

TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS  
TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 27, 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	
Vic McCasland	X	
Kelsi Russell	X	
Nick Bracy	X	
Michael Snider	X	

PUBLIC RECOGNITION: Ryan Smith, Penny Cowan, Bob Guynup, Amy Davies, Barb Benkwitt

All Board Members were provided with a copy of the Minutes of the Town Board Regular Meeting on July 23, 2024.

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

AYES: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mr. Vern Bruno, Mrs. Smith

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS/ Friends of The North Country has 19 applications in progress 4 complete applications 5 assessments complete, write up scope of work-4 applications, Bidding applications-4, Pre-construction closing requirements-2. There is one project that is not completed as the board approved, therefore Mrs. Smith does not consider it complete.

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

RECEIPTS

Tax Collector/\$0

Town Clerk/\$489.80

Macey Lane Water \$471.77,

Morrisonville Water/\$3,431.50

Woods Mills Water/\$959.50,

Judge VanNortwick/\$2,075.50.

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

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

PLANNING BOARD/ No minutes submitted

ZONING BOARD/ No minutes submitted

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

HIGHWAY/Mr. Snider expressed that the Highway Department got their new roadside mower and have been using that steadily. Mr. Snider expressed that they have mowed most of the Town roadsides. He expressed he did not think they would mow again before winter. He also explained that they have been doing ditching and cutting shoulders. They have put down a few new shoulders with the new road widener. The Highway Department also received their mining permit so they are good for five years. Mr. Vern Bruno questioned the amount of time left with the current pit; Mr. Snider is hoping to get another five years. He explained that they had changed the way they were doing things. He said the easy work was done last year. He explained that they have been in and out of there doing quite a bit of work. Mr. Perrotte questioned how the employee situation was at the Highway Garage. He explained that he is short staffed and unexpectedly down another employee. Mr. Snider expects him to be out a few months. He explained that he has another employee out until at least November, and an employee who is leaving in a few days. He explained that he will then be down to two employees. Mr. Snider also expressed that he is hoping for a new Town Pickup Truck before the snow flies. Some brief discussion took place between Mr. Snider and Board Members at this time. Mr. Vern Bruno asked Mr. Snider if paving had begun. He explained that it had not but they were getting closer to beginning to pave.

SAFETY/CODES/Mr. Guynup expressed he has been busy with a lot going on. He explained that the County Garbage Cop stays busy as he keeps him abreast of what is going on. He has issued some order to remedy violations in the last week. He expressed if he does not see compliance within the time frame, he will then issue court appearance tickets. He explained that he will have the Sheriff's Department issue the court appearance tickets. There are a few applications next month for the Planning and Zoning Boards. Mr. Vern Bruno explained that he got a call from a constituent about a neighbor who has a large pine tree that is all rotted out. The neighbor offered to cut it and the individual refused. Mr. Vern Bruno questioned, what happens if the tree comes over on to their house. Mr. Guynup expressed that it is a civil matter. Mr. Guynup questioned the

location and Mr. Vern Bruno expressed he would speak with him privately. Mr. Jason Bruno questioned the status of the house on the Turnpike. Mr. Guynup expressed that he had spoken with Mrs. Smith about this matter earlier and that the timeframe is 60 days from the previous court appearance. Further discussion took place on the matter. Mr. Bracy expressed that they will probably be back in court and are probably several steps away from having the matter levied on the taxes.

WATER/ Phase one of Morrisonville Water is in full swing and is almost complete. P.M. Leary predicts they will be done before their expected end date in October. There have been many questions from homeowners who want to hook into the system, unfortunately this is not an option due to how the grant was written. Mrs. Smith will continue to find options for residents who may be interested in water service. Final plans for Rickson Avenue have been sent to the Health Department for approval. Once approved the project will go out to bid. Mrs. Smith expressed her happiness to get these resident's clean water. Macey Lane is still in progress. Since things are moving slower than anticipated we are taking a different approach to get some answers. After completing a resolution tonight and receive bids we can move forward. She expressed that she feels after this construction is complete, we will have answers to what the next approach will be. Phase Two of the Morrisonville Water project is ready for bid. Mrs. Smith has put in a lot of work to get this project going since she took office in January. Sand Road Water District specifics seem to be worked out and a meeting will take place for affected residents next month.

TOWN CLERK/The Town Clerk is working with DEC to establish the ability to sell hunting and fishing licenses. Hopefully this will be resolved soon. The office of the Town Clerk will return to regular business hours on Tuesday September 3, 2024. Regular business hours are 9am-4pm Monday-Thursday.

