

TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS
TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

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

Member	Present	Absent
Jason Bruno	X	
Martin Perrotte	X	
Vernon Bruno		X
Timmy Aubin	X	
Vic McCasland	X	
Kelsi Russell	X	
Mike Snider	X	
Nick Bracy	X	

PUBLIC RECOGNITION: Richard Dabrowski, Sam Campbell, Jason Rock, Barb Benkwitt

All Board Members were provided with a copy of the Minutes of the Town Board Regular Meeting on August 27, 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, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

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

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

COMMUNICATIONS/

Charter Communications program cost is increasing by \$4.26 per month. The increase will affect Spectrum TV Plus, TV Select, Select Signature, Spectrum TV Choice and Spectrum Basic. Friends of The North Country has one application in progress. The application is also in Pre-Construction Closing.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

RECEIPTS

Tax Collector/\$0

Town Clerk/\$1774.20

Macey Lane Water \$

Morrisonville Water/\$993.24

Woods Mills Water/\$124.32

Judge VanNortwick/\$2,992.00

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

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

PLANNING BOARD/ Mr. Jason Bruno made a motion to approve and accept the minutes of the Planning Board dated September 3, 2024 as presented; Seconded by Mr. Aubin

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

ZONING BOARD/ No minutes submitted due to cancellation of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNCILMAN/ Mr. Jason Bruno inquired about the Friends of The North Country project in Pre-Construction. He asked about a project that was pending. Mrs. Smith explained that the project was still in the discussion phase. Mr. Jason Bruno also inquired about the Birchwood property which had been previously discussed.

HIGHWAY/ Mr. Snider expressed that he was beginning to order the salt needed for the winter. He explained that the paving has been finished and Soper Street is already striped. Mr. Snider expressed that he is still looking for help. Jobs have been advertised and applications are available. He has a couple good prospects, one of which he hopes to see approved tonight. He explained that in in between times, even with just the two men the trucks have been cleaned up a little bit. He explained that they have installed one sander already, and things are looking up even though they are down right now.

SAFETY/CODES/ Mr. Guynup expressed that there were questions on the Birchwood Drive property. He explained that Mr. Carlo has not done anything to clean up or improve the property appearance. There is a court date of October 9th 2024, hopefully something positive will come from that. Mr. Guynup expressed that he has otherwise been busy. He feels his hours seem to be working out ok and he is accessible. His emails and

calls into the town can come directly to his phone. He has been getting after people for property maintenance issues, some will need to be taken to the next step. He expressed that overall things have been going well.

WATER/ Supervisor Smith worked with the Town of Plattsburgh in regards to Macey Lane. The system was shut down at 9am this morning. They removed the check valves from the backflow devices located in the meter vault. They also removed the four-inch pressure reducing valve located in a manhole right before the residential area. She explained the process they went through and expressed that after the work on this area the PSI went up by ten, from 54 to 64. She expressed that they would see how things go with pressures in people's homes but that this is likely a less expensive option. Mr. Dabrowski expressed that the neighbors had expressed the pressure was already noticeably better than it had been. Supervisor Smith expressed that this was a step in the right direction. Phase two of Morrisonville Water has gone out to bid, there are quite a few companies interested in bidding. Bids will be opened on October 2, 2024 at 11AM. It is unsure whether construction will start this year or in the Spring. Once there is more information the residents will be updated with what to expect. Rickson Avenue will go out to bid tomorrow, and have a bid opening date of October 31, 2024. It is unsure if this project will start this year or if it will start in the Spring. The start date will depend on weather and contractor availability. There is a completion date of June 1, 2025. Supervisor Smith is still working on the NYSERDA grant for the Town Hall. An energy study will be completed on October 2, 2024. More information about the grant amount will be known in October.

TOWN CLERK/All board members have been provided with a copy of the 2025 tentative budget. DEC unfortunately has put a hold on my paperwork due to their busy season. Other than the DEC hold and delay things seem to be going well in the office.

SUPERVISOR/ The budget officer has been working on getting all the numbers in the tentative budget. All board members have been provided with a copy this evening. Budget work sessions will take place on the following dates:

October 2, 2024 6pm

October 7, 2024 6pm

October 8, 2024 (as needed) 6pm

October 9, 2024 (as needed) 6pm

HISTORIAN/Association of Public Historians of New York State Conference was last week, Mrs. Benkwitt attended the conference via zoom. Mrs. Benkwitt explained that America 250 is coming in 2026, There is a commission established in New York State to plan for America 250. Mrs. Benkwitt has a meeting October 1, 2024 to discuss the plans for America 250 in Clinton County. She explained that the Battle of Valcour is a part of America 250. Mrs. Benkwitt expressed that if anyone had any suggestions or ideas for America 250 to send them her way. Mrs. Benkwitt also mentioned that someone from the tall ships will be part of the July 4th festivities in 2026.

RECREATION/ Mr. Campbell expressed that soccer season is coming to an end in about a week and a half. Mowing has started to slow down. Mr. Campbell also expressed that he is trying to get some things painted. He is beginning to make winter plans for his department and basketball should be going by December 1, 2024.

PLANNING BOARD/ Mr. McCasland expressed that a meeting was held on September 3, 2024.

DOG CONTROL/ Mrs. Smith reported that Mr. Christon has been working on a couple cases in town.

ATTORNEY Mr. Bracy asked the board about a property in a flat fee district. Mr. Bracy asked Supervisor Smith if she had expressed to the property owner to contact Mr. Bracy. Supervisor Smith expressed that this was not the case. He expressed to the property owner that he could not discuss or help with this matter because he represents the town. Mrs. Smith expressed that this could be discussed further after the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ Mrs. Smith expressed that she would like to have the board work on a Solar Energy Law. Mr. Perrotte expressed that this could be worked on at the next work session. Brief discussion took place on the matter.

