

Town of New Scotland
Special Town Board Meeting
08/21/2020

The following Town Officials were in attendance:

Supervisor:	Douglas LaGrange	
Councilperson:	Adam Greenberg	
	Bridgit Burke	Left at 1:39 PM
	William Hennessy	
	Dan Leinung	Left at 2:15 PM
Town Attorney:	Michael Naughton	
Town Clerk:	Diane Deschenes	

1. Call to Order

Supervisor LaGrange called the meeting to order at 1 PM. This is a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Scotland. This has become our usual COVID-19 update meeting. We have proof of publication from Diane in The Enterprise. We are meeting through Zoom pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202. 1 which includes not having public meetings and allows us to have these Zoom calls instead. A roll call attendance was taken.

2. Discussion/Action re: Barton & Loguidice Engineering Task Order for preliminary design of Clarksville Sidewalk Project phase 1, Delaware Turnpike.

Supervisor LaGrange said you all received the preliminary design previously, and then we decided that Bill and I would meet with Barton & Loguidice. Michael was also with us on that call. We asked our questions and I believe we were satisfied with the answers. Subsequently Ted Kolankowski sent out some of the answered questions that people had about what grants we might pursue what grants this would set us up for, and so on and so forth. Both Bill and I sent those notes out. I didn't hear anything from anyone but I believe both Bill and I are recommending that we go ahead with this. This would be at the \$50,000 which is the grant money from the \$250,000 Fahy grant that we have that has three components to it (the barn roof, the quiet zone, and Clarksville sidewalk engineering).

Resolution 2020-188

Supervisor LaGrange offered the following and moved its adoption:

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of New Scotland does hereby pass this and authorizes the Supervisor to sign it.

This is a \$50,000 task order with Barton & Loguidice Engineering for a preliminary design for the Clarksville sidewalk project phase I which is the Delaware Turnpike aspect of it.

Councilperson Burke seconded the motion.

Supervisor LaGrange asked for any more questions, comments, or thoughts from the Board. Councilperson Hennessy said that he was in on that meeting, and he was satisfied. It didn't sound like there was plethora of financial opportunities, but hopefully we will get this done so that the stimulus has potential construction opportunities in the near future. Supervisor LaGrange said that he kind of likens it to having the preliminary work done on the Northeast Kensington connection. If we don't get a grant right away we at least got that part on the shelf and we're ready to go when something does come up and we can take quick advantage of it. He agrees too with Bill. He thinks Michael was pretty satisfied with what he was told and questions he had. Attorney Naughton replied that it all sounded good to him.

Supervisor LaGrange asked if Adam, Dan, and Bridgit had anything to add further. Councilperson Leinung said he was good. Councilperson Burked added that she thinks it's great. Councilperson Greenberg said that he was satisfied. We discussed it before and the main point for him is that it's grant money and we lose it if we don't use it so we might as well use it.

A roll call vote was taken: Supervisor LaGrange Aye
Councilperson Greenberg Aye
Councilperson Hennessy Aye
Councilperson Leinung Aye

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Councilperson Burke Aye

3. COVID-19 discussion/update

Supervisor LaGrange said for COVID updates he's been sending the County Executive updates. We had one this morning. Actually we have them daily pretty much. He even sends them out over the weekend. He hasn't received anything from the Sheriff's office today. Actually the last time he received one was the 18th which was Tuesday. On Tuesday we were at 34 cases in Albany County with 577 quarantines for a total of 611. Fifteen of those quarantines were in the Town of New Scotland and we didn't have any cases at the moment, any positively diagnosed cases. Today, as you probably saw from the County Executives notes, the cases in the County have dropped down to 27 but the quarantines have jumped up to 599 and we're up to 626 total people in the whole system between cases and contacts. So, good news in a lot of ways. It still seems to be hanging on pretty good but we will see how things transpire. It's good to not have any cases in the town right now and to see positive cases dropping in the county. Those are all pluses for the moment. That's pretty much all I have on that.

