

**Village of Schoharie
Regular Meeting
February 7, 2012**

Presiding: Mayor John Borst

Present:

Trustees: Jay Balliett, Larry Caza, Ed August, Dick Young, and Clerk/Treasurer Leslie J. Price

Residents: Ben Griffin, Michael and Diana Jackson, Tracy and Richard Standhart and Martin Shrederis

Schoharie Kiwanis: Eugene Amedio

Schoharie Promotional Association: Darlene Patterson

Grindstone Press: Cathleen Berry, Robert Karleskent, Caroline Foote, Nina Bellinger and Paul Bellinger and T.R. Laz

Meeting brought to order by Mayor Borst @ 7:30 pm

Privilege of the Floor:

- A. Eugene Amedio representing the Schoharie Kiwanis Club - Mr. Amedio proposed to the Board that the three (3) year Adopt-a-Park program, where Schoharie Kiwanis oversees and maintains Lasell Park, be renewed for another three year term through February 2015.

Motion made by Trustee Caza with a second by Trustee August and carried to renew the Adopt-A-Park agreement with Schoharie Kiwanis for a three (3) year period ending February 2015.

- B. Cathleen Berry - Grindstone Press is creating a disaster preparedness book in order to benefit local victims of flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. This will consist of 138 chapters in 12 volumes. Ms. Berry is looking for authors of certain expertise, who will be compensated for their contributions.
- C. Darlene Patterson - Schoharie Promotional Association (SPA) updated the Board on this year's events all which are listed on the news letter.

Motion made by Trustee Caza seconded by Trustee Young and carried to accept the January 10, 2012 as written.

The following Employee Meeting Minutes were tabled until next week's Employee Meeting

July 19, 2011 Employees Meeting
August 16, 2011 Employees Meeting
October 18, 2011 Employees Meeting
November 15, 2011 Employees Meeting
December 20, 2011 Employees Meeting
January 17, 2012 Employees Meeting

Bills:

Motion made by Trustee August seconded by Trustee Caza and carried to pay the bills as presented. Trustee August asked for Brandl Electric to itemize their bills going forward and requested an update on the photovoltaic project at the water plant

Incoming Correspondence: Reviewed and Discussed

- a. Village of Cobleskill – Offer of assistance to water department regarding meter reading.
- b. Congressman Paul Tonko – Announcement of grant funding for small business, farms, not-for-profits and multiple-dwelling owners. Also, funded are flood mitigation and flood control projects.

Outgoing Correspondence: Reviewed and Discussed

- a. James Casey, SEMO – Extension for filing with FEMA cost recovery for Category A (debris removal) & B (emergency protective measures) Projects
- b. Joe Bozicezich – Letter explaining code enforcement process for flood-damaged properties

Old Business: Reviewed and Discussed

- a. NYSERDA Energy Efficiency Project – Project was closed and we were notified today that the final payment from NYSERDA to the Village of Schoharie should be released this week.
- b. National Grid Emergency funding initiatives:
 1. National Grid notified the village that they are ready to execute a promissory note and loan agreement for the \$200,000.00 Economic Development Bridge Loan that will be administered by the Community Development Corporation. The program provides up to 10 year loans at 0% interest to eligible applicants.
 2. Several more Main Street Revitalization Grants up to \$25,000.00 per business are being processed through Schoharie County Planning and Development.
 3. Village Office – Once the Village's insurance status is known and any FEMA options are determined, we may apply for repairs to Village Office and other infrastructure not covered by insurance or FEMA.
- c. docStar Records management – docStar is still on track to install a complete document management system, similar to Image Tek, free of charge.
- d. Environmental Facilities Corporation Loan Program – The NYSEFC closed the loan and provided required documents and procedures to enable draw down of funds to cover repairs costs to the water and sewer infrastructure that was damaged during Hurricane Irene.
- e. Debris Removal – There were a couple of unannounced curb pickups by Jim Cook and inmates to help clean up residual flood debris from some yards in the village. We expect to coordinate roll offs through Schoharie Recovery.
- f. Document Reprocessors – This company took all of the Village's (and those of Schoharie County) water logged records for processing and restoration under the assured understanding that all costs incurred will be fully reimbursable by FEMA. That appeared not to be the case. Mayor Borst e-mailed the company on October 20, 2011 and told them to halt all processing and provide an estimate of the costs incurred to date. The company did not respond. Another e-mail was sent on November 7, 2011, and still no reply. Simmons consulting met with document Reprocessors with nothing positive coming from the meeting.
Mayor Borst and Clerk Leslie visited Document Reprocessors at Rushville, New York on Friday January 27, 2012 to review the status of the process. The company did halt processing and we did inspect records, about one-third of the total sent, that were freeze dried and sanitized. The company explained the rest of the process and reviewed options for the remaining records.
The process included:
 1. Freeze dry and sanitize the rest of the records.

