

TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS
TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 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: Barb Benkwitt, Ryan Smith, Bob Guynup, Ryan Lee, Casey McClane

All Board Members were provided with a copy of the Minutes of the Town Board Regular Meeting on October 22, 2024, the Public Hearing on November 6, 2024, Public Hearing on November 7, 2024, and the Special Meeting on November 7, 2024

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

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

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

ADDRESSEE/

Ryan Lee from Acrisure Insurance presented some insurance material and information to the board and public so that the board members could consider a change in broker of record. Mr. Lee explained the insurance would stay the same but the broker of record would change to Acrisure. for insurance purposes. NBT is the current carrier for insurance. Supervisor Smith explained that Acrisure provides the same insurance the town currently has but provides a few more services/incentives. Mr. Lee and Mr. McLane provided further detail about what they had to offer the town in their presentation to the board.

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. Jason Bruno.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

RECEIPTS

Tax Collector/\$0

Town Clerk \$693.40

Macey Lane Water \$343.82

Morrisonville Water/\$1,656.37

Woods Mills Water/\$1,757.70

Judge VanNortwick/\$4,266.00

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

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

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

PLANNING BOARD/ Mr. Jason Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes of the Planning Board dated October 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vernon Bruno.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte

ZONING BOARD/No minutes submitted due to no meeting scheduled.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNCILMAN/No report given.

HIGHWAY/ Mr. Snider expressed that there will be a good auction to get rid of some things that have not been used or needed for quite some time. He expressed they are looking to get rid of an old tractor that has been around for many years and replace it with a new one. He expressed that things are getting better in the highway department. He explained that he has a new hire who is in attendance tonight. He expressed that he also has someone in mind for the MEO/Mechanic position but needs more time. He expressed that they are still getting trucks ready. He also expressed that there was a major issue with one of the trucks. He did not even get the truck out of the highway garage parking lot. He explained that he had put money into repairs on this truck and it is in very bad shape. Mr. Vernon Bruno questioned why the trucks are not washed after a day of salting and sanding. Mr. Snider explained that they do wash the trucks on a regular basis. Mr. Snider discussed these matters further with the board members. He did express that things are getting better and good things take time. Mr. Jason Bruno expressed that he had received questions from people about the shoulders of the road. Discussion took place on the matter. Supervisor Smith questioned when some employees were returning from vacation. Mr. Snider explained that they will return in a couple of weeks. He expressed that these employees

are a phone call away if they are needed. Mr. Jason Bruno enquired how many men Mr. Snider had working at this time. Mr. Snider explained he had two men working currently. Mr. Jason Bruno enquired about shared services from other towns with shoulder work. Mr. Snider discussed this matter further with him. Mr. Snider expressed that the highway department has been very blessed with shared services for paving. Mr. Snider expressed again that it had been a good year even though it may not seem that way. Mr. Jason Bruno enquired about the salt/sand for the garage. Mr. Snider expressed that it was all done and he is all set. Mr. Smith questioned if the truck that broke down would be put in the auction. Mr. Snider explained that he had hoped that would occur at some point because it should be out of service now. He also expressed that it was one of the main trucks. Supervisor Smith shared photos with the board of the shape that the truck is in. Discussion took place with Mr. Snider and the board on this matter. Discussion also took place on the cost of a new truck and the turnaround time to order a truck. Mr. Guynup questioned where the highway department stood on the state requiring electric trucks. The matter was briefly discussed. He expressed that it is still in the works.

WATER/ Supervisor Smith expressed that work is finished on Flat Rock Road. Mr. Vernon Bruno asked if all the people were happy with the work. Supervisor Smith expressed that it seems people are happy as she is not getting complaints. She expressed that she would like Mr. Snider to look at the shutoff valves in that area as she feels they are a little bit high. Supervisor Smith also explained that there will be a meeting on December 4, 2024.

SAFETY/CODES/ Mr. Guynup expressed that he and Mr. Snider looked at Mr. Glode's subdivision on Matthew's way. He expressed that the codes officer needs to have input on subdivisions from the Highway Superintendent. He expressed that they had a discussion regarding the matter. Highway Superintendents do not always attend meetings but the code officer would be in attendance. Mr. Guynup expressed the importance of this step. Mr. Bruno questioned if there was an update on the Carlo case, Mr. Guynup discussed this matter further with the board. Mr. Guynup also expressed that he is starting to do inspections for multiple family dwellings. Supervisor Smith enquired about commercial properties as well. Mr. Guynup discussed this matter with the board. Mr. Smith questioned the fee associated with this. Mr. Guynup explained that it is likely seventy-five dollars.

