

Town of New Scotland
Special Town Board Meeting
04/17/2020

The following Town Officials were in attendance:

Supervisor:	Douglas LaGrange
Councilperson:	Adam Greenberg
	William Hennessy Arrived 1:10 PM
	Daniel Leinung
Highway Superintendent:	Kenneth Guyer
Town Clerk:	Diane Deschenes
Absent: Councilperson:	Bridgit Burke
Town Attorney:	Michael Naughton

1. Call to Order

Supervisor LaGrange called the special meeting to order at 1:05 PM. We are calling this meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.1 which includes not having any in-person public meetings. The purpose of this meeting is to continue our efforts to perfect our Zoom use and at the same time we want to keep in touch weekly with the latest things going on with COVID-19 issues.

A roll call attendance was taken.

Agreement with Steven Reilly

Supervisor LaGrange said there was some confusion with the architectural service agreement on the barn with Mr. Reilly. Councilperson Greenberg was getting that straightened out. I appreciate that. I did email the marked-up copy of the agreement. Attorney Naughton was happy with it. I still would like to see Mr. Reilly give us something cleaner for the future when we are dealing with the State grants. I think it just needs to be a little more professional. Neither attorney Naughton nor I felt that anything changed of any substance that we need to revote on the other contract. It's still for the \$3,200. All of the changes we made like adding the deadline for deliverables of May 10th and crossing out the item 2 stuff and the change from Councilperson Greenberg's name to mine is still here. Councilperson Greenberg said there was shifting between the A, B, and C; I don't know if that's okay. Supervisor LaGrange said that Attorney Naughton didn't think so. As long as the total is there I think we're cool. Councilperson Greenberg asked are you contacting him to send a clean copy or are you sending him a clean copy? Supervisor LaGrange replied I think we may send him one from what you mentioned earlier. That might be the quicker way to handle it. We will do that Monday. Councilperson Greenberg said to let him know if you need anything from his end.

COVID-19

Supervisor LaGrange said there were five total positives for COVID-19 in the Town of New Scotland. There are two recent new positives. Of the five, two of those folks were an elderly couple and unfortunately one of those passed. We have seven folks in quarantine right now. Two of those are relatively new. They are in that timeframe. I assume they've been tested, and they are waiting for results. The charts change almost daily in how they put everyone together. They are fine tuning it each day. Now they have it down so I don't have to search through everything. They give us the new folks that have some sort of issue going on, whether it's potential quarantine or whether it's a positive. They change the color on the chart to let you know what the end result ends up being. That's kind of where we stand with COVID right now. Sadly, one person from the Town of New Scotland passed. We have four testing positive right now and one that is hospitalized still.

Emergency Management Weekly Meeting

Supervisor LaGrange has a weekly meeting with the Sheriff Emergency Management Program.

Councilperson Hennessy arrived at 1:10 PM.

Supervisor LaGrange gave a quick update for Councilperson Hennessy. There have been five positives in New Scotland for COVID-19. One person passed away. Another one is hospitalized. We're down to four positives at the moment. At the moment we have seven folks that are quarantined at some level or another in New Scotland.

Town of New Scotland
Special Town Board Meeting
04/17/2020

I get the emergency management call every Monday. There was no real change this week. We touch base and we have the opportunity to talk to the team up there with Brian Wood leading. He reiterated the fact that they have quite a bit of the hand sanitizer there. Highway Superintendent Guyer was good enough to take a ride up there. We should be stocked up for quite a while now for our needs, both the Highway Department and here at Town Hall. At the same time, PERMA offered to put in an order of surgical masks, for lack of a better term, the HAZMAT suits, and N95 masks. I responded to that and ordered on the high side since we don't know how long this will go or how long we're going to need to have masks. I put in for 400 of the regular masks and 50 of the N95 masks to see what they do. Otherwise everybody here has some now. The Highway Department Superintendent Guyer can explain. We are trying to conform with the last Executive Order which starts today. If you can't social distance and you're working with or in the public, the Governor is saying you should be wearing a mask. We are all trying to work with that.

