

Town Board Meeting held June 11, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in Schroon Lake N.Y.

Present:

Town Supervisor: Michael Marnell

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

Highway Superintendent: Dana Shaughnessy

Town Clerk: Patricia Savarie

Also Present: Albert May, Jay Phibbs, Skip and Fran Mahler and Loris Clark

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

Public Participation

Loris Clark, from the Schroon Lake- No. Hudson Historical Society, stated that they would be doing fund raising to put their new roof on in the fall, the cost is estimated at \$10,000.00 – 14,000.00. We will be doing our first fund raising event June 30, 2018 from 1 – 4 P.M. there will be “Art on the Lawn” with artist Duke Connor who will donate the profits from four of his painting to the Historical Society for the new roof and we will also be having a Ice Cream Social that day and we will except donations for that. Stewart’s is donating the Ice Cream. We will also be sending out a letter asking for donations.

Resolution #131 Approval of Minutes

Councilman Friedman moved a resolution to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held May 14, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. and the Special Town Board held May 23, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.. seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Resolution #132 Audit of Claim

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

General Fund \$20,161.64 Sewer \$ 6,769.65 Water \$4,423.53 Highway \$32,736.79

Resolution #133 Approve Alexis Subra for Laborer

Councilman Friedman moved a resolution to approve Alexis Subra as Laborer at the rate of \$11.08 an hour, seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Resolution #134 Approve Gabe Gratto as Lake Steward

Councilwoman Phibbs moved a resolution to approve Gabe Gratto for Lake Steward at the rate of \$11.08 an hour, seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Resolution #135 Approve John Osterhout as Boat Wash Attendant

Councilman Friedman moved a resolution to approve John Osterhout for Boat Wash Attendant at the rate of \$11.08 an hour, seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Resolution #136 Rescind Resolution #96 Hockey Rink Bids

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to rescind Resolution #96, Hockey Rink Bids, seconded by Councilman Friedman; carried.

Resolution #96 Award Bids for Hockey Rink

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to award the bids for the Hockey Rink contingent on Sunshine Jenkins approval, seconded by Councilman Friedman; carried.

Quality Hardware and Lumber for Materials for Roof \$44,099.11

AJ Catalfamo Construction Co.

Labor for Construction of Roof Concrete Piers \$67,800.00

Materials and Labor for Concrete Floor \$31,500.00

Resolution #137 Rescind Resolution # 122 Mike Mckee Mowing

Councilwoman Wood moved a resolution to rescind Resolution #122 to approve Mike McKee for mowing at cemetery's, seconded by Councilman Friedman; carried. (Councilman Sage – abstained)
Resolution #122 Approve Mike McKee for Mowing Cemetery's

Councilwoman Wood moved a resolution to hire Mike McKee to mow the Severance Cemetery and Protestant Cemetery at the rate of \$3500.00 for the season, seconded by Councilwoman Phibbs; carried. (Councilman Sage – abstained)

Resolution #138 Approval of 2018 Lifeguards

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to hire the 2018 Lifeguards, seconded by Councilwoman Phibbs; carried.

2018 Lifeguards

- Abigail Belrose \$11.08 an hour
- Emily Maisonville \$11.08 an hour
- Alysen Bruce \$11.08 an hour
- Alora Bearor \$11.08 an hour
- Bryce Vallie \$12.08 an hour (WSI) may not be available

Alternate Daniel Beaudoin \$11.08 an hour

Resolution #139 Approve Jeanne Melville to oversee Lifeguards

Councilwoman Phibbs moved a resolution to appoint Jeanne Melville to oversee the Lifeguards at the rate of \$1000.00 for the 2018 season, seconded by Councilman Sage; carried.

Approve bid for the Labor only on the Hockey Rink Roof

Councilman Sage moved to table the approval of the bids for the labor only on the Hockey Rink Roof until Supervisor Marnell is sure that they are paying prevailing wage and that the price includes shingling the roof, seconded by Councilwoman Phibbs; carried.

Resolution #140 Approve Additional Equipment for the Highway Truck

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to approve the additional equipment for the Highway Truck in the amount of \$76,471.60 for a total of \$201,997.88, seconded by Councilwoman Wood; carried.

Resolution #141 Appoint William Van Gorp to Waste Water Operator

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to appoint William Van Gorp to Waste Water Plant Operator at the rate of \$17.73 an hour effective May 16, 2018 and Congratulations, seconded unanimously ; carried.

Resolution #142 Refund to Peter Natoli for overcharge on Golf Course

Councilwoman Wood moved a resolution to reimburse Peter Natoli \$168.00 for overcharging him on his Visa at the Golf Course, seconded by Councilman Sage; carried.

Increase Water Units

Councilwoman Wood moved to table the increase in water units until they get something from the Water Department, seconded by Councilman Sage; carried.

Discussion on Stormwater Run Off

Supervisor Marnell stated if they are to take care of the Storm Water run off they would need to go out to bond for it. We have \$135,000.00 in grant money we can use but we will not receive it until the project is complete. The project will be funded by the Highway Budget and General Fund. The Board would like more accurate figures from the engineers as to the cost and if the project is doable. Supervisor Marnell stated with a project like this you never know what you may run into, the projected cost he thought would be around \$300,000.00. The Board would like a complete summary and cost from the engineers. Supervisor Marnell will contact the engineer.

Resolution #143 Treatment of Mosquitoes

Councilwoman Phibbs moved a resolution to hire Orkin at \$425.00 a month to be treated for two months with a break down of what they are using, seconded by Councilman Friedman; carried.