CLAIMS: Mr. Aubin made a motion to pay the claims; Seconded by Mr. Perrotte.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

NEW BUSINESS/ None

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #24-126

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and accepts the bid from Freedom Fence for the installation of a fence for the Pickleball Court in the amount of \$23,460.00

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION: There is a one-year workmanship warranty. There is a twelve-year warranty on the fence material. The amount of \$11,370.00 is due upon contract signing, the remainder of \$11,370 is due upon completion of the job.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

RESOLUTION #24-127

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and accepts the bid from Goss Chevrolet for a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Crew Cab Work Truck 4WD for the Highway Department in the amount of \$52,582.50.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Perrotte

DISCUSSION: The original quote received on State Contract for a similar vehicle with extras was \$64,435 from Huttig Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram was tabled. Mr. Jason Bruno asked Mr. Snider what was going to be done with the old truck? Mr. Snider explained that it was a money pit, and really should be sold. Mr. Jason Bruno asked if Mr. Snider needed the truck for anything? Mr. Snider explained that he did not need it for anything, and his plan would be to sell it due to the shape that it is in. Mr. Snider asked if it had been checked to see if they would take it for a trade. Further discussion took place on this matter.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

RESOLUTION#24-128

At a Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls, held on September 24th, 2024, the following resolution was made by Mr. Aubin and was subsequently seconded by Mr. Perrotte.

WHEREAS, the Town Board had previously authorized Laberge Group, a duly licensed professional engineering firm in the State of New York, to prepare Contract Documents in sufficient form to permit the public bidding of water main improvements in and around Rickson Avenue;

WHEREAS, Laberge Group has prepared said documents and the Town Board approves the documents and finds them ready to be used for public bidding of the work proposed therein; and

NOW BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise the Rickson Avenue Water Improvements project for bid with an initial bid opening date of October 31st, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to extend the bid opening date if needed or as may be required to benefit the Town in the bidding process.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Jason Bruno questioned whether anything needed to be done as far as bidding for Laberge to be able to perform their duties. Supervisor Smith explained that Laberge did the original plans and the only thing taken out of the plans was the portion for Trombley Way. Mr. Perrotte asked if there was a charge for these services, Supervisor Smith explained that there was a charge for these services. Supervisor Smith explained that there was a charge for these services of approximately \$6,000 dollars. Mr. Jason Bruno inquired about Rickson Avenue and water contamination. He asked if anything was being done to try to find the source of contamination in that area. Supervisor Smith expressed that it was not being addressed. Mr. Jason Bruno felt that the matter should be investigated. Supervisor Smith expressed that it has been investigated for many years, but no answers have come to light.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

RESOLUTION#24-129

MOTION BY: Mr. Perrotte

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges and approves the hiring of Joseph Brink for this position with the following pay rate of \$24.55 an hour as set forth in the approved union contract.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION: The board members discussed this matter with Mr. Snider, they inquired about his interview. Mr. Snider expressed that he is knowledgeable. He expressed that he believes there is a future in everyone. Mr. Snider expressed that he lives on the Dumont Road in Beekmantown, so he is not very far. Mr. Aubin inquired if his paperwork had already been sent to the county. Mr. Snider explained that this was indeed the case. Questions from the board about his position and when he could start. The board discussed these questions with Mr. Snider.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

CLAIMS

General Abstract for August \$122,297.96

Highway Abstract for August \$66,539.64

Morrisonville Water for August \$10,208.09

Audit Only for August \$4,087.43

Woods Mills Water for August \$2,391.82

Macey Lane Water for August \$25,504.21

Lighting District Abstract for August \$0.00

Capital Projects Abstract for August \$41,372.46

Payroll Claims: (#202401244-202401276)

Audit Only (#202401277-202401288)

Claims (#202401289-202401353)

Mr. Aubin made a motion to pay the claims, seconded by Mr. Perrotte

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

ABSENT: Mr. Vernon Bruno

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Jason Rock addressed the board and expressed that everyone was doing a great job. He appreciates the fact that the meeting minutes are available on the website, however he suggested possibly waiting to post them until they are approved. He also inquired about the Codes/Zoning Officer's hours. Supervisor Smith explained that his hours were: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 3:30PM-6:00PM and Wednesday from 8:00AM-11:30AM. He asked if the website would reflect this change. Supervisor Smith thought that this was already done. Mrs. Russell expressed that it would be taken care of in the morning. Mr. Dabrowski addressed the board. He expressed that one of the questions he had was already answered. He questioned the cost of Phase one for Macey Lane and how much came out of the reserve fund. Supervisor Smith expressed that nothing was taken from the reserve fund. Mrs. Smith expressed that the monies came out of the ARPA Fund as it affected a group of people. Mr. Dabrowski questioned what Supervisor Smith knew about a previous dig. Supervisor Smith expressed that she was aware of the situation and no sediment was found. Mr. Dabrowski expressed that the valve in front of this home was partially shut off or closed and they did open it. Supervisor Smith expressed that she felt it was going in the right direction. Mr. Dabrowski also inquired about the Birchwood Drive property. Mr. Dabrowski questioned what would happen if the individual did not show up for his court date. Mr. Bracy expressed that it would be up to Judge Vannortwick. Further discussion took place on the matter.

NEXT MEETING

Work Session (if needed)	Wednesday 10/2/24	6 PM
Work Session (if needed)	Monday 10/7/24	6 PM
Work Session (if needed)	Tuesday 10/8/24	6 PM
Work Session (if needed)	Wednesday 10/9/24	6 PM
Work Session (if needed)	Wednesday 10/16/24	6 PM
Regular Meeting	Tuesday 10/22/24	6 PM

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

Kelsi Russell, Town Clerk