Historical Society

We did have a request again. Dan can take this since he's kind of the liaison. Councilperson Leinung said that the Historical Society reached out again and asked if they could have a Board meeting at the Community Center. I had talked to Alan before and suggested some other possible venues or could they do it somewhere else. They still would like to use the Community Center. He said it would probably be between 8-10 people. For whatever reason they have not been able to meet virtually. I think it's a technology issue for a lot of their Board members that they need to physically meet in person. I think we talked about this a few weeks ago. He asked again if we would consider allowing them to use the Community Center for a meeting. He also said they are hoping to start opening up the museum again on Sundays. Again, they did submit a reopening plan to us. I think we went through it and it generally looked okay. I think before we would do that we'd still have to maybe do a walk through with them through the museum and make sure that everything is set up the way it needs to be set up. I just wanted to raise that again to see if we were okay with them having a Board meeting with 8-10 people which I believe is well within the capacity level of the Community Center. I just wanted to re-raise that.

Supervisor LaGrange said that the capacity there is 95. We were figuring 24. I guess that would have been the 25%. Are we higher than that now? Are we 50%. Councilperson Leinung said he thinks we are at 50%; either way that would be under 25%. Supervisor LaGrange said that there are opportunities. I don't remember the specifics of the plan they submitted for the opening of the museum. There are opportunities to keep certain areas roped off so we don't get people bleeding out into areas and have to be concerned about cleaning them. They can probably enter from the back and go out the front door for the few people that come through. I mean it is something that we could consider I would think. Councilperson Leinung said especially for the museum. It might actually be easier for the museum if we just have people coming out the back door and then people aren't going into the larger room and the front entrance. Supervisor LaGrange said as you go in the front hallway there is a door. They could go out the front door and we could keep people out of the kitchen or the meeting room. Then you would have the one-way traffic that they could stagger if necessary. So, there is some opportunity there I think.

Town Clerk Deschenes asked to comment on two things. Number one: Dr. Greenberg asked about the Ethics Board. He was in the other day and talked about the Ethics Board meeting. He was going to touch base with Doug. Town Clerk Deschenes added that when we start opening it up to meetings you have to start thinking about all the meetings. Second of all, we're not even letting people in this building use the bathroom so I'm not sure we're ready to open up buildings. Councilperson Greenberg said he was glad that Diane jumped in but that's basically where he's at too. We're not holding Zoning and Planning Board meetings which I don't think we should be yet in person. Unless somebody can tell me that this is a critical meeting to have for some reason and unless someone can explain to me why they can't meet outside at a park or in somebody's back yard I guess I'm just confused why we need to do this inside. He'd rather err on the side of being safe with all our residents. We don't know what's going to happen here in the fall. He doesn't know if Doug is getting any guidance from the County Health Department but he thinks we're going to see a serious uptick when schools open back up. He just doesn't think the town should be a part of that if it can be avoided. If there is a reason to

