The following Town Officials were in attendance:

- Supervisor: Douglas LaGrange
- Councilperson: Adam Greenberg, Daniel Leinung, William Hennessy, Patricia Snyder
- Town Attorney: Michael Naughton
- Town Clerk: Diane Deschenes

1. Call to Order
Supervisor LaGrange called the workshop to order at 6:30 PM.

New Salem Fire District (Page 189)
Chief Shufelt asked if the Board had any questions for him. Supervisor LaGrange said that it says there is a 2% increase from the 2019 budget; a total of $306,000. The most significant changes in the current budget requests relate to a full year of mortgage payments on the loan for station 2 and approximately $20,000 for new extrication tools. Supervisor LaGrange said that the Board has the sheets that Councilperson Snyder said were missing the other day. We sent them to you digitally.

Councilperson Hennessy asked about the $39,000 that’s budgeted for the firehouse mortgage. Is that going to be consistent now for 10 to 20 years for the new firehouse? Chief Shufelt said that it’s probably a 10-year mortgage. If they can get it paid off quicker they will. He doesn’t think there is a penalty in there for paying it off quicker. If we can we will. Supervisor LaGrange asked if another mortgage drop ped? Chief Shufelt said that it was one of the trucks. This should be the last year for the payments on the last truck that they got. They also need to get another truck for station 2 because that one is 35 years old. They will probably get another used one to keep the price down because they are up around $300,000 or better.

Councilperson Hennessy asked about the estimated 2019 budget? Will we have any implications now in 2019 because of that? He doesn’t know if Chief Shufelt has that column on this presentation tonight. Councilperson Hennessy said that there is going to be $503,000 instead of the budget which was probably $325,000 or so. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that that doesn’t affect our contract. That would be their implication, not ours. Councilperson Hennessy asked if we have to make that up in taxation? Mrs. Kavanaugh said no. Mrs. Boehlke added that they are asking for $306,000 from us.

Councilperson Hennessy wanted to ask a question simply because she thinks it came up at this meeting last year and it was an unknown. There were some insurance changes. Chief Shufelt said that that was the cancer insurance that was mandatory. We have 30 people this year that are on it and its $51 per person. Councilperson Snyder said that that seems less than what we anticipated. How does that compare to what you were thinking? Chief Shufelt said that they had to have it installed in January 2018 so we had to pull out of the 2017 budget to pay the 2018. We had to pay it by January 1. We paid that and it’s due every January 1st from this point on plus our other insurances that we have. Councilperson Snyder said that she remembers that it was a new one. It seems to be only one or two carriers so she didn’t know if the price was competitive at all. She was just trying to remember how that really ended. Chief Shufelt said that there are only a few carriers that have it, but a lot of the insurance carriers go through those people so it’s almost the same cost. It depends on the middleman. Councilperson Snyder asked him if he feels like they’re getting as fair a deal as they’ll probably get. Chief Shufelt agreed. Councilperson Snyder said that at $51 per member, how much does that cost the department? Chief Shufelt said that they have 30 people so a little over $3,000, almost $4,000. Supervisor LaGrange added that that is a little bit less and your insurance went up from 2018 to 2019 actual. Chief Shufelt said that in addition their property insurance will go up because of station 2 also.

Councilperson Hennessy asked if he knows how you make up the difference in 2019? Chief Shufelt said that we try to cut our expenses on other things or put them off a year, that type of thing. Hopefully all of our marketing and side stuff that we do like the Punkintown Fair and the
Fish Fry get better. It’s a gamble. We try to do the best we can with what we’ve got. Supervisor LaGrange said that they had some building fund shortages. Chief Shufelt said that they took it out of the truck fund. We had put some toward the building from that just so we didn’t have to get a bigger mortgage. Supervisor LaGrange said that he thinks the point Councilperson Hennessey is trying to make is that there is a $200,000 difference, but that’s not something you’re in the hole on. There was a fund balance. Chief Shufelt said that it depends on how you want to look at it. We’re not going to come to the Town for it if that’s what you’re asking.

Councilperson Greenberg said that the big number you’re asking for is $306,000, and it was $300,000 last year. Chief Shufelt said that the Board wanted them to keep it at 2%. Councilperson Greenberg said that he, for one, very much appreciated it. Chief Shufelt said that they would like to have gone up to 10% but under the circumstances they didn’t. Supervisor LaGrange said that it’s appreciated, as Councilperson Greenberg said.

Supervisor LaGrange thanked Chief Shufelt and added that we appreciate all the volunteers and their hard work. Please pass the word on for us.

