



The Regular Meeting before the Town of Schuyler Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth M. Dodge at 6:55 PM at the Schuyler Town Office, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, New York.

Mr. Dodge led the assembled persons in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

Motion by Lucenti, second by Szesny that the Town Board dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 13, and 27th, 2010 and approve them as written; all in favor.

PAY BILLS

Motion by VanDusen, second by Lucenti, that the bills for the past month be paid as presented: General, #52 thru #97 and Highway, #20 thru #50; all in favor.

RESIDENT COMMENT

None.

**REPORT BY ANTHONY LUCENTI AND DAVE CARLSON
ON FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Mr. Lucenti reported that there was nothing new since the last meeting. A letter was submitted to Albany for the training seminar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION

REPORT BY DIRECTOR

Recreation Director Mary Fusillo said she would like to put an advertisement in the newsletter looking for two Assistant Directors, and also advertise for the Easter Egg Hunt which will take place at The Town Office Building on April 3rd.

— EASTER EGG HUNT —

April 3rd, 2010, 10:00 AM. Recreation Director Mary Fusillo said she is still working on the details for the hunt. She will meet with Mr. Lucenti on Wednesday at 6:30 PM to go over the details.

— EXTRAVAGANZA —

Next meeting is February 24, 2010, 6:30 PM.

CENSUS SCHOOL

Mr. Dodge also said there will be a Census Schooling session at the Town Office on February 24, 2010 at 5:30 PM for anyone who is interested in working for the Census Bureau.

HIGHWAY

**REPORT BY HIGHWAY
SUPERINTENDENT**

— SHARED SERVICES —

Superintendent of Highways Donald Sroka said Herkimer County did interviews and came up with a draft proposal regarding shared services. County Legislator Jim Bono said to prepare the report, C.G.R. conducted approximately 50 interviews with highway superintendents, town supervisors, city and village public works, county legislators and county staff.

Herkimer County has 1,500 miles of roadways which are maintained by 31 municipalities and the State of New York. A precedent for this already exists; the municipalities provide winter snow plowing services for the county. The county pays a per-mile fee to the municipalities for plowing county roads.

Mr. Bono said shared services consist of shared equipment; shared summer road projects; snow plowing; and shared facilities and materials. He said Jefferson and Monroe Counties are already doing this, and it is working out



well. The maintenance cost of one mile of road from start to finish is approximately one million dollars. The bridges will continue to be maintained by the county. He also said there are some villages that are on the verge on bankruptcy. The next phase of this report will be the Pilot Program. They will try to centralize one facility within half an hour's distance of the areas covered. Mr. Bono said there will be another meeting in four to six weeks and this is not a "done deal" yet, and he would like to see the Town of Schuyler become a part of it. The Town Board expressed interest in the program.

— UPDATE ON EMPLOYMENT POLICY —

The employment policy was reviewed and the following changes were made: Clarification of the health benefits; changes to the "on call" section; and changes to the Tier 5 program and the rate paid to the State by the Town and employees. Motion by VanDusen, second by Desrochers to accept the changes made to the employment policy as presented, for both Highway and regular Town employment; all in favor.

— PROCUREMENT POLICY —

Supervisor Donald Sroka said there is a new procurement policy in effect. The competitive bidding threshold for public work contracts has been raised to \$35,000, effective November, 2009. The only exception is in the case of an emergency. He said this policy must be reviewed every year. Motion by Szesny, second by VanDusen to accept the Procurement Policies and Procedures for the Town of Schuyler as presented; all in favor.

— PURCHASE OF A NEW ROLLER —

Mr. Sroka said, at the last meeting he requested some money be moved from last years budget to this year's budget. He has found a used roller at Monroe Equipment. The cost is \$13,150.00 after the municipalities' discount. He said for the past ten years he has been using the Town of German Flatts' roller. This roller is used on patching work and asphalt. Motion by Desrochers, second by Lucenti authorizing the Superintendent of Highways to purchase

the Bo Mag roller at Monroe equipment for a total of \$13,150.00; all in favor.