TOWN CLERK/ Mrs. Russell expressed that since she has appointed a deputy the training process has begun. Mr. Vernon Bruno expressed that he felt it was in the best interest of the town that the deputy not be alone in the office until she is trained. Mrs. Russell expressed that the deputy had been alone but that she could change this practice until she is fully trained if the board would prefer. The matter was discussed briefly. Mr. Vernon Bruno asked about the status of hunting licenses, Mrs. Russell has not heard anything but will investigate the matter further tomorrow. Brief discussion took place on the matter.

ASSESSOR/ Mrs. Smith has been notified that our assessor, Mr. Drollette is retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Vernon Bruno asked if there was anyone lined up for this position. Supervisor Smith explained that the county cannot take the town on their caseload at this time. Discussion took place on this matter. Mr. Drolette is willing to stay on for a short time if the town cannot find a replacement.

PLANNING BOARD/ Mr. Guynup discussed the solar energy law briefly. It has been sent to the county and is on their agenda for the December 4, 2024 meeting. He expressed that there is a project with a site plan review submitted. Mr. Guynup expressed that the planning board cannot act on the matter if the local law has not been adopted. He explained that if they wanted to act on this matter, it would be a use variance. Mr. Guynup explained that it is just a matter of time that must run its course and follow proper procedure.

DOG CONTROL/ No report given

ATTORNEY/No report given.

SUPERVISOR/ Supervisor Smith expressed that the Town had been approved for a \$10,000 energy grant. Zones for each room have been recommended with their own thermostat, the window in the historian's office needs repair as it does not close. Supervisor Smith explained that these are recommendations of what needs to be done with the grant money, however she has not researched any costs for these repairs. Mrs. Smith explained that this is a NYSERDA grant. Mr. Vernon Bruno asked about the Rickson Avenue water project. Supervisor Smith explained there is a resolution for that project on tonight's agenda. Mr. Vernon Bruno also asked about the Macey Lane project, Supervisor Smith explained that no more work has been needed at this time. She also explained that it is up to the town if they would like to proceed, the only difference would be to make that 4-inch pipe an 8-inch pipe all the way through. Brief discussion took place on the matter.

HISTORIAN/ Ms. Benkwitt expressed that there was a kickoff meeting for America 250. She also expressed that she received an artifact from Supervisor Smith and the Highway Department. She explained that it is a surveyor's transit. She expressed she had pictures to share if board members wished to see them. She also provided some more information on the artifact.

RECREATION/ No report given

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ None

NEW BUSINESS/ None

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #24-139

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

WHEREAS, the Annual Fall 2024 Taking the Bench Certification Course offered by the Office of Court Administration is being held at Castleton on the Hudson.

WHEREAS, Shirley Smith, newly elected Town Justice would like to attend the training be it therefore, RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the attendance of said conference and expenses will be chargeable to the General Fund as provided for in the 2024 budget.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION: Cost to the Town includes: registration, mileage, meals, and hotel accommodations.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION #24-140

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls, held on November 20, 2024, the following motion was made by Mrs. Smith and subsequently seconded by Mr. Vernon Bruno

WHEREAS, bids for Rickson Avenue Water System Improvements were received on October 31, 2024; and WHEREAS, the Consulting Engineers, Laberge Engineering & Consulting Group Ltd., have submitted their report relative to the analysis of bids.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the recommendation of said engineers be hereby accepted, approved, and adopted; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Rickson Avenue Water System Improvements be hereby awarded to Luck Brothers Inc. 73 Trade Road, Plattsburgh, Ny 12901 in the amount of \$193,442.00

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-141

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls approves and authorizes the Town Supervisor and Highway Superintendent to sign the contract from Clinton County for the snow removal, sanding and treating of the county roads during the 2024-2025 snow and ice season for \$115,094.00.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION: Mr. Jason Bruno questioned that this was the one-year agreement and then the town would renegotiate.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-142

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges the need for advertisement of a public hearing for improvement of facilities of Morrisonville Water District.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for said public hearing.

