

Town Board Meeting held September 11, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in Schroon Lake N.Y.

Present:

Town Supervisor: Michael Marnell

Councilpersons: Don Sage, Clara Phibbs, Roger Friedman and Meg Wood

Town Clerk: Patricia Savarie

Highway Superintendent: Dana Shaughnessy

Also Present: Jay Phibbs, Albert May, Jane and Bob Claus, Mark Granger, Emily Rossi-Snook, Linda Milsom, Lester Speiser, Alan Press, Laura Dewey, Rich Nawrot, Ross Schoemts, Everest McNeill, Betsey Ross, Anne Durkee, Shelly Thomas, John Fear, Glen and Sue Repko, Diane D'Amico, and Joe Provoncha

Supervisor Marnell called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with a salute to the Flag.

Resolution #159 Approve Minutes

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to accept the minutes for August 14, 2017 for the Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M., Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:00 P.M., seconded by Councilman Friedman; carried.

Resolution #160 Pay Vouchers

Councilwoman Phibbs moved a resolution to pay the bills as reviewed, seconded by Councilman Sage; carried.

General Fund \$43,894.08 Sewer \$4,881.95 Highway \$182,235.90 Water \$2,691.77

Town Hall Project \$123,668.53 Waterfront Revitalization \$3,635.35

Presentation from the Library Board on Project

Joe Provoncha, from the Schroon Lake Library Board, stated that the trustees have been putting money away for the project. We have been doing fund raising and grant writing. We have received one grant for \$75,000.00 from the NYS Library Construction Grant for the brick and mortar to reduce the bond, \$50,000.00 from Senator Betty Little, \$7500.00 from The Adirondack Foundation ACT Grant, \$13,700.00 from Cloud-splitter Foundation Grant, which will be used for the circulation desk. A matching grant from Stewart's for \$1600.00 and \$3,000.00 from the Lake Placid Education Foundation Grant, a total of \$150,800.00 in grant money. We have applied for another grant for \$150,000.00 for the furnishings, wiring, security cameras and flooring. Anne Durkee stated that fund raising was going good but that they still need more donations. We have received \$39,000.00 from the Friends of the Library, \$20,000.00 Library Reserve Funds, \$10,000.00 Library Trustee personal donation and \$31,000.00 from the donation letter for a total of \$100,000.00.

Lake Level Elevation Monitoring System

Rich Nawrot, Vice Chair for the Schroon Lake Steering Committee, stated that everyone has been complaining about high lake levels. Elevated lake levels cause erosion, damage to property, impact on fish populations and a negative impact on recreational and business uses. At present there does not exist a scientific measurement system of the lake levels. The US Geological survey suggested to provide real information on the lake level so property owners can know of current conditions. Below are their proposal:

Proposal to Install and Operate a Lake Elevation Monitoring Station

on Schroon Lake, NY

U.S. Geological Survey
New York Water Science Center

Background: Schroon Lake is a 6.4 mi² lake located in Warren and Essex Counties, NY. The lake and its 316.5 mi² watershed lie entirely within New York's Adirondack Park. The shore of the lake is fairly developed with many first and second homes bordering the lake. Lake elevation is ostensibly controlled by the Starbuckville Dam 5 miles downstream of the lake outlet; the dam is owned and operated by the Schroon Lake Park District (SLPD) which is charged with maintaining a 806 foot (above NAVD88) lake surface elevation.

Problem: Schroon Lake is subject to a large range in water-surface elevation that can impair lake access, destabilize lake banks, increase shoreline erosion, and damage lake-front property. Because of these issues, the SLPD and shoreline community are often at odds concerning how the lake elevation is being managed. SLPD is limited in its ability to regulate lake elevation by the dam design and the 5 mile reach of river between the lake outlet and dam which plays a poorly defined role in controlling lake elevation.

In addition to lake regulation concerns, the shoreline community has a general perception that changes in watershed runoff are contributing to both an increased range in lake elevation and lake infilling. Very limited data exist as to how these changes are occurring over time.

Objective: Establish a near real-time lake elevation station to:

1) Provide SLPD and the community with real-time information about lake elevation. This will assist SLPD in maintaining their target lake elevation, inform lake shore property owners of current conditions on their property (particularly second home owners and others away from the lake), and provide data for boaters and others recreational users that depend on activities supported by a defined range in lake elevation.

2) Develop a long-term historic record of lake elevation to enable documentation of how the lake elevation changes in response to changing watershed inputs and dam operations. This record will be critical to modeling any redesign of the Starbuckville Dam or dredging between the lake outlet and dam.

3) Build a scientific understanding of the role the 5-mile river reach between the lake outlet and dam plays in controlling lake elevation.

Relevance and Benefits: The water-elevation station will benefit SLPD and the Schroon Lake Community by providing real-time lake elevation data to inform SLPD decision making while making lake elevation data readily accessible to the public. In addition, the station would establish a permanent archive of easily accessible water elevation data through the USGS National Water Information System database. The station will serve the USGS Water Mission Area by enhancing the quality of life of citizens using the lake, providing data for effective lake management, and reducing the possibility of damage to lake shore property.