— SOLAR POWER FOR TOWN GARAGE —

Mr. Sroka said he received a quote from Solar Liberty for \$132,000.00 to put solar power at the Town Highway Garage (on the roof). This is mainly for electric use only. Solar Liberty said it would save about \$4,500.00 per year on the electric bill and would be funded by grants. These grants are done on the lottery system. You may get a grant or you may not. A question was asked: if you do not receive a grant, are you obligated to purchase the \$132,000.00 system? Mr. Sroka will find out the answer. Mr. Sroka was also concerned about the structure of the roof at the Town Garage, which is 50 years old. It was decided to wait on the solar power for now.

— TOWN HIGHWAY VIOLATIONS FROM P.E.S.H. —

Mr. Sroka said they have all been completed and he has to send in the report. He said the only thing that has not been done is the Work Place Violence Program. Mr. Sroka said he will set that up for sometime in March.

— REFRESHER COURSE ON G.I.S. PROGRAMING —

Mr. Sroka said he spoke to Linda Rockwood and she will set up training in March.

— DUMPSTER DATES FOR 2010 —

April 17th & 18th, June 12th & 13th, August 21st & 22nd and October 16th & 17th, 2010.

CODES

REPORT BY OFFICER

Codes Enforcement Officer Phil Green said he has sent his report into the State of New York. He said Schuyler had fourteen new homes, while other communities averaged only three.

The project at the old "Dino's" is moving along and will be opening soon. It will be a Deli which will also have flavored coffee and a possible pizzeria.

The mini horse problem is going back to the Zoning Board. The application was filed one week late and the judge let it go.



There is also a new State law regarding Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Every floor of any home where there is gas heat, a fireplace, wood stove or furnace, etc. must have one of these. This law was mainly for rental property, but now includes everyone.

ASSESSOR

REPORT BY OFFICER

Assessor George Haskell said Star renewals are 90% in, with very good cooperation.

The lawsuit was scheduled and he received a call stating the other party was not planning on showing up so they were taken off the docket bringing an end to the lawsuit.

— CORRESPONDENCE —

FROM FRANKFORT SCHUYLER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Dodge said he received a letter regarding the "\$15,000.00 and under" classification for the STAR renewal. Mr. Haskell said that letter was to inform us of their decision to adopt the plan, as well as the County.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

County Legislator Jim Bono said he was glad to attend the meeting here at Schuyler. The meeting times conflict with the meetings held at the County. He said he was elected Vice Chairman for a second term. He is also involved in the following committees: Ways and Means, which was the old Finance and Personnel Committee; Planning & Development; Public Safety; Human Resources; Department of Social Services; Office of the Aging; and the Youth Bureau.



Legislator Jim Bono

— USDA GRANTS & LOW INTEREST LOANS —

He had a meeting last week regarding the USDA Grants and low interest loans. There is a book available at I.D.A., with low interest rate loans for businesses.

— REMINGTON ARMS —

The County gave Remington Arms \$2 million dollars and Remington put in \$14 million dollars, and as a result created 200 new jobs. That was a great accomplishment for Herkimer County.

— I.D.A. (INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) —

The I.D.A. received a boost in Marketing, \$150,000.00 in marketing and \$100,000.00 for the upkeep of the Industrial Parks. Upkeep of the I.D.A. parks would be signs, mowing and general maintenance.

— WINDMILLS ARE AN ISSUE —

There is a pilot program of \$8,000 per megawatt. Mr. Bono said they went back to the table with Mr. Russell and Jim Wallace and put together a presentation for the legislature: \$8,400.00 per megawatt or a \$400,000.00 one-time offer to the County. That meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night. If another project gets started and they get more money from the same company, then they have to give us an increase.

— 911 INTERFERENCE —

Mr. Bono said there has been interference with some of the cell towers. The issue has been addressed to move some of the towers.