SECONDED BY: Mrs. Smith

DISCUSSION: This matter is what the board had discussed to notify the public informing them that the bond amount had been increased from 8.1 to 10.74.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-143

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department would like to purchase a windscreen for the Pickleball court. be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the windscreen will be purchased from fencescreen.com in the amount of \$2,719.38

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Smith explained to the board what a windscreen is. The funds being used for this purchase are from ARPA Funds. The board discussed the price point of this purchase.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-144

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department would like to purchase a pavement coating for the Pickleball court. be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the pavement coating will be purchased from Advantage Tennis in the amount of \$13,700

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

DISCUSSION: this price includes two coats of Sportmaster Acrylic and two coats of Sportmaster Colorplus Texture. Mr. Vernon Bruno questioned the location of the pickleball court. It will be located at the town hall. Further discussion took place among the board members about the pickleball court.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-145

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

WHEREAS, the Town of Schuyler Falls has several pieces of equipment and other surplus items that will be sent to auction with AAR Auctions

RESOLVED, that the Town Board acknowledges the auction of surplus items.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

DISCUSSION: No discussion took place on this matter

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-146

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls acknowledges the need for advertisement of a public hearing for the Town of Schuyler Falls Housing Rehabilitation Program 1047HR306-22

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for said public hearing.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Smith explained that this public hearing is for Friends of the North Country. It will be on the same day as the meeting for Morrisonville Water just a half hour earlier. Further brief discussion took place on the matter.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-147

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

WHEREAS, the Highway Department would like to purchase a Kubota M7060HDC12 Utility Cab Tractor, 4WD, Hydraulic-Shuttle Transmission Tractor from Dragoon’s Farm Equipment.

RESOLVED, that the tractor will be purchased from Dragoon’s Farm Equipment in the amount of \$67,306.64

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

DISCUSSION: This is a Sourcewell product therefore sealed bids are not required. The question was presented about what a Sourcewell product is. Supervisor Smith explained that this is similar to state contract therefore multiple bids are not required. Questions arose about the purchase of this tractor and the need to purchase a new truck in the future. The board and highway superintendent discussed this matter further.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-148

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

RESOLVED, that the Town Board re-appoints Anice Lamora to the Board of Assessment Review appointment effective immediately and to expire on September 30, 2029.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

DISCUSSION: Mr. Vernon Bruno questioned what board this re-appointment was for. Supervisor Smith explained that this is for a seat on the Board of Assessment Review.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

RESOLUTION#24-149

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

WHEREAS, the Town of Schuyler Falls needs to do some tree removal at Jefferson Duquette Memorial Park (Salmon River Road Park)

RESOLVED, that the work will be done by Kravitz Forestry Services LLC. Payment will be \$15,000 and will be subtracted from the Town’s ARPA Funds

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vern Bruno

DISCUSSION: Mr. Vern Bruno asked if this was sent out to bid. Supervisor Smith explained that it did not require bid because it is under the dollar amount required for bid. Further discussion took place on this matter as to what was included in the quoted price. Mr. Jason Bruno questioned the need for sand due to the fact that the town has a sand pit and that may be a potential savings. Discussion took place on the matter.

ROLL CALL	AYE	NAY
Martin Perrotte		
Vernon Bruno	X	
Timmy Aubin		
Jason Bruno	X	
Mindy Smith	X	

APPROVED

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

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

ABSENT: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Aubin

CLAIMS

General Abstract for October \$12,609.10

Highway Abstract for October \$125,370.57

Audit Only for October \$4,208.98

Capital Projects Abstract for October \$13,867.39

Woods Mills Water for October \$1655.93

Morrisonville Water for October \$7,008.36

Macey Lane Water for October \$630.97

Lighting District Abstract for October \$0.00

Fire District Abstract for October \$0.00

Payroll Claims: (#202401499-202401531)

Audit Only (#202401532-202401543)

Claims (202401544-202401624)

PUBLIC FORUM No public addressed the board.

NEXT MEETING

Work Session	Wednesday 12/4/24	6 PM
Regular Meeting	Wednesday 12/18/24	6 PM

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

Kelsi Russell, Town Clerk

DRAFT