

Town of New Scotland  
Special Board Meeting  
04/10/2020

The following Town Officials were in attendance:

Supervisor:	Douglas LaGrange
Councilperson:	Adam Greenberg
	Bridgit Burke
	William Hennessy
Highway Superintendent:	Kenneth Guyer
Town Clerk:	Diane Deschenes
Town Attorney:	Michael Naughton Arrived at 1:12 PM
Absent: Councilperson:	Daniel Leinung

**1. Call to Order**

Supervisor LaGrange called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. We are primarily here to make sure we've advanced our Zoom skills for next Tuesday when we have our regular Town Board meeting. We are meeting this way pursuant to the Governor's Elective Order 202.1 which includes not having any in-person public meetings. This is our second attempt at Zoom. The first one went okay. We learned a little from it. Now, hopefully we will progress further. I guess it would have been smart. I believe we are videoing right now, but we'll find that out. Supervisor LaGrange then took a roll call of those in attendance as noted above. Supervisor LaGrange noted that we have some guestd listening in too (Jeremy Cramer, Crystal Peck, Jeff Baker, Sean Milkerrin, and someone who's name appears as Bender Melon).

Supervisor LaGrange said that we really don't have an agenda. This was to get the bugs out of our Zoom meetings, especially with our upcoming meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Councilperson Hennessy requested Supervisor LaGrange update us on the cases in the town and the county. I know the county just activated more testing. We don't release any names, of course, but it's good to know if we have any cases. Supervisor LaGrange said the latest is that we did have this past week two possibly three positive cases with one hospitalized in the middle of Voorheesville. There are two people in that home. One is hospitalized and the other is home apparently. The one tested positive. We also have on New Salem South Road one person identified. They show up in white on the spreadsheet and eventually it changes once the test has come back. We are just waiting to see what happens there. Councilperson Burke said that she thinks it would be best if we didn't give street names and just say Voorheesville or New Salem. Supervisor LaGrange replied that's fine. Anyway, from what he's seen, there have been two positives that were tested and confirmed. Others are waiting with that pending spreadsheet they put out. We will find out eventually if they're positive and if they are being quarantined or whatever. That's it for now.

Councilperson Hennessy asked if he knew of any efforts, requirements, or desires by emergency ambulance and fire agencies for requirements for notification. Supervisor LaGrange said that back when we had our first emergency meetings there was discussion of that.

Attorney Naughton arrived at 1:12 PM.

Councilperson Hennessy said that he just wanted to make sure we're on top of it. Supervisor LaGrange said that early on they were starting to let the EMS people and firehouses know. They are on this list. There is one person from each department just like it is with municipalities. They all have it in their database so they know how to address things when they get there above and beyond what they normally would.

Councilperson Greenberg asked as a follow up if we have gotten any reports on our seniors' situations? Is that all going well? When is the last time he checked with Mrs. Engel? Is there anything the town has to do to help more with the senior population? Supervisor LaGrange said that Mrs. Engel has been in constant contact. She was in this morning. There is an organization in town that works with getting meals out to folks especially during the holidays and stuff. We still had some of the Hannaford boxes that they give out during the holidays. They were distributing those. Mrs. Engel distributed a few the

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other day. She is spending most of her mornings talking to the seniors discussing with them their concerns. It's primarily therapeutic but in a couple of cases there are people where she had to drop stuff off too because they either don't have family or anyone else that can go out and get the stuff. Mrs. Engel has been handling those couple of cases on her own. Councilperson Greenberg asked if there is a need for more volunteers. Supervisor LaGrange said that she said not as yet. Again, she met someone here this morning from the organizations I mentioned, so there are those volunteers also to help out. So far they have it covered.

Councilperson Burke said that, along those lines, the website could be updated to include some of those support organizations that are available. The county has a whole list. It's something we should at least identify. 211 is a resource if people are looking for support and need information about what might be available. Supervisor LaGrange said that if runs across any of those, if you could send them to Town Clerk Deschenes or I we can get them up on the website. Probably it would all come over the COVID-19 page where most people would be looking right away. Councilperson Burke said that makes sense.