— JAIL PROJECT —

Mr. Bono said the jail project is ongoing and has been a slow process. They are targeting the old P&C lot. Mr. Hendrix met with the Village of Herkimer. The Village of Herkimer has demands, such as an increase in sales tax and sewer upgrades. There is a meeting with Public Safety coming up. Testing is 95% complete, and it will be either eminent domain or a purchase for \$1.6 million dollars. He said the Village Board of Herkimer wants \$58,000.00 in taxes, but that will be negotiated.

— YOUTH PROGRAM —

Mr. Bono said John Piseck is the Chairman of the Youth Program, and he does not see any change.

— COUNTRY MANOR —

Mr. Bono said they received a proposal from Valley Health Service for Country Manor. Herkimer County will have to pay them to pass it on. They want \$400,000 for



the first year, \$300,000 for the second year, \$200,000 for the third year and \$100,000 for the fourth year.

At the present time, Herkimer County is losing \$500,000 to \$800,000 a year on Country Manor. The infrastructure is very old. The building is inefficient with heating. This was an 80-bed ward that has been cut down to 40 beds. Ten or eleven of the patients are private pays and the rest are Medicaid patients.

Mr. Bono said they received three bids; one bid included no Medicaid patients at all. Herkimer County wants Country Manor to remain the same, as far as taking Medicaid patients. The second bid wanted us to pay them. The third bid was from Valley Health Services. Mr. Bono said we are one of three counties that have a facility like this.

Valley Health Care Services has \$4.2 million in a grant to repair Country Manor. That is not enough to do the needed repairs. The consultants say right now Country Manor is overstaffed by four to one. At a cost of \$600,000 for four years, the total cost would be \$2.4 Million. It would be cost effective to pay Valley Health \$1 million over four years. Valley Health Service is backed by Bassett Hospital. Mr. Bono said his biggest concern is the employees at Country Manor. He said Valley Health might pick up some of the employees.

— BOND RATING —

Mr. Bono said our bond rating is A- which is very good. He said we do not owe anybody anything.

WATER BOARD REPORT

BETTE I. SZESNY

Mrs. Szesny said there was a Public Hearing on Jan. 16th on the rate increase. The budget was passed and the increased average rate is 7.69% for a typical family of four. This increase fluctuates between 7.57%-8.07% depending on what tier you are in. Bulk users get a cheaper rate. A family of four who now pay approximately \$385.50 annually, (compared to \$208.00 in 2005 when Schuyler’s District #5 Project was passed in referendum), can expect to pay \$415.94 This year’s

increase was based on federal mandates, the inability to expand the system, the cost of doing business and a shrinking customer base. Mrs. Szesny reported that people are moving away from the area. The new fiscal year will start On April 1st and this is when the new rates will be in effect.

Mrs. Szesny stated that the court decision wasn’t fully in our favor and we cannot expand until the D.E.C. gives us our permits.

REVIEW DOG SHELTERING CONTRACT WITH STEVENS SWAN SOCIETY

Motion by VanDusen, second by Lucenti authorizing Supervisor Kenneth M. Dodge to sign the sheltering agreement with Stevens Swan Society; all in favor.

UPDATE ON ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHT

Barbara Boulia said she has a telephone call into Kathy Hall from National Grid. She has not heard from Kathy Hall as she has been working in the field. She will contact her again the first part of next week.

SIGN AT THE BUSINESS PARK

Mr. Lucenti said he spoke to Paul Serianni, from Serianni signs, regarding the replacement of the existing corrugated sign at a cost of \$450.00 or a plywood sign for \$1,400.00. He was informed by Mr. Serianni to wait and see what happens, as the I.D.A. wants him to provide a quote on all the signs for the parks.

RESOLUTION

Motion by Desrochers, second by Szesny to move the 2010 budgeted amount from A6410.1 (Newsletter/Website Personal Services) to A6410.4 (Newsletter/Website Contractual Expenses); all in favor.

RESIDENT COMMENT

None.

❖ There being no further business to come before the Town Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

— Barbara Boulia, Town Clerk