Resolution #144 Declare old Golf Course Shed as Surplus

Councilman Sage moved a resolution to declare the old Golf Course Shed as surplus, seconded by Councilman Friedman; carried.

Sewer Overflow at Word of Life Inn

On the 31st of May, the wastewater department was forced to deal with a spill of raw untreated sewage into Rogers Brook that should have been completely preventable through enforcement of our sewer use ordinances. At 10:30 am on the 31st I witnessed a large amount of sludge (not septage) and grease entering the plants influent well. I immediately went to find the origin of the abnormal amount of sludge and grease in our collection system and found that the manhole next to Rogers Brook, behind the Word of Life Inn was blowing grease and sewage into the brook. Fortunately, our department contained the spill within 2 hours of finding it, but we have no way of knowing how long it was leaking before we found it.

This is not the first time we have had issues in this location, in 2003 I had to do a complete rebuild of a pump at Dock Street Station after a piece of brick got into the pump, breaking the keyway on the shaft and the impeller. While trying to locate the origin of the brick I discovered the Word of Life installing new sewer lines to upgrade the private system they operate at the Inn. Without any prior notice they tied it into the same manhole that we found leaking last week. When I questioned them about the new line in the manhole I was told that it was their manhole. Four days after their sewer line upgrades started we had to take apart a pump at Dock Street Pump Station to remove a brick, then take apart the check valve a day later to remove a piece of concrete. Two days later we found a rock wedged into the impeller which burned up the drive motor for the pump. Two days after that we had to rebuild the pump's impeller and shaft. Three weeks after that we had to have the manhole on WOL's side of the brook sealed to stop all the sand and water running into it.

In a separate incident three years ago, Rogers Brook Pump Station's wet well was filled with sand and grease during another upgrade to Word of Life's system. Bill Jenks and I had to spend all night at the pump station running the pumps in hand to avoid a sewer overflow. The following day we had to call in technicians at our cost to repair the equipment. During another incident two years ago the pump station and plant were flooded with an extraordinary amount of grease. When I inquired to Word of Life I was told "we just had it pumped out", but conversations with some of their employees revealed that they were actually having some problems and had to dig up some of their lines. On average we have had issues with grease coming from the Word of Life Inn once every 2 ½ years. In the past, the sewer department was given a schedule including the number of people using the Inn, but we haven't been provided with one for several years now. I have observed a positive correlation between large groups using the Inn and grease over flows into our system.

The issue goes beyond the lack of maintenance on their grease trap as well. On several

occasions work has been done without a UFPO (Underground Facilities Protection Organization) approval. If Sewer lines and easements are marked out, a total disregard for regulations has become the standard practice for them. The storm drain for their island access boat launch is a prime example of this practice. I am also aware the town Water Department has had the same issue with the Word of Life.

All of these incidents come with a price tag on parts, chemicals, labor and overtime. At an average cost of \$4,000 - \$6,000 per incident we are well into the tens of thousands in total costs at this point. In the past I have tried, unsuccessfully, to get approval to bill the Word of Life for the costs incurred because of these issues. I have on numerous occasions brought the issue before the Town Supervisor, Department Head, Budget Officer and the Town Board so we could amend our ordinances to address the issue, but the wording on the ordinances has not been direct enough to allow for enforcement. Without improved ordinances that can be enforced we cannot control the efficiency of our operation and maintenance budget and the entire sewer district is forced to pay for the mistakes of a few.

Board Comments

Supervisor Marnell would like Jim Roblee to inspect all the Restaurants to see who needs to put in grease traps and report back to the board so they can have them all put in.

Councilman Friedman went to a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineering on May 29, 2018 there was a meeting with Roman Rakoczy from the Army Corps of Engineers. This came about from a letter sent to Clifford Jones, Chief of the Planning Division in the New York District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The meeting focused on the huge erosion problems from North Hudson via Schroon River in Schroon Lake which has direct negative impacts on Schroon Lake.

All in all the meeting was an excellent learning session. As someone stated "the meeting was great and was probably useful in making a lot of people aware of the issues. Hopefully this will help in getting funding soon to begin to address the problem."

The participation was excellent including Senator Betty Little, Assemblyman Dan Stec, Town Supervisors from Schroon, Horicon, North Hudson and Chester, Town Board members from Schroon and North Hudson, DEC and APA representatives, Trout Unlimited (the group that has already done studies in this area), Essex and Warren Counties Soil & Water Districts, Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board, Schroon Lake Association, East Shore Schroon Lake Association, Schroon Lake Watershed Steering Committee, Adirondack Lakes Alliance, Schroon Lake Park District, and concerned citizens.

Roman Rakoczy from the Army Corps of Engineers gave an in depth explanation of how the process works with the Army Corps. Many questions were asked and now it is up to the towns involved to chart a course of action. The Schroon Watershed Steering Committee will discuss this topic at their meeting on June 14.

There appears to be several options and there appears to be consensus that the project must attempt to correct the situation upstream – not in Schroon Lake. Furthermore it appears that the solution for Schroon River is creating a self-maintaining natural channel.

One thing was very clear: the assembled group is committed to results.

Councilman Friedman stated that Abigail Wisser discovered Zebra Mussels on a boat Saturday and had them go to the Boat Wash decontamination station on Route 74 to be disinfected, the boat came out of Saratoga Lake, great job Abby. We have wonderful Lake Stewards and Boat Wash Attendants this year.

Councilman Sage moved to adjourn a 7:20 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Wood; 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: June 13, 2018 _____

Town Clerk