2. General inventory of contents of each box so that we may make an initial cut of what might be destroyed.
 3. Then decide what records are critical and need to be digitally reproduced for our current files.
 4. We can bring the remaining “dirty” boxes home for future use.
 5. The issue of eligibility for reimbursement still remains.
- g. Midtel Franchise Agreement Renewal – Current franchise expired on 10/21/2011 and the company proposes to renew for 15 years under the same terms. The Board discussed this at the December Employees meeting and is reviewing options.
- h. Debris Transfer Station Remediation – Mayor Borst, CEO Nelson and Lamont Engineers met on February 6, 2012 with Mr. VanWoeart, owner of the former Great American property, to discuss proposed remediation of the site. Mr. VanWoeart’s opinion is that our agreement calls for “leveling” the site even with the sidewalk. We continue to review options.

New Business: Reviewed and Discussed

- a. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – The Board heard a presentation from Shane Nickel of Schoharie County Planning and Development on January 17, 2012 regarding the HMGP. The HMGP involves two primary components, buy outs and property elevation. Schoharie County, administrator of the program, must submit a Letter of Intent by February 29, 2012. The Board reviewed HMGP options discussed with Shane Nickle of Schoharie County Planning at the January 17, 2012 meeting and made some recommendations.

The Board recommended offering a buy-out to ten (10) eligible properties in the “floodway” adjacent to lower Bridge Street (8), Orchard Street (1) and Fair Street (1), as listed as a priority by NYS Office of Emergency Management. The Board also recommended offering a buy-out to 11 eligible properties in the Sunset Drive neighborhood west of Main Street (NYS Route 30) that have a history of repetitive flooding damages. The Board further recommended offering the elevation option to any eligible property in the entire Village of Schoharie. A spreadsheet listing of the properties proposed for buy-out and their assessed valuation was reviewed and discussed by the Board.

Motion made by Trustee Caza seconded by Trustee Young and carried to offer FEMA HMGP buy-outs to 10 properties in the FEMA-designated “floodway” and to 11 properties in Sunset Drive neighborhood West of NYS Route 30 and to offer the elevation option to any eligible resident of the village. The Village of Schoharie will NOT be contributing money toward the 25% local share of the HMGP program associated with buy-outs or elevations. The owners accept the 75% from FEMA as the Village will not be responsible for any cost of the program

- b. Local Law #1-2012 Authority to exceed the 2% Tax Cap:

There is much uncertainty regarding the upcoming 2012-2013 village budget. There are so many unknowns but it is certain that it will be an extremely difficult year. Much of the village’s tax base is severely damaged, with some estimates at 40% or more. The village’s goal should be to reduce expenditures drastically and still maintain essential services in the interim until the tax base is restored. It is expected that much tax base will come back but it will be a long time before it reaches the current level. The Board is not planning to exceed the 2% cap, but, if needed, we would like to reserve the

option to do so. The Village needs to adopt a local law to exceed the cap and it is effective for only one fiscal year. Furthermore, exceeding the cap requires a “super majority” of the board which equates to 60% or 4 of 5 members.

A draft of the Local Law #1-2012 was presented at the January 17, 2012 Employees Meeting and we can now proceed with the public notice and hearing.

Motion made by Trustee Balliett seconded by Trustee Caza and carried to hold a public hearing on March 13, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Schoharie High School Library Lobby to consider the enactment of a local law to allow the Village to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2012 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c. The law will remain in effect for one year from the date of enactment and is intended as a precautionary measure as the Village Board develops a budget for 2012 – 2013 under the extraordinary circumstances and fiscal uncertainties resulting from the devastation caused by Hurricane Irene

Motion made by Trustee August seconded by Trustee Young and carried to advertise the public notice at least seven (7) days before hearing in the Times Journal and/or the Daily Gazette.

- c. Assessment Reduction Refund – Legislation was proposed by Assemblyman Lopez to extend the timeframe for village’s to file for the assessment reduction refund option and to have NYS make local municipalities whole for refunds of taxes recalculated on lower assessments.
- d. Budget Notices – The Clerk should send budget preparations notices to all department heads.
- e. Bank of America (BoA)- BoA requested to meet with Mayor Borst and Assemblyman Lopez this Thursday (Feb. 9, 2012) to discuss BoA’s plans for its Schoharie Branch that was damaged by the flood.
- f. BOCES announced that its grant proposal to rebuild parts of Fox Creek Park, Lasell Park and Sloansville Valley cemetery was ranked #1 in the entire country. The grant, sponsored by Lowe’s Home Centers, will be used to build a new pavilion in Lasell Park, in addition to grills, picnic tables and other improvements.

9. Due to Valentine’s Day falling on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 the Employees Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:00pm.

10. Next regular Village Board meeting is Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

11. Schoharie County Village Officers Association Meeting is March 28, 2012 hosted by Schoharie.

Motion made by Trustee Caza seconded by Trustee Balliett and carried to adjourn at 9:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Leslie J. Price