Supervisor LaGrange asked for any other comments. Councilperson Burke said that there are two things we can anticipate happening that we should start talking about and thinking about what, if anything, we can do about it. One of them is that as the economy starts going again it's going to be very slow, and this has been one of the most devastating things that has happened to our economy ever. Perhaps we should form some kind of coalition in New Scotland to talk about what the impacts in New Scotland have been and what can we do to support people. Are there resources we should be identifying? Are there community services we should try to put in place or volunteer organizations that we should try to encourage to do things? Some of the things that I'm certain are going to happen are small businesses struggling to get the loans that they need or the support that they need to help cover payroll and for individuals she thinks similarly those kinds of credit issues are going to be a tremendous thing that impacts every possible phase of their lives. So she was thinking it might be a good idea to form sort of a leadership coalition, not just the town but some of the folks that are already leaders in the community. While I would say that we do focus purely on New Scotland, once we're up and running then we can see how we can coordinate with other efforts throughout the county. Supervisor LaGrange said Bethlehem, Guilderland, and New Scotland are especially economically tied together in so many ways, businesses we go to and share and so forth. I'm sure that's it's something that's would be good to at least have some tie in with those two communities if not others. Councilperson Burke said she would volunteer to be on such a group. The other thing that she thinks we have to anticipate is that, because we've been so lightly hit, there is probably a good chance that there are many people in New Scotland who still have not either developed the antigens or are predisposed to all of this. There will be a tendency for folks to think that as the rest of the state, NYC is slowly moving back to its economic status, we would have to be really slow until the testing status is up and running so that we can know what people are dealing with their own health, or else we're going to see a whole new outbreak. Supervisor LaGrange said that as he sees the reports and the new conferences and so forth, it seems like this test that they have now, the finger prick test to see if you had the virus, is relatively reliable and relatively cheap to do. Hopefully, that's something the state or the county or whomever is going to push to maybe get some testing done in that regard because it's like a five-minute test. Councilperson Burke said that she did watch the Governor's press conference yesterday and he agreed with everything Supervisor LaGrange said but currently we don't have it up to the numbers. He is speaking to various manufacturers to see if somebody will help us build capacity. Supervisor LaGrange said that that would be great.

Supervisor LaGrange asked if anyone else had questions or comments. He asked Highway Superintendent Guyer if he had any updates. Highway Superintendent Guyer said that they been doing good so far. The cleanup started. We are going around doing that because people are home and we're getting a lot of calls on it. There is a bunch of stuff out. We're out working on that. He's under the assumption that the Board is going to go another two weeks on this and then re-evaluate, see where we are, and what the Federal government is saying. We're here and we're getting stuff done. We're doing okay.

Councilperson Greenberg asked if we need signatures for the Duck Hill issue or can that wait? Attorney Naughton said that he thinks that's fine; we can wait on that. There is no pressing reason. As you go into Town Hall take care of it whenever.

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Supervisor LaGrange said Highway Superintendent Guyer had something else to discuss. It is a paving issue. Highway Superintendent Guyer said that it's on next week's Board meeting as an attachment. He left it in the folder with the Duck Hill issue which the Clerk has. Don't stop in and sign it yet because we have to go through it at the Board meeting. It has to be approved first. He just happened to print them off and put them in the folder for now, just to let everyone know it's there. Attorney Naughton asked Highway Superintendent Guyer if he saw in the budget bill that they changed the threshold for the dollar amount for jobs you could do without bids, etc. It looks like there is some extra money for CHIPS. Highway Superintendent Guyer said the CHIPS money stays the same but 65 million for the extreme winter recovery was put back in the budget.

Supervisor LaGrange asked Attorney Naughton if he had any updates he wanted to give us. We've been inundated by a lot of these Executive Orders. Is there anything you want to highlight meeting-wise? Attorney Naughton said not really. He'll just circulate those as we get them. One of our associates is monitoring that twice a day and sending out emails. If he sees an alert that pertains to our business, because they represent so many municipalities at his firm, he will circulate that out and let you know. There hasn't been any kind of drastic change. He noted that the one that came out today or last night provides that all meetings or hearings are automatically cancelled for April and May unless you are going to hold the hearing via remote like a Zoom kind of conference. That kind of just gives you total coverage on that if we just want to shut things down. He thinks the Planning Board is planning to do a Zoom-type meeting. He doesn't know if they have any real pressing hearings. There is one thing that was still open and they were about to finish that up. It was for the big-box redevelopment of that apartment building across from Ace Hardware.

