

Village of Schoharie – Regular Board Meeting  
April 9, 2024

**Presiding:** Deputy Mayor Peter Johnson

**Present:** Trustees Medak, Palmer, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Debby Byrne, DPW Superintendent Ken Bernhardt, Julie Pacatte from SEEC, Becky DeGroff, Terry Wilbur, Sue Bradshaw, Bill Morton, John Wolfe, Diana Bell-Jackson, Michael Jackson, Darlene & Glenn Patterson, Regina Munoz, Yajaira Lopez, Patsy Nicosia From Times Journal and Josh Walther from The Mountain Eagle.

**Excused:** Mayor Colleen M Henry and Clerk/Treasurer Leslie Price

**Meeting brought to order:** By Deputy Mayor Johnson at 6:30PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**1. Privilege of the Floor:**

- i. Deputy Mayor Johnson opened the meeting by stating that the Board is aware of concerns over Water/Sewer Bills and along with DPW Superintendent Ken Bernhardt, gave a quick overview of the situation and explained the process of reading meters and transporting that data into the billing system. Ken also explained why we were unable to get some of the meter readings. The public was given the time to explain their frustrations and concerns. After discussion from both sides, the Board agreed to the following:
  1. Adjustments will be made on an individual basis.
  2. The Village will look into putting a “Next Reading Date” on the outgoing invoices.
  3. The Village will set up days that will be available for residents to come in and discuss their Water/Sewer Invoices. These dates will be posted on our Village Website.
- b. Darlene Patterson from Schoharie Promotional
  - i. SPA would like to replace the Fox Creek sign and has found a contractor to do this work. The sign will be similar to the Lily Park sign. SPA needs approval from the Board to move poles if necessary for the new sign.
  - ii. The trees and grates on the sidewalk in the village are causing problems. With Village approval, SPA would like to build a small garden around the trees using pavers and flowers.
  - iii. Darlene questioned if the Village now owns the lot on the corner of Main and Prospect Street. SPA would like to create a small park with benches and landscape.
  - iv. Deputy Mayor Johnson asked that Darlene submit to the Board plans for the above projects.
- c. Bill Morton
  - i. Presented a proposed Schoharie Valley Scenic Byway which will be a component of a regional initiative comprising of three counties in New York State including Montgomery, Schoharie, and Delaware.
  - ii. See attached materials.
- d. Julie Pacatte
  - i. Gave a brief update on existing projects for Schoharie.
  - ii. The Village of Schoharie did not get any grant money from the previous round of New York Forward, however SEEC is working on a new strategy and will continue this effort.
  - iii. SEEC will be cohosting the Town and Village Comprehensive Plan meeting with an Open-House. All are encouraged to attend.
  - iv. SEEC has opened an Art Gallery display by a local artist with remarkable success. The hours for viewing are Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4PM.

- v. The Curb Appeal grant initiative has received seventeen applications. The review committee will announce awards in early May.
- vi. The Parrott House project is moving along. There are meetings set up with New York State in regard to two grants. Investors are lined up and construction has begun. The owners are looking at the opening day of Mother's Day 2025.
- vii. Julie also reviewed the HARVA project. The Board needs to designate Mayor Henry as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer and to have the Mayor sign the Civil Rights / Fair Housing Letter.

**Motion** made by Deputy Mayor Johnson second by Trustee Palmer unanimously carried to approve Resolution 3-2024 appointing Mayor Colleen M Henry to be the designated Environmental Review Certifying Officer and to have Mayor Henry sign the Civil Rights/Fair Housing letter for SEEC.

- 2. **Minutes:** Review and Motion to approve
  - a. Approve the Minutes for the combined Board/Employee Meeting on March 20, 2024. Deputy Mayor Johnson asked to table this Motion for the Employee Meeting as there was not a quorum. Although Trustee Medak was present, he recused himself as he was not at the March meeting.
- 3. **Abstracts and Bank Statements:**
  - a. General \$ 11,839.19 (March 21, 2024 – April 9, 2024)
  - b. Water \$ 27,336.51 (March 21, 2024 – April 9, 2024)
  - c. Sewer \$ 20,057.58 (March 21, 2024 – April 9, 2024)
  - d. Pool \$ 8.26 (March 21, 2024 – April 9, 2024)

**Motion** made by Trustee Palmer second by Trustee Medak unanimously carried to approve paying the invoices and the approval of the Abstract Amounts as written.

- 4. **Incoming Correspondence:**
  - a. N/A
- 5. **Outgoing Correspondence:**
  - a. N/A
- 6. **New Business:**
  - a. Mayor Henry requested the Board make a Motion to accept the appointment of Becky DeGroff to the Village Board of Trustees.

**Motion** made by Deputy Mayor Johnson second by Trustee Medak unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Becky DeGroff as Village Board Trustee for the term ending January 1, 2025, at Noon.

- 7. **Old Business:** N/A
- 8. **Other:**
  - a. DPW Superintendent Ken Bernhardt asked the Board to consider a set Fee for new Water/Sewer Hookups. Ken would like to see two set fees depending on the work that will be needed. Deputy Mayor Johnson asked that Ken gather some information as to what other municipalities are charging and a decision will be made at the Employee Meeting.
  - b. Deputy Mayor Johnson gave a brief summary of the SCVOA meeting that both he and Mayor Henry attended. The affordable housing issue was touched on at the meeting and both Mayor Henry and Deputy Mayor Johnson thought the meeting was a success.

- c. Trustee Palmer gave a brief update on the LED lighting project. Trustee Palmer stated that he has frequent contact with both National Grid and NYPA. There is a ZOOM meeting scheduled for Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- d. The Board would like to sit down with our website developer and review the Village website. Mayor Henry will set this up.
- e. Mayor Henry asked that the Board consider combining the Board Meeting with the Employee meeting and have one meeting per month. After a brief discussion, Deputy Mayor Johnson would like to table this Motion for the Employee Meeting when the full Board will be in attendance.

**9. MOTION to Adjourn.**

**Motion** made by Trustee Palmer second by Trustee Medak unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:13 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debra Byrne  
Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer

Approved