Interestingly, this is outside of the COVID-19, but I did see on a Facebook post that there is a company called Hudson Valley Wireless who is reaching out to communities to try and fill the gap of high speed Internet. I don't know much about it but I did check their website and I did send an email to them with our situation and asked them to contact me. That's just a side note with all of this stuff going on. Councilperson Greenberg said that he spoke to them yesterday. I called them to see what the situation was. It's a line-of-sight technology basically like a radio tower. They're backed up two weeks even to come out. They usually do site visits to see if it will work at the site. They can do a preliminary study. They have a map, like a cell phone map, that shows if they have coverage in your area. Much of New Scotland is going to be kind of spotty so they would generally come and do a test visit at your actual site. They have to put a small antenna if you go with them on your house, which is about the size of a 1 foot by 1 foot box, and they have to run a wire to your router or modem. They had different pricing levels depending on how much data you use. I think the lowest one limited was about 10 megabits a second download speed and was about \$60 a month. They were backed up about two weeks to even get to somebody's site to see if it was a possibility. Councilperson Hennessy asked what the download speed was. Councilperson Greenberg said, depending on how much you pay, there are different levels but the least expensive unlimited level was a 10 megabits per second download speed. Councilperson Hennessy asked if that was the \$60? Councilperson Greenberg agreed adding you can go up to like \$140 and it basically increases your speed. Supervisor LaGrange said that that's good; we have two of us on it so we'll see what comes of that.

Emergency Declaration

Supervisor LaGrange said just an FYI, my Emergency Declaration was due to expire on Sunday at 4 PM. It's a 30-day term and you can renew it for another 30 days so that's happening today to start up on Sunday at 4 PM for another 30 days. David VanLuven and Peter Barber are both renewing theirs. We are not out of the woods on this by any means so just to keep those opportunities in front of us that's been extended. Councilperson Leinung said that that seems like it lines up. The Governor just extended the Pause New York until May 15th. Supervisor LaGrange said this would extend ours until about that same time.

LOSAP

Supervisor LaGrange said that he did have a discussion with Ralph Lemme who has taken over from Jean Forkeutis. They were the ones who used to manage our accounts for both LOSAP for Onesquethaw and New Salem. He sent me a note the other day and we talked on the phone today. Just to get an update on where he is and where the investments are. We all know the best thing to do is not look at your investments at this point and wait for a period of time to look back at them. I'm going to put him in contact with our two Board members who are on the audit and finance team and myself included and the contacts for both fire departments so that there can be some questions answered and discussions had if necessary. He can give us printouts of our reports and stuff for each. Accounts are down 10% at this point and that's after recovering quite a bit just in the last week or two from the floor that they hit. We're going to keep in touch and keep the communications going there; another fallout from the whole COVID situation so I wanted to update you on that too.

EMS Contract

I did get a call from Tom Cotrofeld at the Sheriff's department. As you know I was concerned about the direction they might go with the EMS dollars and contracts this year. He gave me the numbers. I haven't had a chance to look them up yet. As a matter of fact I'll ask Mrs. Boehlke for them. She's pulling them

Town of New Scotland
Special Town Board Meeting
04/17/2020

up now. Supervisor LaGrange added that the town-wide is \$71,400 for this year which I believe is right around the usual mark. The split between us and the village was \$134,300. That sounds about right too with no dramatic increases. I'm going to check on that to be sure. We're still playing that by ear. I just wanted to be sure that there is no 20% increase or anything like that again while we're trying to deal with getting this on the county rolls with the special districts and not be part of our tax cap budget concerns. So, I wanted to let you know about that too. Mrs. Boehlke is pulling those numbers right now so I can give you what it was last year just so we all know at this point.

Is there anything else that anyone wants to discuss?

Mark Dempf said that he heard on the news this morning that they are now going to limit your alcohol consumption. When you go to the liquor store they are only going to let you walk out with two bottles. Domestic violence is up 90% and I believe that I heard the County Executive say that they have a special program for mental health in the County, understanding that there are more issues.

Supervisor LaGrange said I've been getting almost daily updates from the County. That included at least one or two days on the weekend. That's been one of the big pushes.