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do it, a strong reason, he hasn't heard the reason why it has to be done. He's open to the possibility especially with the museum. Why does the museum need to be open? Have you gotten any kind of explanation for that? Councilperson Leinung replied no, just inquiries. The last time he expressed our concerns and reiterated that no other Boards are meeting. Town Hall is open but it's basically for essential staff to keep operations going. The public generally is only allowed in for very specific reasons. I've expressed all that and he just re-upped it again. I can have a more frank discussion with Alan to check in and see. I don't think they had discussed other possibilities for meeting in other areas. I can reiterate that point as well. Supervisor LaGrange said that we have a nice pavilion on Swift Road and we have a very nice pavilion in Feura Bush. Some of the seniors have been meeting down in the Feura Bush pavilion. They've been masked and socially distancing. Debbie has gone done there at times. They are playing cards and stuff just for socialization. My point is that I'm not inclined to do meetings yet. If there were some necessity as Adam says to open the museum I think that is one of the least obnoxious situations we have. They don't have a big turnover of people. They could do it like a lot of stores and other places are doing with one-way traffic and so on and so forth. I'm totally on board with the meeting. I'm not ready to see it happen yet as long as we don't have to. Councilperson Burke said that she thinks the advice to do it outside is good advice but she actually doesn't have any objection to them doing it inside. I think that given how small the group would be and that we have that machine to clean the whole area, it makes sense and we should allow it. In terms of the museum, she feels the same way if you take precautions. She does think that there is going to be an increase in the fall but when that happens then we respond and change things again, but there isn't an increase right now that justifies us keeping everything so tightly closed. Supervisor LaGrange said as far as Town Hall goes, Bethlehem is still closed and Guilderland is still by appointment. We're ahead of everybody in a general sense. He just doesn't particularly want to get too far ahead. Councilperson Hennessy asked a question. It's the Board meeting of the Historical Society so it's not open to the public. Is that correct or not correct? Councilperson Leinung said that that's correct. It's just the Board of the Historical Society; it's not open to the public. Councilperson Hennessy said that to him the priority would be a Zoom meeting. Secondary would be an outdoor meeting, and tertiary would be indoors but only for a private meeting like that. If it's open to the public he's not into that yet. He has said that he's open to the public meeting but that window is closing because now there is an uptick into the fall. That window for some of those meetings might have been open for a few months but that may not be the case in the fall. Those are his thoughts. Councilperson Leinung added that he said he would bring it to the Board again. He kind of thinks what Adam was saying. Why do we have to use a town facility for this meeting? It's not a town organization either. He knows that the Historical Society actually rents the space. No other organization can use the town facilities right now. It's not a town organization. He sees that point. He will talk to Alan again and just kind of say we understand it if there is a very specific need to use that specific facility please let us know why. Also when it comes to reopening the museum maybe we can add that to our agenda in September and we can have Alan come and explain all the procedures that he would like to see for the museum to open. We can kind of ask him some more direct questions. He said he was looking to open up the museum in September. Maybe I can ask him if he would like to address the Board about that at our September meeting. Councilperson Hennessy asked another question, an obvious question. Are museums a part of what's been allowed to be open by the Governor's guidelines yet? Councilperson Leinung said yes, they did just allow that but restricted at capacity. In the last few weeks there was some guidance on opening the museums, like aquariums or something. They group those together for some reason. I do believe they are open. I think I would like to have Alan come in and address the Board for that because that would be an actual reopening. A full reopening as opposed to what we're doing for essential town services.

Councilperson Greenberg said that I know that for some of the reopenings from the Governor are only allowed with certain filtration systems installed. Is this part of that? Councilperson Leinung replied that he didn't know; he'd have to look at it. Councilperson Greenberg asked if anyone knows what our filtration issues or system is at the Community Center. We may not even be allowed to open. Supervisor LaGrange said that he didn't know. Councilperson Leinung added that we can look into that. Supervisor LaGrange said that that was a good point though. He thinks we've beaten that enough. Dan can relay our thoughts and we'll see what happens.

November Board Meeting

Supervisor LaGrange said that he wanted to bring up too that our November Board meeting coincides with Veterans Day. It's a national holiday. Do we want to pursue a meeting or do we want to make a change? Whether it's Zoom or in person we'd have to consider it either way. Councilperson Burke

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said let's make a change. Supervisor LaGrange said that that would be his inclination but he wanted to check with the Board and see what your thoughts were. We can toss that around through email if that's something you want him to initiate. He can do that. Maybe we can change it to Monday. It's not tough to change especially if we do Zoom still at that point. At the same time we will look into that. He just happened to notice it yesterday. Somehow we've got to get a better handle on that when we do the organizational meeting. We hit a couple of them this year but that one he missed.

