, the Town Board of The Town of Schuyler Falls requested quotes for insurance for retirees for pre-65 and post-65 from the Teamsters RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the quote for Medicare Blue PPO for post-65 and Blue PPO Option 1 for pre-65 retirees

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION #24-27

MOTION BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls enter into an agreement with the Elmore SPCA in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the calendar year 2024

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION: Discussion took place about contract specifications and concerns.

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION# 24-28

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

WHEREAS, the Town Board did provide in its 2024 budget an appropriation in the amount of \$12,822.00 for JCEO services; BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the contract between the Town of Schuyler Falls and JCEO for the year 2024

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION# 24-29

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

RESOLVED, that the records of the following Town Officials who receive or disburse any money of the Town, will be accepted, and approved as presented: Supervisor/Secretary to Supervisor

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUION#24-30

MOTION BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

RESOLVED, Kelsi Russell, Town Clerk/Tax Collector requests to hire Donna Hamel as a Consultant for the months of January and February 2024 WHEREAS Donna Hamel will receive a prorate-pro stipend of \$234.84 A monthly payment of \$116.42 will be paid from January 1, 2024 to February 29, 2024

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION#24-31

MOTION BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

RESOLVED, that due to the vacancy of the Justice position the current Justice will have a higher case load An appointed Justice cannot take bench until after April 19, 2024 WHEREAS, Philip VanNortwick will receive a prorate-pro stipend of \$5,138.68 A monthly payment of \$1,284.67 will be paid from January 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION 24-32

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

RESOLVED, that due to the vacancy of the Justice position the current Justice will have a higher case load resulting in a larger volume of paperwork for the Court Clerk. An appointed Justice cannot take bench until after April 19, 2024 WHEREAS, Mary Sorrell will receive a prorate-pro stipend of \$4,191.68 A monthly payment of \$1,047.92 will be paid from January 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION# 24-33

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

WHEREAS, in accordance with the water supply agreement between the Town of Plattsburgh and the Town of Schuyler Falls Woods Mills Water District , the Town of Plattsburgh sent a letter to notify the town that the annual metered water rate for the 2024 calendar year will be raised to \$3.88 per thousand , and **WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls needs to raise the water rate charge to the customers in that district to reflect the increase, **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the new water rates for the district will be \$43.56 for the first 0-7,000 gallons and \$4.57 a thousand for anything over the initial charge.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION: This rate is 10% over the cost of what the Town of Plattsburgh is charging the Town.

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION#24-34

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

WHEREAS, in accordance with the water supply agreement between the Town of Plattsburgh and The Town of Schuyler Falls Macey Lane Water District, the Town of Plattsburgh notified the Town of Schuyler Falls that the annual metered water rate for the 2024 calendar year will be raised to \$3.88 per thousand gallons, and **WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls needs to raise the water rate charge to the customers in that district to reflect the increase, **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the new water rates for the district will be \$51.84 for the first 0-7,000 gallons and \$5.42 a thousand for anything over the initial charge.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

DISCUSSION: The rate of \$51.84 is 15% over the Town’s charge. The rate of \$5.42 is 20% over the cost of what the Town of Plattsburgh is charging the district.

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION 24-35

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls enter into an agreement with Eagle’s Nest Veterinary Hospital, for the year 2024 to harbor and treat all dangerous dogs seized in the town

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION: This is a requirement that is mandatory for all towns per NYS Agriculture and Markets Law. Eagle’s Nest requires a \$500.00 retainer fee for this contract. All fees that will be charged for the services provided by Eagle’s Nest Veterinary Hospital are outlined in the attached contract

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RESOLUTION 24-36

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

WHEREAS, The Town of Plattsburgh Water and Wastewater Committee met and agreed to keep the current O&M in place and just bill for the services and materials as they occur for the Morrisonville Water District. It is \$0.11 per bill print plus postage. They would charge an hourly rate for the account clerk/typist as they currently do for Woods Mills and Macey Lane. **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approves the Town of Plattsburgh to process billing for the Morrisonville Water District.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

CLAIMS

- General Abstract for the Month of December \$157,378.75**
- Highway Abstract for the Month of December \$68,548.63**
- Morrisonville Water Abstract for the Month of December \$4,970.90**
- Woods Mills Water Abstract for the Month of December \$1,726.00**
- Macey Lane Water Abstract for December \$10,396.55**
- Lighting District Abstract for the Month of December \$1,616.30**
- Capital Projects Abstract for December \$44,358.68**

Vouchers for Claims: (#202400017-202400151)

Payroll Vouchers: (#202301696-20231708)

Mr. Bruno made a motion to pay the claims, seconded by Mr. Aubin and Unanimously Approved.

AYES: Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

NEXT MEETING

Work Sessions (if needed) Wednesday 2/7/24 6:00 p.m.

Work Session (if needed) Wednesday 2/21/24 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Tuesday 2/27/24 6 :00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT Mr. Vernon Bruno made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Jason Bruno, and was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. ADJOURNMENT.