Northeast Water District

Councilperson Greenberg said, since we have you on the line Mark, are you up to date on us trying to connect Northeast Water District with Kensington Woods? Mr. Dempf said that he knows you guys put out an RFP or something and I know that both guys submitted on it. I don't know exactly what was in them. I didn't see that. I think we were going to talk about it at one of the water committee meetings. COVID hit and we never had a meeting. That meeting got cancelled so I haven't seen anything. Councilperson Greenberg said we should maybe touch base if you're around and have some time. Maybe you and Councilperson Hennessy should talk. If you have any advice on ways to go about doing that that might be more or less efficient. Councilperson Hennessy added that Barton & Loguidice were hired to do the study. They came up with a draft study. I made some comments and Supervisor LaGrange made some map improvements I believe. He also had some comments. They finalized the study and then it was put on the back burner because of COVID-19. You were right; they were coming to the water committee meeting and it got cancelled. That's where we are sitting. We probably should be revisiting that because we might want to get something ready for some shovel-ready type of work once the economy re-hits. We may have some other financial grant incentives for that. The other part of it is that it would behoove us to do that also because of the Hilton Barn and Hilton Park application. That has a connection required to the barn. We could run that pipe right now from Hilton Road and make a connection there and maybe, if we want to, loop it still under the Rail Trail back at the Northeast wells. I know that was a plan you had years ago. Either way or both works. I was waiting to get the digital file from Barton & Loguidice. They haven't sent it to me yet but I do have hard copies that never made it because COVID-19 cancelled all of our meetings. Let's revisit that. Mr. Dempf said that sound like a plan. Councilperson Greenberg asked if Mr. Dempf would be home for a while. Engineer Dempf said he was. Councilperson Greenberg advised Mr. Dempf that we hired a new DPW Commissioner who is starting shortly, Bill West, you may know him. Mr. Dempf said that he knows him very well. I was excited to hear he was still around. Councilperson Greenberg asked Mr. Dempf if it would be okay if he checks in with him and picks his brain once in a while. Mr. Dempf replied absolutely; we worked very well together when he was at Guilderland. He's a very nice guy. Councilperson Greenberg said that he will pass your contact information along. Supervisor LaGrange added that he can do that on Monday. We have Mr. West set up with his email address, too. It's wwest@townofnewscotland.com if you want to shoot him an email.

Supervisor LaGrange asked if Highway Superintendent Guyer had anything. He replied no; it's the same thing, business as usual. We still have split shifts with one employee per vehicle when we go to job sites so we're not in close proximity with each other. All of our job sites have been outside. We're doing well. Like Supervisor LaGrange mentioned, we have an abundance of hand sanitizer for now. We have a handful of the cheaper surgical type masks to get us by for now in case we have to go to Home Depot or Lowe's or wherever we have to go to pick stuff up. We're good as far as that goes. Everything is the same at the highway. Councilperson Greenberg asked how the opening of the transfer station went. Highway Superintendent Guyer replied very well. It's been open two weeks; tomorrow will be the third week. We've been getting a lot of calls; with everyone home, everybody is cleaning up. We're doing well there. They have disposable gloves and the hand sanitizer. As the people come in we are making

Town of New Scotland
Special Town Board Meeting
04/17/2020

sure people stay in their cars while they assess what they brought in. There is social distancing there as well with minimal contact. Everything is going well. Supervisor LaGrange added that it's pretty busy I assume. Highway Superintendent Guyer agreed. Councilperson Hennessy said that he was up there last Saturday around 2-3 PM. There were three different people there dumping basic stuff. It went well. The new guy seems like a real nice guy. Everything went smooth. Great, Ken, thank you.

Zoom Meetings

Supervisor LaGrange asked if there is anything else. I think we'll schedule another one for next Friday. We will probably look toward renewing our resolution for another two weeks especially since the Governor is taking us to May 15th now. I do really like that I see a line on my Zoom that says its recording. Maybe I've gotten this figured out thanks to Attorney Peck. Supervisor LaGrange added, by the way, that Attorney Peck, Building Inspector Cramer, and I believe both the Planning Board and Zoning Board had a dry run last night on doing Zoom meetings for their meeting. Attorney Peck said this morning that it went well and she was going to make sure that it recorded. It's looking like they are going to be a go for the ZBA meeting which will be on April 28th and then the meeting on May 5th for the Planning Board. It looks like they are good to go at this point. I think just as we get all of this going we will probably we able to meet again. I hope that's the case but at the same time it seems like we're getting our hands around this and we're able to do meetings this way.

Codification

Councilperson Greenberg said, while we're talking zoning, he had a quick update or maybe a question. I let Nan Stolzenburg know that we are moving forward with the codification of the zoning law and she's ready to move forward working on the low-hanging fruit. Is everyone okay if Councilperson Hennessy and I start to work on that with her and maybe in the next couple of months have something to present? This is really just fixing some dates, language, and some definitions that we don't have. There is nothing controversial in this batch. Supervisor LaGrange added that the definitions are a big part of it, that's for sure. Councilperson Greenberg said that if anyone has an issue they'd like to have added to that list, we compiled quite a bit already, let me know in the next week or two. Supervisor LaGrange replied okay, that sounds good.

Retirement of Kevin Mabie

Highway Superintendent Guyer advised that highway employee, Kevin Mabie, is retiring as of today. This is his last day. Kevin has been with us for 34 years. I just wanted to note that Kevin has served the town for 34 years and he is retiring today. Supervisor LaGrange said that's nice; he's been an asset that's for sure. Highway Superintendent Guyer agreed. Supervisor LaGrange said Kevin has been a good worker, operator; he's been good for us. Thank you, Ken, that's a good reminder.

2. Adjourn

Supervisor LaGrange made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Leinung. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Diane R. Deschenes, Town Clerk