USGS Services and Data Availability: Once a station is added to the USGS network, the data collected are stored as a part of the National Water Information System (NWIS). Stations are visited about once every eight weeks, and as needed, to service and quality-assure the instrumentation. Under the standard Operation and Maintenance agreement, the station is instrumented with an electronic data recorder that measures and records lake elevation every 15 minutes. The recorder is connected via satellite to USGS computers where data are downloaded and processed once every hour. The elevation data are available in near real-time on the USGS NWIS web system <http://waterdata.usgs.gov> and through the USGS New York Water Science (NYWSC) web page <http://ny.water.usgs.gov>.

Equipment and site maintenance are included in the annual cost, including instrument repairs and upgrades. In addition to the near real-time 15-minute data available on the web, data are evaluated in comparison to neighboring sites, reviewed, and finalized throughout the year. These results are published online annually.

NWISweb dependability cannot be guaranteed but some of the things we do to minimize missing data include:

- Data are reviewed for each site at least once every workday to make sure they are being transmitted;
- Automated data screening systems identify any delays in data transmission or other selected computer problems;
- Backup instruments are maintained by the NYWSC to be quickly swapped out for any instruments that may fail at a station;
- NWISweb computer servers are replicated and mirrored across the country at three locations and internet demands are load averaged over these three systems so that network failure in any one location should not limit access to the data;
- Should a long-term failure or catastrophic event affect the NYWSC computers or network, a “buddy” site has been established where all NWIS operations can be brought up within a matter of hours in another State – once operational this should be transparent to the end user;
- The National NWISweb system is manned 24/7;
- The NYWSC maintains an emergency after-hours messaging system so that anyone can get in touch with USGS NYWSC personnel at any time.

While it is impossible to foresee all possible system failures, the USGS NYWSC works diligently to get the data to you and our other stakeholders in a dependable and timely manner. Because sites are routinely visited every eight weeks, it is possible that a small inaccuracy in the data may occur during that period and may not be identified until the next planned site visit. Data will be revised based on the best available information as to when changes occurred.

WaterAlert: Once part of the USGS monitoring network, real-time stations can send an email or text message to alert you when Schroon Lake elevation exceeds a user-defined threshold. (<http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/>).

Budget:

Installation – USGS will install the equipment for free.

Operation and Maintenance - \$8,580 per year subject to an annual inflationary adjustment of typically no more than 3%. O&M charges based on a start date of October 1, 2016.

Rich Nawrot stated that the cost could be reduced by 15% by a USGS grant beginning October 1, 2017 which will reduce it to \$7,540.00. The East Shore Schroon Lake Association has agreed to contribute \$1,500.00 a year for the next three years, bringing it down to \$6,040.00, leaving the three towns to pay \$2,000.00 each.

Mark Granger, from the Schroon Lake Association, stated that the Schroon Lake Association had met and agreed that the proposal concerning the lake level elevation monitoring system go far beyond the jurisdiction and ability of the local towns. This is a regional and federal issue. Saddling the three Towns with over \$70,000.00 over the next 10 years to simply monitor a situation, simply does not make sense. This has to be a comprehensive approach to a bigger problem. We would like to involve an area wide approach from North Hudson to Warrensburg also measuring the level of the entire

Schroon-Paradox Watershed. We would like to find other sources of funding such as Warrensburg EMS and the Federal and State Government. An attempt to moderate the changes in lake and river bottoms which are occurring, which impact water flow and retention as well as the health of our watershed. The SLA Board does not believe that this proposal adequately addresses these concerns. We support a much wider outreach than our already beleaguered towns and are concerned that it will take away funds from much more solvable issues which we are facing. We look forward to working with the Steering Committee, East Shore Schroon Lake Association and the Paradox Lake Association on this project.

Change Dates for October and November Board Meetings

Monday October 16, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. and

Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Approval to Sign Time Warner Cable Upgrade for HHHN

Councilman Sage moved to table the Time Warner Cable upgrade for HHHN until they can get more information, seconded by Councilman Friedman; carried.

Resolution #161 Support for the Adirondack Local Government Review Board

Councilman Friedman moved a resolution to have the Town of Schroon agree to pay to the Review Board the sum of \$300.00 for the services of the Review Board in representing the town in matters relating to the Adirondack Park. The Review Board agrees to provide to the Town the benefit of its services, including but not limited to, attendance at meetings of the Adirondack Park Agency, attendance and participation at public hearings conducted by the Adirondack Park Agency to the Supervisor of the Town, especially as such activities affect the residents of the Town and generally to report on the administration and enforcement of the Land Use and Development Plan set forth in the executive Law of the State of New York, seconded by Councilman Sage; carried

Resolution #162 Hire Bond Council to Renew Ban for Town Hall Project

Councilwoman Phibbs moved a resolution to hire bond council Robert Hafner, to renew the ban for the Town Hall Project; seconded by Councilman Sage, carried.

Resolution # 163 Appropriate Money for Ban Payment

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to appropriate money from Fund balance for the Ban Payment of \$37,930.00, seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Resolution #164 Approve to hire Jordan Taylor for Boat Wash Station and Golf Course

Councilwoman Wood moved a resolution to hire Jordon Taylor for Boat Wash Station and Golf Course at the rate of \$11.08 per hour, seconded by Councilwoman Phibbs; carried.

I, Patricia J. Savarie, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript from the minutes now on file in my office and of the whole such original minutes.

Dated: September 19, 2017_____

Town Clerk