

VILLAGE OF SCHOHARIE
Employees Meeting/Workshop – October 20, 2021

Meeting called to order @ 6:28PM in the Village Hall at 300 Main Street.

PRESENT: Mayor Caza, Deputy Mayor Johnson, Trustees: Medak, Palmer and Robinson-Bullock, OIC Brian Rossi, DPW Superintendent Ken Bernhardt and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Debby Byrne, Fire Chief Marty Pierce, Fire Department Treasurer Dan Smith, and Tatiana Boba

EXCUSED: Code Enforcer Doug Stinson, Clerk/Treasurer Leslie Price

Mayor Caza asked for a moment of thoughts and prayers for Code Enforcer Doug Stinson who underwent surgery.

1) Historian Tatiana Boba

- a) Introduced herself to the Board stating she has been a member of Historian Board for 13 years, a member of DAR for 32 years and a Trustee for the Schoharie Library for 10 years.
- b) Mayor Caza would like the Village Office to send Tatiana an email regarding the salary the Village will be paying her for this appointment.
- c) Tatiana gave a brief history of the Schoharie Free Library stating that the building was built in 1866 by Jacob Miers. James Cushing donated money to purchase the building around 1963 and requested the building be named after his late wife Beatrice. The building is now referred to as the Schoharie Free Library.

Motion: made by Mayor Caza seconded by Trustee Medak and Johnson unanimously approved to appoint Tatiana Boba as Village Historian

2) OIC – Brian Rossi

- a) Brian and Jason Temple participated in a 16-hour class on Assisting Individuals in Crises.
- b) There were two attempted suicides in the Village over the weekend. One at the Birches which succeeded and one in the Village which resulted in hospitalization.
- c) Regarding Halloween, there will be no Trunk or Treat this year. Trick or Treaters will go back to walking around the Village streets there is a curfew of 8:00PM however there has never been any trouble on this night and the Police will not enforce unless necessary. The Fire Department will have a truck on Main Street and Brian will have three Officers on that night.
- d) Brian found a 2016 Tahoe with 40,000 miles for a price of \$15,000. This truck is currently being used as a Fire Chief vehicle and will be held for Schoharie Police Department. Brian wanted permission to purchase as soon as it becomes available. The Board agreed this was a good deal and approved the purchase.
- e) Brian is still waiting to hear from New York State DOT regarding the School Crossway.
- f) OIC Rossi wanted to commend the Schoharie Fire Department on the events they sponsored in October. All went well and all were successful events. He especially wanted to comment on the dinner on the Covered Bridge stating it was a fantastic event and he hopes the Fire Department will continue holding this event in the future.

3) DPW Superintendent Ken Bernhardt

- a) keeping up with it's normal routine and maintenance.
- b) installed the new historic sign in front of the courthouse.

- c) flushed fire hydrants this month, they found two fire hydrants that needed repairs and one that had a leak. The hydrant in front of Oliver's property on Main Street had a problem with the bolts. DPW will be examining all hydrants and replacing the bolts on all of them. These bolts are at least 20 years old.
- d) Ken Bernhardt had spent three weeks in training/classes and has received 3 of 4 certificates for water. He has one more week to do in the month of November. These certificates need to be submitted to New York State and then take the test to get his license.
- e) removed all hanging baskets on Main Street.
- f) Mike Kennedy and Paul Liddle have both returned to work full time.
- g) All water meters will eventually need to be replaced. Ken and Leslie have been working on quotes for a new system, they have appointments this coming week with Master Meters.
- h) Drainage on Knowler Avenue was worked on and seems to be working.
- i) Trustee Medak questioned repainting street crossings. Ken stated that the State DOT wants Schoharie to put in the cross walk in and they will paint. Ken did not want to put them in until all construction at the Dental office is completed. Mayor would like to see a quote for new signs at each crosswalk for both directions.
- j) Mayor and the Board would like Ken to look into hiring a laborer to help DPW and to begin training. Have the Clerk's office look into this position with Civil Service and run Ad in paper.

4) Fire Chief – Marty Pierce/Dan Smith

- a) December 11th will be Christmas in Schoharie with a parade and festivities.
- b) Marty met with the Insurance company regarding the Oliver fire. Marty is still waiting to hear from the State. He is 99% sure it will be called accidental.
- c) Marty and Lloyd met regarding taking the Oliver house down. Marty would like the Village to have a protocol in place for who the Fire Department should call to have a house cleared and removed in case of another fire. Mayor Caza agreed and asked for Marty to present a sample. Mayor will then forward to the Village attorney for review. Mayor would also like Marty to run an Ad in the paper saying the Village is looking for a contract for demolition on an as needed basis. Mayor asked Marty to present a short list to the Board.
- d) Marty gave thanks and appreciation to both the DPW department and the Village Police department for all their work and support.
- e) Mayor would like to hear from Codes as to the status of the Oliver house and what needs to be done.
- f) The Fire Department has re-upped their insurance for the Fire Department with NBT, insurance needs are complete for the year.
- g) The Dodge mini pumper was involved in an accident. There was damage done to the vehicle, driver was coming out of the station and hit the ramp. 10-12 thousand dollars in damage. A Claim has been filed, the Fire Department will pay the deductible and Insurance will pay the rest of the cost.
- h) Fire Department needs to go into contract with EMS. Nothing can be done on paper any longer, state says everything must be done on a Tablet. The Fire Department will pay for the new Tablet however new software must be purchased. Marty suggested signing a five-year contract which will lock them into a set yearly price of \$1815.60. The Mayor and Board agreed to signing a five-year contract for this price. This is state mandated.
- i) Fire Department must purchase an automatic suction machine (medical device). The machine and parts will be \$650.00, Marty asked the Board for permission to purchase. Board gave their permission.
- j) Engine 1421 has had issues since day one. At the Oliver fire the engine lights came on. Fire Department had to call Ferguson to come out, the software issue put the truck out of service. Software is from Pierce and is a problem. Software cost is about \$6,000.00 but was covered under warranty.
- k) With Chief Doug Stinson out on medical leave, Marty and John Borst are covering as Chief and everything is working out well so far.
- l) Thursday, October 21st there will be a large drill exercise in Esperance. Training will be going on for the next few weeks. Physicals will be starting October 28th.

5) Other:

- a) Lamont Engineers gave an update report on the Water System Improvements Project. Mayor read this report aloud to the Board.
- b) Mayor presented the idea of building a vestibule in the Town/Village Office building so we can have the outside doors open to the building but have the offices protected from people walking in. Board agreed to have the Mayor discuss this with the Town Supervisor.
- c) Trustee Johnson wanted to discuss the NY Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensary Licenses where the Village has to opt in or out to allow dispensaries in the Village of Schoharie. The Village has to decide by December 31, 2021. The Mayor would like more information regarding opting in or out. The Board agreed to have a public meeting and hear what the residents' opinions are concerning this subject.
- d) Schoharie County Village Officers Association (SCVOA) meeting is on October 27, 2021 and hosted by Richmondville. Speaker is Barbara Van Epps from NYCOM and will discuss ARPA money. Event will be held at the Richmondville Fire Department.
- e) Approval is needed for the Mayor to sign the updated version of the Project Management Agreement and letter to Scott Frisa, Project Manager regarding the SCSWD & GOSR Water Intake Project. The Board gave their approval for the Mayor to sign the letter.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:25PM made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Robinson-Bullock unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debby Byrne