WI-FI at the Parks

The other thing he wanted to bring up was WI-FI at the parks. He mentioned that Swift Road could be hooked up for free and there was a \$3,000 charge from Spectrum for Houghtaling Park in Feura Bush. Adam reminded him that there might be an opportunity with Hudson Valley Wireless. He and Alan have talked with Jason there on a couple of occasions recently. First, he affirmed that it was a good site. It has good connections to the towers that they are going to deal with. He said because it's a town facility and they're trying to help out municipalities, especially with kids having to do virtual classrooms and things like that. He's dealing with the engineers right now and he's going to get back to me with a quote. It looks like at the very least they will give us their lowest plan price for their broadest band system. He had asked me if I want WI-FI available to people at the park and I said you can tell me prices either way and that looks to be the way it's going to go. We will get the basic price for the best service and that way folks in that area can tape off it if it's necessary or do whatever they need to do. I haven't got all the specifics yet but thanks to Adam it's a great opportunity and hopefully he'll have something to me Monday or Tuesday. He called me either yesterday afternoon or this morning to discuss it again. We got cut off the last time he called. Again, he's having the engineers work on it. Looks like a pretty positive opportunity. That's all he has personally.

CCA

Councilperson Greenberg said that he had a couple of updates and he requested hopefully a short Executive meeting if we can have one to discuss some personnel issues. He wants to update people on the CCA. MEGA is planning on moving forward with getting prices. They should come back September 1st. That would start our 48-hour period to make a decision on whether or not we are going to move forward. We don't have the specific prices yet but they do have rough estimates. It looks like they are going to give us a 100% green energy price and they are going to give us a price for a mix that matches what National Grid does now, so basically a brown mix. Those are the only two prices they are talking about now. Guilderland and Bethlehem are both kind of thinking in I'd say similar ways to New Scotland. They are uncomfortable as I think we generally are. I don't want to speak for other people but I know going through this process people have said if it raises energy prices they would be uncomfortable with that, and I think that's probably truer now given the pandemic and people's financial issues. So, that's something to be aware of. I guess I feel like it doesn't hurt to get the pricing. It just may mean that we are going to say no to it or we may decide to go for the National Grid mix, but that's kind of where we are now. I don't know if anybody has had an opportunity to watch the webinars but they're both up. I think I sent the links or maybe Doug did. Supervisor LaGrange said that he sent the first and Councilperson LaGrange sent the second one. Councilperson Greenberg said that if people want to watch that you'll get more information. He's happy to answer any questions he can if anybody has any now. Supervisor LaGrange asked if we opted for the National Grid-type plan now if it fell into proper parameters with price and stuff does that lock us in indefinitely or for the length of the contract or can we upgrade to the 100% at a later time? Councilperson Greenberg said that the town would decide what the default is for the town residents. Let's say we went with the National Grid mix. Anybody who wanted to could upgrade to the 100% green if they want it. Councilperson Greenberg agreed, adding that if we went 100% green people could downgrade to the National Grid mix if that's what they want to do. Supervisor LaGrange said that that option is still open. Councilperson Greenberg said they would have that option but we would be setting the default position if we move forward with it. Councilperson Burke asked if we need to schedule a meeting to make sure during that short period of time we have an opportunity to discuss it? Councilperson Greenberg replied yes. MEGA is going to want to know which municipalities want to be in on getting the pricing and then once we get the pricing we will have those two days. Let's say it's going to be September 2nd and 3rd so maybe the 1st and 2nd to make our decision. We should probably schedule a meeting for September 2nd to be safe. Councilperson Hennessy said he suggests scheduling a meeting on both days. One meeting might be somewhat of a workshop discussion whereas the next meeting might be one to render the decision. Councilperson Greenberg said that he just didn't know if we get the pricing say on the 1st, he doesn't know what time we're going to get that pricing. So, he doesn't know what time we would be able to discuss it on the 1st. I imagine that at the

