

Village of Schoharie – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025

Presiding: Mayor Colleen Henry

Present: Trustees Johnson, Medak and DeGroff, Clerk/Treasurer Leslie Price, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Debby Byrne, Bob Tines, Darlene Patterson, Linda Dooley, Diana Bell Jackson, Terry Wilbur, Liz Vedder, Patsy Nicosia from Times Journal and Josh Walther from the Mountain Eagle.

Excused : Trustee Palmer

Board Meeting

Meeting brought to order by Mayor Henry at 6:32 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Privilege of the Floor:

i. Darlene Patterson (SPA)

- 1.** In regard to a “Pocket Park”, Darlene has contacted Colonial Heritage to talk about the fountain that is currently on their property. Darlene is wondering if the fountain can be repaired and moved. Darlene has reached out to the original company also, but their prices were extremely high. Ruth Ann Wilkinson will bring this request to her Board and get back to Darlene. Darlene has also reached out to Floyd Guernsey in regard to plants and borders that may be able to be used for this park to block out other sites. Trustee Johnson believes that the Village owns this fountain. Mayor Henry informed SPA that a committee needs to be formed before any commitments are made. SPA needs to work with a plan and with the Village before proceeding. Mayor Henry would like to make sure that there will be no picnic tables, but benches are allowable, the fountain, if one is to be found, will be solar operated with recirculated water and SPA look into the possibility of moving the community sign to this area.
- 2.** SPA has been talking to the Town of Schoharie about having a mural painted on the side of the building at 300 Main Street. She will keep the Mayor updated.
- 3.** Darlene also mentioned that she has been in touch with Murray Karker about a new sign for a business directory at 434 North Main Street. Mayor Henry informed her that she will need to speak to the Village Planning Board about any signs they want to put up. Darlene also mentioned that the community sign across from NBT is in need of repair and would like that sign removed and relocated.
- 4.** Lily fest is progressing and at full capacity for vendors.
- 5.** Darlene has been talking with the County Office of Agricultural Development about having a farmers’ market in the Village. The County has sent out a flyer with a survey for vendors, farmers, and customers.

ii. Mayor Henry

- 1.** The mayor gave an update on 326 Main Street property. This case is still in the court system, and we are waiting on a court date. In the meantime, we did have to switch attorneys due to illness.

iii. Terry Wilbur

1. Ms. Wilbur inquired about the benches that are around the village. Some look to be in need of repair. Clerk Price will have DPW take a ride and examine the benches.

2. Minutes

- a. February 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and February 19, 2025, Employee Meeting Minutes were previously distributed to the Board for their review.

Motion made by Mayor Henry, second by Trustee DeGroff unanimously carried to approve the February 11th Board Meeting Minutes and February 19th Employee Meeting Minutes.

3. Bills and Bank Statements review and sign.

4. Abstracts and Bank Statements:

- a. General \$ 40,310.45 (February 12, 2025 – March 11, 2025)
- b. Water \$ 140,124.01 (February 12, 2025 – March 11, 2025)
- c. Sewer \$ 4,438.76 (February 12, 2025 – March 11, 2025)
- d. Pool \$ 84.70 (February 12, 2025 – March 11, 2025)

Motion made by Mayor Henry, seconded by Trustee Johnson unanimously carried to approve paying the invoices and the approval of the Abstract Amounts.

5. Incoming Correspondence:

- a. With a heavy heart, Mayor Henry has received Superintendent Ken Bernhardt’s Retirement Letter. Ken’s last day of service to our Village is April 18, 2025. “His dedicated service to our community has been stellar and most appreciated” commented the Mayor. Ken will be missed by all, and we wish him the best in retirement. The Superintendent position has been announced in the Times Journal.

Motion made by Mayor Henry, seconded by Trustee Johnson unanimously carried to accept the Retirement Letter submitted by Superintendent Ken Bernhardt.

6. Outgoing Correspondence:

- a. Mayor Henry announced that Clerk/Treasurer Price has filed and certified the Annual Financial Report on February 4, 2025. The Mayor and Board of Trustees are very grateful for the Clerk’s efforts.
- b. Water/Sewer Invoices have been mailed out along with a resident letter about fire and safety.

7. New Business:

- a. Mayor Henry requested the Board appoint David Knoop as Village Codes Enforcement Officer. Since Mr. Knoop is also a member of the Village Planning Board, he will recuse himself from any issue that he feels is in conflict of his new position.

Motion made by Mayor Henry seconded by Trustee Johnson unanimously carried to approve the appointment of David Knoop to the position of Codes Enforcement Officer.

- b. DPW has reported higher than normal number of sidewalks that need to be shoveled this season. DPW is taking pictures which accompany the invoices that we send out to the property owners.
- c. Mayor Henry would like to have a Motion to update the Village handbook Page 52 “Coverage Options and Premium Payments” to add in the \$3,000 in lieu of coverage payment to be made in quarterly payments in the last week of March, June, September and December. Each payment will be \$750.00.

Motion made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Medak unanimously carried to approve paying the insurance buyout option quarterly with payments being made in March, June, September and December.

8. Old Business:

- a. A public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan will be held on March 12, 2025, after the Town Board regularly scheduled meeting. This is a joint effort with both the Town of Schoharie and the Village of Schoharie. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM at 300 Main Street in Schoharie.
- b. Update on the Trail Project; each Board member has received the engineers report detailing the costs involved. The survey has been completed and will be forwarded to the engineer and consultant Nan Stolzenburg by March 14th. Mayor Henry would like to continue moving forward on this project.
- c. Update on Cobleskill Stone Products (CSP), the Village residents have rallied and forwarded several letters of support with the sole purpose of disclosing the risk involved with CSP mining near the new Village water tank. The Mayor and Board are very grateful for this effort. In addition, Bob Montione wrote a letter on behalf of the Village explaining the potential adverse effects of any mining neighboring the Village water tank. Bob carries significant expertise in this field. The Board gives gratitude to Bob and the residents of the Village of Schoharie. The Village now awaits the answer to CSP's application with NYSDEC.
- d. Clerk Price gave an update on the LED project; we are waiting for National Grid to accept our Workers Compensation Certificate. When that is completed, our next step will be to purchase the Lights. NYPA is in the final stages of contract and will be sending contract to the Clerk for signatures.

9. Other

- a. The Mayor and Board would like to thank our Department of Public Works for the fine job done during these very cold and icy winter days. Our staff has been ensuring our sidewalks are safe and our streets are clear.

10. Adjourn

Motion made by Trustee Johnson seconded by Trustee DeGross unanimously carried to approve adjourning the Board Meeting at 7:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Price
Village Clerk/Treasurer