

Town of New Scotland
Special Town Board Meeting
07/31/2020

The following Town Officials were in attendance:

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| Supervisor: | Douglas LaGrange |
| Councilperson: | Adam Greenberg Bridgit Burke William Hennessy |
| Highway Superintendent: | Kenneth Guyer |
| Deputy Town Clerk: | Patricia Barber |
| Absent: | Dan Leinung Michael Naughton |

Call to Order

Supervisor LaGrange called the special meeting to order at 1:00 PM. This meeting was legally noticed. Our Town Clerk Diane Deschenes had it noticed in the Altamont Enterprise and he had it in front of him. This meeting is being done through Zoom pursuant to the Governor's Executive order 202.1 which includes not having in-person public meetings. A roll call attendance was taken.

Supervisor LaGrange went over the Sheriff's report as of July 30, 2020. There was a bit of a jump since last week. We went up about 225 people under some form of quarantine. Last week we had 83 positive cases and 540 quarantined for a total of 623. This week we have 83 again who have tested positive; some have dropped off and some have come on. We have 771 folks quarantined. That is county-wide. In the Town of New Scotland as of July 30, 2020, we have 3 positive cases. We have approximately 15 quarantines in the Town; 3 of those are in one household and that happens to be the household of one of the positive cases. Aside from that there really isn't any other news directly associated with COVID.

Things have been going well otherwise. Supervisor LaGrange mentioned a special thank you to Deputy Town Clerk Barber for handling the door requests, taking temperatures, determining where people go. When she is busy, Betsy Glath, Jessica Latham, and Debbie Engel jump in and fill in; they have been very good about that. Jeff Pine has also covered, as well. We are doing pretty well.

Superintendent Guyer confirmed that his crew continues social distancing when they arrive in the morning and afternoon. They are following all the same protocols, cleaning everything daily, and wearing their masks in vehicles and when they can't social distance. Everything is A-OK at the highway.

Bill West and Ryan Green went out together on a couple of occasions and are being conscientious about wearing their masks, etc.

Last week we spoke about Eric Vasquez who has been with Parks for a year. He has applied for the DPW position. Bill West and Supervisor LaGrange interviewed him and have hired him for that position. He will start August 10, 2020, in his new job with DPW.

Resolution 2020-181

Eric Vasquez appointed to Step 1 of Equipment Operator I/Water-Sewer maintenance

Supervisor LaGrange made a motion that the Town of New Scotland hire Eric Vasquez at the recommendation of Bill West, DPW Commissioner, for Step 1 of Equipment Operator I/Water-Sewer Maintenance at a rate of \$21.89 per hour according to the salary scale starting August 10, 2020.

Seconded by Councilperson Adam Greenberg.

Roll call vote was taken.
Supervisor LaGrange voted yes.

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Councilperson Greenberg voted yes.

Councilperson Burke voted yes.

Councilperson Hennessy voted yes.

Supervisor LaGrange asked about the applications for the Parks position. Superintendent Guyer replied that he has received one application so far.

Last night Supervisor LaGrange sent out his and Lisa's projections for the A, B, and DB funds. He feels very good about where we stand even with low possible projections for revenue. A couple of other things came up today. He was hoping that we would have received the mortgage tax check by now so that we could be a little more certain on the first payment and where we stood in A fund. When we get that, we will make those amendments. We did identify a couple of other things since then that we didn't account for that will be additional savings. As soon as we get that payment, we will update those other opportunities. They are minor things but the good thing is that it's not expenditures we missed; it's savings we may have missed a little bit. We didn't want to go overboard with anything but it's something we just identified today. As soon as we get that payment Supervisor LaGrange will send that to the Board members and we will make some amendments to the A fund projections. As we see anything else come in maybe we will make a point of seeing where we are every month, do a quick review of it, and make any changes that seem appropriate. If there aren't any, we will just keep going with what we have so far. Thankfully things are going well. Sean Mulkerrin from the Altamont Enterprise called and asked some questions on that. Supervisor LaGrange hasn't seen the article yet but he has had a couple of residents say that they were glad to hear that things were going well and that the Board made the provisions that we did and that the Highway Department did what they did.

Councilperson Greenberg wanted to update people on the CCA. MEGA is talking about moving forward but they are getting a fair amount of pushback from municipalities who don't want to make the decision right now because the energy markets are in such flux. He is waiting to hear more about that. He would say that community groups are also opposed to moving ahead with it now and would rather wait till next spring or something like that. There is a webinar on August 3, 2020, that MEGA is putting on if anyone is interested in that. You don't have to watch it live; you can watch it later. Supervisor LaGrange will circulate the link in case everyone didn't get it. Councilperson Greenberg is leaning toward waiting on that decision.

Councilperson Hennessy will send an email about some of the progress with OPRHP in trying to get contracts signed. There will be more information shortly; he just doesn't want to be premature yet in getting into the details. Nothing has really changed from what we have seen in recent months. He will send an email this afternoon.

Councilperson Greenberg stated that we were hoping to get the roof on the barn done this year but unless the State cooperates with moving the grant along we are running out of time. By the time the bid process happens and a contractor gets up and running we are getting into fall and once we start to get ice on the roof it would mean a lot of trouble with the slate. Time is getting thin.

Supervisor LaGrange stated that he just sent the link to everyone. The webinar is Monday, August 4, 2020, at 11 AM.

Councilperson Greenberg also said that we could probably request that Nicole or someone from MEGA attend our August meeting if we wanted to ask direct questions and get an update for just our town specifically. He can set that up if anyone wants him to.

Supervisor LaGrange stated that there are still some videos available for viewing from when this first got started.

Set next meeting for Friday, August 7, 2020, at 1 PM.

Adjourn

Councilperson Burke made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Greenberg.

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A roll call vote was taken.

Supervisor LaGrange voted yes.

Councilperson Burke voted yes.

Councilperson Greenberg voted yes.

Councilperson Hennessy voted yes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Patricia Barber

Deputy Town Clerk