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end of our workshop, if you want to call it that, we would come to some kind of conclusion anyhow. I'm happy to have two meetings. I'll do whatever people want. I'm just not sure it's going to be that complicated. Once we have the pricing it's more or less going to be how do we want to move forward if we want to move forward? Supervisor LaGrange asked how long we have. Is it just a couple of days once they send out the prices? Councilperson Greenberg said it's a 48-hour period. Supervisor LaGrange said that even if we schedule the meeting for the 2nd which would give us a little time to look it over and maybe that we'd still be within the 48-hour timeframe. Maybe we could just schedule for the 2nd at this point. Councilperson Greenberg said whatever you want. If people are interested in Bill's idea we could assume that we'd have pricing by the evening of the 1st. We could workshop then. If we come to a decision that night, great. If we don't, we can continue on Tuesday if people think that's a good idea. Supervisor LaGrange said that he would think there would be other research to do. Councilperson Hennessy said there's the old adage that we might as well schedule it and then we can cancel it. Then you don't have to advertise it again. Either way we can hold off on the 3rd and just go with the 2nd and talk on the 1st anyway. However you want to do it. Supervisor LaGrange said he's inclined to see the prices come in. This is just his opinion. There are five of us here. I'm inclined to see the prices come in whenever they do on the 1st. Maybe do a little research and talk to other involved towns and get their thoughts and ideas. We are still going to make our own decision but see what people are thinking and then have the meeting on the 2nd and decide what we are going to do. That would be my inclination. Councilperson Burke wondered if when we meet on the 2nd there might be unanswered questions, something somebody wants to research, and we're going to need to meet on the 3rd to make the final decision and to Bill's point that you can always cancel a meeting. I'll do whatever the majority wants. Councilperson Leinung said that it might make sense doing the 1st and the 2nd. We don't know what time on the first we're actually getting the prices. Councilperson Greenberg agreed. Councilperson Leinung said it could be that we don't even get the prices until late Monday night and then there is no point in having a meeting. We could also get it in the afternoon so we could do the 1st and the 2nd. We should at least schedule a meeting for the 2nd. Maybe we schedule one for the 1st and if we get it late we just don't have it. I think it does make sense to maybe have two meetings, one to discuss and then there might be some unanswered questions that we can research before making a final determination at the next meeting. Councilperson Greenberg asked if we can we just schedule one for the 1st and the 2nd then. Supervisor LaGrange replied sure, absolutely. Councilperson Burke asked if we should schedule the one on the 1st for 7 PM so we are more likely to have gotten the information than not? Councilperson Greenberg said that that sounds good. Councilperson Leinung agreed adding he prefers to do both in the evening if possible unless timing-wise we have to do the one on the 2nd earlier. Councilperson Greenberg said that that's a Tuesday and a Wednesday. Seven o'clock both days is that what we're talking. Councilperson Leinung said the Wednesday meeting we could do at 6 PM. Supervisor LaGrange said that we've been doing 6:30 to be consistent. It's up to you. Councilperson Greenberg said either is fine with him. Supervisor LaGrange asked who said 7 PM. Councilperson Burke replied that she said 7 PM to make it later the first day; she doesn't really care. Supervisor LaGrange added that that was in case it came in later. Councilperson Leinung said in case it came in at 6 PM. We want to give ourselves some time to look at it. Councilperson Greenberg said Bill may know something about that. The company giving the price is Constellation Energy. I don't know if they are a West Coast company or not and I don't know if they were on the west coast if that would make any difference in terms of when the pricing would come in. Councilperson Hennessy asked what the name is again. Councilperson Greenberg replied that it is Constellation Energy. Councilperson Hennessy said he knows them. They are huge. Councilperson Greenberg said they are a big national firm and that's the only firm that is going to bid which is another problem in my estimation. Supervisor LaGrange said okay, 7 PM then. Everyone agreed. Supervisor LaGrange asked if that is the same for Wednesday. Councilperson Greenberg agreed. Supervisor LaGrange added that if we don't get anything Tuesday we can just cancel it and we're at least advertised. We will do that and that will be through Zoom. At least it's until the 6th or 7th before the Governor has to decide again on what we're going to do. Councilperson Greenberg said that he definitely thinks we should schedule these. He just wants to make clear that it's possible that this will get pushed back. Supervisor LaGrange said that if we're going to do it on the 1st do we want to bother with next Friday? What's your feeling? Councilperson Leinung said we can probably schedule it and cancel if nothing really new comes up. We never really know what might come up but let's do the normal scheduling of it. If we don't have it we can cancel it unless people don't think we need it. That's fine too. Councilperson Greenberg agreed with Dan. Supervisor LaGrange said that that's fine. We can run it. We could be cancelling the 1st too. Who knows, we will do that.