SUPERVISOR/ It has been a busy month at the Town. Mrs. Smith thanked everyone who participated in the Town Field Day. It was a fantastic day. Girl Scout Troop 4202 girls have been earning their Bronze Award and requested permission from Mrs. Smith to install a butterfly garden at the Town Hall. They have prepped the area with topsoil, installed a post for bird feeders. She also encouraged everyone to look at the project. Mrs. Smith expressed she is working on a grant to update the Town's heating and cooling systems. Mrs. Smith feels the upgrades that will hopefully take place with this grant will save the town money in the future. Mrs. Smith has a meeting scheduled for September to go over the next steps for this grant.

ATTORNEY/ Mr. Bracy expressed he had nothing to report.

COUNCILMAN/ Mr. Aubin and Mr. Perrotte spoke with Morrisonville EMT's about the Town's contract for the next four years. The councilman also spoke with CVPH EMT's about the Town's contract for the next four years.

HISTORIAN/ Mrs. Benkwitt expressed that she received a call from someone seeking information about the new Schuyler Falls Cemetery. She also expressed they may have a scanner that can digitize documents. She explained that the gentleman is from Syracuse area and is trying to write a book about his ancestors. She also expressed that digitizing some things in the historian's office is eventually the goal. Mrs. Benkwitt explained that she is working on a grant to try to get a registered district in Schuyler Falls. This would help homeowners with older houses if they wanted to do renovations and if they follow National Parks guidelines tax abatement is available. Mrs. Benkwitt asked for any artifacts from old Schuyler Falls.

PLANNING BOARD/ Mr. McCasland expressed that the Planning Board has not had a meeting in two months.

DOG CONTROL/The Dog Control Officer has been busy with a couple of stray dogs running around; however, they have been able to maintain their ownerships and not worry about any difficulties. Mr. Vern Bruno asked about the dog shelter certification. Mrs. Smith expressed that the shelter that we went with is still certified. She expressed that we still have Elmore SPCA as an option as well.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CLAIMS: Mr. Vern Bruno made a motion to pay the claims; Seconded by Mr. Jason Bruno.

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Smith expressed that the board needs to go over the Solar Energy Law. Individuals are approaching the Town about Solar Farms. Further discussion took place between board members and the Codes Enforcement Officer about this matter. Mrs. Smith has a copy of Town of Peru Solar Energy Law to work from. Mr. Guynup expressed that at the decommissioning, a bond must be posted. He also explained the Public Energy Benefit and how that works. He also expressed that we will be seeing more and more of these types of requests since New York wants to have a percentage of their energy from alternate sources. Further discussion took place on the matter.

#### RESOLUTIONS

##### RESOLUTION#24-114

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board acknowledges and accepts Pete Eastman's resignation from his position MEO/Mechanic effective September 2, 2024.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION: Mr. Aubin asked if this was the gentleman that was just hired a few months ago. Mr. Snider expressed that if a higher wage could be established, he would do so. Mrs. Smith also added that this position entails less of a commute for Mr. Eastman.

**RESOLUTION #24-115**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Smith

**WHEREAS,** The Town Highway Department is requesting authorization from the Town Board to apply for the 2024 Local Highway Salt Reduction Grant.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Highway Department to apply for the 2024 Local Highway Salt Reduction Grant.

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Perrotte

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Perrotte asked if this would be done through Mr. Snider's office. Mr. Snider explained that it would have to be done at the Town Hall. Mr. McCasland asked if Mr. Snider had ever looked in to using beet juice instead of salt. Mr. Snider expressed that he had never heard of using beet juice. Mr. McCasland expressed that this is used in Canada and does not affect vehicles or water supply.

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

**RESOLUTION#24-116**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Smith

**RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves that a position will be advertised. The position will be a MEO for the Highway Garage.

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Vern Bruno

**DISCUSSION:** The position will be advertised in the Press Republican as well as on the town website.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-117**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Vern Bruno

**RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves that a position will be advertised. The position will be a MEO/Mechanic for the Highway Garage.

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Aubin

**DISCUSSION:** The position will be advertised in the Press Republican as well as the town website. Starting wage is not disclosed because it is a union position.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-118**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Perrotte

**RESOLVED,** that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board acknowledges and accepts the reinstatement of the Youth Commission Board.

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Jason Bruno

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. McCasland asked what the Youth Commission Board was. Mrs. Smith explained that previously the town had a six-member Youth Commission Board. Mrs. Smith explained that the board chooses/approves this volunteer board. The purpose of this board is for anything pertaining to youth. i.e. games, fundraisers, activities, etc. Mr. Jason Bruno inquired about the cost to the town. Brief discussion took place on the matter.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-119**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Smith

**RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves that a request for bids will be advertised. The request for bids will be for a 2500 Crew Cab Work Truck with snowplow prep or the equivalent to.