Supervisor LaGrange asked for other comments. He then added that, just for your information, we were on a basic Zoom account for last week. Mrs. Peck helped me out with it. We went through the other options and we purchased the pro version of Zoom. He thinks it was \$14.99 per month. It gives us the opportunity to record and send it to the cloud and then download it onto our website. It gives us up to 10 hosts besides me so it will give us the opportunity to have someone else host the Planning or Zoning meetings. He thinks we are getting on the right track here with everything and hopefully we won't have to do it for a long time. At least we are prepared for the next few weeks. Attorney Naughton said that, in anticipation of the meeting next week, he would say if there is an item we need to discuss in Executive Session we should just kill the Zoom completely and then have a conference call. It is unlikely we would take any action after that but if we did we could reboot up the Zoom and take it from there. Supervisor LaGrange said that in that case, if we were to do like we usually do you still have to call a meeting whether it's totally Executive Session or not. If we were to have our meeting and decide there was some need for Executive Session, whether it be contract or personnel, we could then say we will adjourn after that without having to come back into the Zoom to do that unless we had some action. Attorney Naughton agreed.

Supervisor LaGrange noted that on our next agenda, you probably saw, the household hazardous waste day is being cancelled until spring of 2021. The Village of Voorheesville Memorial Day Parade is being cancelled. Again these are on your agenda for next week. Community Care Days were cancelled also. Mrs. Shillinglaw called me and asked me. She said she's pretty sure there were a couple of boxes of medical gloves in the basement. She offered those up to anyone that needed them. I asked the Onesquethaw EMS if they need them. So they were donated to them. Mrs. Shillinglaw was happy with that. Supervisor LaGrange added that the Community Care group will eventually do a couple of projects during the summer as things clear up. That will help out but the big community day we're going to take a pause on.

Supervisor LaGrange asked if there was anything else. Attorney Peck said that they do have plans to move forward with a virtual Zoning Board of Appeals meeting at the end of the month. We also have plans to move forward with a virtual Planning Board meeting in May following all of the requirements. We are going to do a little bit of training with our Board members to make sure it goes as seamlessly as possible but that is so far the plan.

Supervisor LaGrange asked if there was anything else. Councilperson Greenberg asked if Mr. West is already to go on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor LaGrange said no it's the 20<sup>th</sup>. He called him yesterday because he wanted to make sure he was comfortable. He said he was doing well. He hasn't been out or done anything that he would anticipate he was exposed. He has been quarantining himself more or less as all

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of us are. He's excited to get started on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Looks like we're good to go and he's going to meet us here in some way that morning.

Highway Superintendent Guyer asked if we are discussing the next two weeks or are we going to wait until the 14<sup>th</sup>? Supervisor LaGrange said that we can wait until the 14<sup>th</sup>. We're through the 16<sup>th</sup> with that last resolution. Highway Superintendent Guyer said that that's fine. Supervisor LaGrange added unless the Board wants to do it now; he didn't have it on the agenda. What's the Board's thought? Do you just want to extend our timeframe another two weeks right now? Councilperson Greenberg said that he was fine with extending it right now. There is no reason to wait that he can tell. That's the State's recommendation and he thinks we should follow it. Councilperson Burke asked if the State extended it to the end of the month? Can we just do that? Supervisor LaGrange said that we'd extend it to the 30<sup>th</sup> anyway because that jives with our rotation and everything else that we've done so far. That would make the most sense. Councilperson Hennessy said that was fine by him. Supervisor LaGrange said that he's totally unprepared. Councilperson Hennessy asked why don't we wait until Tuesday's meeting? The time doesn't elapse before next Tuesday's meeting does it? Supervisor LaGrange said no it doesn't. The only reason he said he's not prepared is because he just doesn't have our resolution in front of him. Is there any reason we can't just cite the previous resolution and extend it? Attorney Naughton said that can work. We all know what we are talking about.

**Resolution 2020-118**

Supervisor LaGrange offered the following and moved its adoption:

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of New Scotland does hereby extend Resolution 2020-110 to April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Councilperson Hennessy seconded the motion. All present and voting, the motion carried (4 Ayes)

**2. Adjournment**

Supervisor LaGrange made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Greenberg. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 PM.

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Diane R. Deschenes, Town Clerk