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Subdivision Workshop Meeting

Councilperson Greenberg said that that's CCA. We talked about a subdivision workshop that we were going to invite Nan to. Did I miss something? I never saw an invite to that meeting. Supervisor LaGrange said that he thought you were going to talk to Nan about a time. Councilperson Greenberg said he thought she emailed back but maybe it wasn't on that link. Councilperson Greenberg asked if Councilperson Hennessy knew. Councilperson Hennessy said he thought that we said Wednesday at 6 PM. Councilperson Greenberg said that he thought we had come up with a time too but he can't say for sure. Supervisor LaGrange said he would look into it and see what she said because to be honest with you he lost track. Councilperson Hennessy asked if there was time for a meeting on Wednesday at 6 PM or is it too late for a notice? Town Clerk Deschenes replied that it's too late for a notice. He then added that it is a regular opportunity. Did she say that was okay? He totally missed that. Councilperson Greenberg added that she did say that was okay. Supervisor LaGrange said he apologized because he totally lost that. Councilperson Hennessy said that he may not have been on that email. He may have sent it during the meeting when we were doing it to see if she could do it. It may have been a quick request. Councilperson Greenberg said that he did see it then and thought everyone was on it but maybe he's wrong. Supervisor LaGrange said that he's off Wednesday. That was his vacation week. Councilperson Greenberg said maybe we can combine it unless you think it will be too long of an evening. Maybe she could do the 1st. Either Tuesday or Wednesday. Councilperson Hennessy asked why don't we just do it when Doug is not there anyway? Supervisor LaGrange said he was good with that. Councilperson Burke said that for the subdivision we should make sure we do a good public notice. Councilperson Leinung said the 2nd might make sense. If we are going to have one we're definitely doing one on the 2nd to make the final determination for CCA so maybe we can do both on the 2nd. Supervisor LaGrange said that he will contact Nan so he's not missing out and he'll see if she's available on the 2nd. Councilperson Burke said that if she's not, then the 1st. Supervisor LaGrange agreed and then asked if we want to make the second meeting a little earlier if that's the case? Councilperson Burke replied yes. Councilperson Leinung said that's fine. Supervisor LaGrange suggested 6 PM. Councilperson Greenberg added to start with her at 6 PM maybe. Supervisor LaGrange replied okay and said he would contact her as soon as we're done here and see if either day is available and then he will get something out to everybody.

Councilperson Greenberg said that if people have time for an Executive Session he has a contractual issue he'd like to bring up and a personnel issue. Councilperson Leinung said before we do that he just wanted to raise one point on the notice that we do put out for these meetings, especially putting the Zoom link on the official agenda. I know it's on the town website. Sean got here so people can find it but for Planning and Zoning we generally have this disclaimer on the agenda that says due to COVID and pursuant to the Executive Order, here is the Zoom link. I'd like to have that on the actual agenda. I know Diane puts it on the public notice section but the agenda that actually gets loaded to the website maybe would be good. Town Clerk Deschenes said we can ask Sarah to put it on that.

Executive Session

Resolution 2020-189

Supervisor LaGrange offered the following and moved its adoption:

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of New Scotland does hereby suspend the regular meeting and start an Executive Session.

Councilperson Greenberg seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:	Supervisor LaGrange	<u>Aye</u>
	Councilperson Greenberg	<u>Aye</u>
	Councilperson Hennessy	<u>Aye</u>
	Councilperson Leinung	<u>Aye</u>
	Councilperson Burke	<u>Absent</u>

Supervisor LaGrange noted that we lost Councilperson Burke from the connection at 1:39 PM. Councilperson Leinung offered to text Councilperson Burke.

Executive Session began at 1:40 PM.

Councilperson Leinung had to leave the meeting at 2:15 PM.

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Councilperson Greenberg made a motion to adjourn Executive Session and seconded by Councilperson Hennessy.

Executive Session adjourned at 2:47 PM.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

4. Adjourn

Supervisor LaGrange made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Hennessy. The meeting adjourned at 2:49PM.

Diane R. Deschenes, Town Clerk