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Jason Bruno

**DISCUSSION:** Mrs. Smith expressed that this vehicle was for the Highway Department. Mr. Vern Bruno questioned the need for another vehicle with a plow. Mr. Sinder expressed that this vehicle will only be prepped for a plow. Mr. Perrotte also questioned the need for another vehicle. Brief discussion took place about the necessity of an additional vehicle. It was explained that this vehicle is specifically meant for the Highway Department. Mr. Snider explained that this vehicle is supposed to replace his. Mr. Vern Bruno questioned what would happen with his current vehicle. Mr. Snider expressed that it would likely go to auction due to the needed maintenance. Mrs. Smith questioned if a specific issue, where the vehicle was cutting out and needing to be restarted. Mr. Snider explained it had not been resolved. The question was posed by the board about money in the budget to make this purchase. Mr. Snider assured the board that the money was indeed in the budget. Mr. Snider questioned about how the advertisement would be put into the paper and how many bids were needed since it is not on state contract. Mr. Vern Bruno inquired about what the vehicle would have for options as he wanted to make sure it is a basic work truck.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-120**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Vern Bruno

**RESOLVED,** that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board acknowledges and accepts the bid from Laware Construction for Pickleball Court Construction in the amount of \$27,305.00.

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Aubin

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Vern Bruno questioned the location of the pickleball court. Mrs. Smith explained that it would be at the Town Hall and explained the exact location. Mr. Vern Bruno questioned if testing had been done to ensure there would not be a water problem. Mrs. Smith will inquire with Mr. Campbell but explained that the existing pickleball court issues were because of the base. Further discussion of the bid and cost breakdown took place.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-121**

**MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves that a request for bids will be advertised. The request for bids will be to dig up two lateral lines at Macey Lane and replace with two new lateral lines if needed in the lower (P) Section of Macey Lane.

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno**

**DISCUSSION:** Mrs. Smith explained that the addition onto section (P) was being completed by Garrow's. At the same time there was a break. Town of Plattsburgh came to fix the break and insured that it was fixed. The lateral line that went to the house had a pencil lead sized hole for water to run through in the pipe. The laterals have not been changed since the property owners ran off of well water. The wells were decommissioned and they did not change anything. People are having problems with water pressure. Further discussion took place on this matter. Mrs. Smith explained that at this time the town is going to cover the cost and then look at options and choose the best one. More discussion took place about what needs to be done to fix this issue. Mr. Aubin questioned how many houses are on the street. Mr. Jason Bruno questioned how many homes were having this type of issue? Mr. Dabrowski expressed that there were 41 homes on the street. He explained the matter further with the board. Mrs. Smith expressed that we must start somewhere to figure out what we are dealing with. Depending on the results, grants can be applied for to help defray costs. Mr. Vern Bruno questioned Mr. Dabrowski if he thought it was the laterals. Mr. Dabrowski explained that he did think it was the laterals. He explained that every house had to install a filter system and that filters were not lasting the proposed timeline therefore had to be changed more frequently to achieve better pressure. Further discussion took place among the board about this matter. Mr. Dabrowski discussed this further with the board to provide information as he knows and understands it. Mr. Perrotte questioned the purpose of this resolution. Mrs. Smith expressed that this resolution is just a request for bids.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-122**

**MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board acknowledges and accepts the bid from \_\_\_\_\_ for Pickleball Court Fence Construction in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin**

**DISCUSSION:** The Town received two bids for the pickleball court fence. One bid was from C&E Fencing, the other was from Freedom Fence. Mrs. Smith explained that both bids had the same specifications. She also read through the specifications. C&E Fencing was at \$27,083.00, and Freedom Fence is \$23,460.00. Bids were available for board members to look at. A constituent inquired about warranties. After discussion, the motion was tabled to inquire about warranties.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-123**

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls (Board), State of New York, held on August 27, 2024 the following resolution was made by Mr. Perrotte and was subsequently seconded by Mrs. Smith.

**WHEREAS**, Laberge Group, a duly licensed Engineering firm permitted to practice in the State of New York, had previously been retained by the Town to prepare Contract Documents for MORRISONVILLE WATER DISTRICT-WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS-PHASE 2 DISTRIBUTION (Project) which will replace the existing distribution mains within the Morrisonville Water District, and

**WHEREAS**, Laberge Group has prepared the required Contract Documents necessary for the projects, and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon approval of the agencies, the Town Clerk is authorized to advertise for construction bids for the Project using the aforesaid Contract Documents, as they may be revised by agency comments, with a bid opening date of October 2, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.

**DISCUSSION:** This resolution will allow the Town Clerk to put Phase two of Morrisonville Water out to bid.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-124**

**MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board Appoints James Hockney to the Zoning Board of Appeals, appointment effective immediately and to expire on December 31, 2027.

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno**

**DISCUSSION:** The board member is required to complete the training as required by state statute to obtain four hours of training per year. The board member will have 6 months to complete the required training. This resolution will rescind resolution number 24-94 due to a typographical error.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. McCasland questioned which board Mr. Hockney is serving on. Mr. Hockney serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

**RESOLUTION #24-125**

**MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the purchase of a computer for both the Recreation Director and Historian.

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Perrotte**

**DISCUSSION:** The purchase price of the computers will be up to \$1,000.00 each. The computers must be purchased through Layer Eight as they will not support any computer equipment that is not purchased through them. Discussion took place about the total purchase price for the computers. Mr. Vern Bruno asked if the Recreation Department already had a computer. Mrs. Smith explained that Layer Eight has tried to fix it to no avail, so it is time to replace/upgrade. Mr. Vern Bruno asked if this would be advertised for bid. Mrs. Smith explained we are unable to advertise for bid since Layer Eight will not support a system/equipment that they do not sell.

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

**CLAIMS**

General Abstract for July \$32,927.26  
Highway Abstract for July \$30,515.59  
Morrisonville Water for July \$9,793.59  
Woods Mills Water for July \$2,233.23  
Macey Lane Water for July \$758.28  
Lighting District Abstract for July \$0.00  
Capital Projects Abstract for July \$25,612.02  
Payroll Claims: (#202401057-202401108)  
Audit Only (#202401109-202401122)  
Claims (#202401123-202401243)

Mr. Vernon Bruno made a motion to pay the claims, seconded by Mr. Jason Bruno  
AYES: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Jason Bruno, Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mrs. Smith

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Penny Cowan addressed the board and expressed her pleasure and gratitude for the Town Field Day. She expressed that it was a great community event and she could tell the hard work that was put into it. She also thanked the town and expressed the same sentiments from the Democratic Committee. Mr. Dabrowski addressed the board about a specific property he has inquired about before. Mrs. Smith and the board expressed that the property discussed earlier is indeed the property he has inquired about before. He questioned about the sixty-day timeline for the property. Mrs. Smith expressed at the sixty-day timeline is a timeline to have improvements finished. Mr. Dabrowski expressed that something had gone on around August 20, 2024 with two trooper cars. Mrs. Cowan addressed the board and expressed that when the new pickleball court is installed she will come and teach the board how to play. Mr. Dabrowski wondered how noisy it would be and asked if it would be far enough away from houses that people would not complain. Discussion took place on this matter. Mrs. Benkwitt expressed that if windows were open in her old office she could hear people playing pickleball in the past. Mrs. Cowan expressed that at a local church, hours were set to not interrupt service times. Amy Davies from Casella, addressed the board about the local Hazardous Waste Day. 256 vehicles were accepted. Two Non-Profit Organizations and Two Schools. They did a post collection survey and received many positive responses. She again thanked the town for being a host community for this event.

Mrs. Smith felt that the Work Session on 9/4/24 was not necessary. The board agreed. There will be a Work Session on 9/18/24.

Mr. Vernon Bruno made a motion to go into a board only Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Bruno. The board entered Executive Session at 7:05 P.M. The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss job performance. Mr. Jason Bruno made a motion to return to the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aubin. The board returned from Executive Session at 7:50 P.M. Several board members questioned where the recording of meetings goes. The meetings are only recorded and not posted to the public. Further discussion took place on the matter. Mr. Perrotte expressed that the board had two matters to discuss. One issue that was discussed was the hours of the Town Clerk's Office. There were complaints about this and the board requested that the Town Clerk's Office resume regular hours as soon as possible. The Town Clerk requested time to adjust for child care purposes but will resume regular business hours on September 3, 2024. Mrs. Russell and the board discussed this matter briefly.

**NEXT MEETING**

Work Session (if needed) Wednesday 9/4/24	6:00 p.m.
Work Session (if needed) Tuesday 9/18/24	6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Tuesday 9/24/24	6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mr. Vern Bruno made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Aubin, and was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. ADJOURNMENT.

Kelsi Russell, Town Clerk