Onesquethaw Fire and Ambulance (Page 25)
President Mauro and Chief Salisbury were present to represent Onesquethaw. Supervisor LaGrange noted as requested that they did stay under the 2% and the Board appreciates that. Supervisor LaGrange asked if there was anything they wanted to talk about. He noticed that they had a couple of things in the letter to us as far as gear and other things that have to be replaced. Is this going to keep the department going okay with those things? President Mauro said that they’ve added some hose testing and ladder testing for personnel equipment. Most of their increases came from their truck maintenance category because their trucks are now getting older and they haven’t gotten our new one yet. Supervisor LaGrange asked if that was due about now? President Mauro said that it’s due at the end of the year. Realistically, it will probably be February. Supervisor LaGrange noted that they did sell the old ambulance. Apparently you didn’t give them a good enough deal. Councilperson Snyder asked if the $26,500 was not satisfactory? President Mauro said that that was actually fair market value. It was in line with what they thought. Councilperson Snyder added that they sold it to the Albany County Sheriff’s Department. Are they using it but you couldn’t use it? President Mauro said that they couldn’t afford the supplies to make it DOH certified. They would have had to buy all new supplies to replenish that ambulance. What they did was take the old ambulance and move everything over. They basically would have had to buy another set of supplies for the new ambulance, and that’s totally not in their budget. Councilperson Snyder said that she had no idea and asked if he was talking about Band-Aids and gauze? President Mauro said that that’s part of it. They’re required to have an AED, a portable suction device, and all that stuff within the ambulance. You can get up to $20,000-$30,000 in supplies, and they just didn’t have the resources to do that, but they did if they sold the ambulance. Councilperson Snyder said that she was trying to get an idea of how they made that decision. President Mauro said that the money they got from the sale of that ambulance they put towards a utility truck that will eventually replace their fire police vehicle. It’s in the parking lot if the Board wants to look at it. Councilperson Snyder asked if the Sheriff will use it and will they be able to put in that $20,000 in supplies? President Mauro said that they did and it’s in service now. Chief Shufelt said that they have deeper pockets. Councilperson Snyder said that unfortunately most of it comes out of the same pocket.

Chief Shufelt told the Board that New Salem also had a grant to help them with some of their equipment from the Forest Rangers. They paid for half and the department paid for half. That helped some. Councilperson Snyder asked what kind of equipment? Chief Shufelt said hoses and turnout gear. It doesn’t go far. It was $1,500. Councilperson Snyder asked if they have someone who actively looks for grants in each of the respective fire departments? Chief Shufelt replied yes. Councilperson Snyder asked if they have any that they’ve applied for in the last 12 months? Chief Shufelt said that there was one. Councilperson Snyder asked if they were successful. President Mauro said that he thinks they got the same one, the Forestry grant. Chief Salisbury said it’s a matching grant for $3,000 worth of equipment, and they got $1,500 back. They put in for a substantial grant for the new radios for the new system that they’re mandated to use. Councilperson Snyder said that the one she remembered hearing about the most was a few years ago. Chief Salisbury said that for two years in a row they’ve been denied. Chief Shufelt said that they didn’t get it either. They got two radios through a grant with the Community and School
felt said a possibility of looking into that for this upcoming year. Councilperson Greenberg said out fires instead of staying ahead of the eight. He thinks it only affects three districts in the state. Chief Salisbury said that western New York is really the push for it. There are a lot of them out that way. We are the only company in the tri-county area. Western New York is where the majority of the push is to do that. Councilperson Leinung said that he’s not sure what’s going on. He doesn’t think it moved in either house this year. He’s not sure what the answer is. Part of it is that there are 10,000 bills and not all of them get there. He thinks if there is a fair amount of push for it with our elected officials on the State level that’s where it has to come from. Councilperson Snyder asked if Onesquethaw had any communication with Mrs. Fahy. Chief Salisbury said that on the Chief’s level they’ve been to several meetings about it with the NYS Chiefs. The fire company is not opposed to doing it. If they could do it they would. Obviously it would help but their hands are tied. They’ve been asked to write letters every year in support of it and they do. They’re doing all they can do. Councilperson Snyder said that it’s very disappointing considering this should be an easy fix for everyone. Councilperson Leinung said that we’ll have to be ready for next year when the session starts.

Supervisor LaGrange thanked the Onesquethaw officers and asked them to thank the membership. It seems to be ever growing. It seems like every other month we have another one or two members. Chief Salisbury said that he had a membership application in the truck. He added that they are not doing badly on the new recruits. They are getting some younger people and they hope they keep coming in. Unfortunately, it’s $3,500 per person for gear when they come in the door.

B3620 Building/Zoning (Page 146)
Supervisor LaGrange said that Building Inspector Cramer asked if he could come in. As far as the budget goes, everything is the same as last year. Building Inspector Cramer wanted to discuss personnel. He was wondering if he could ask the Board if it would be possible to start looking for somebody to train before Mr. Pine retires. About four or five months ago he said somewhere between maybe less than a year but not more than two he’d retire. He was thinking that similar to when he was hired in 2009 there could possibly be time to get somebody in and get them certified if the Board was looking for somebody to stay around and get them trained under Mr. Pine while he’s still here and also take advantage of the time he’s here to try and catch up. He feels that the building, zoning, planning, and stormwater departments have more work than manpower to get things done. There are times when we are putting out fires instead of staying ahead of the eight ball. He would like to ask if the Board would consider it. He did not get a chance to finish a budget in time for the budgets. He asked Supervisor LaGrange if he could address the Board to ask if there is a possibility of looking into that for this upcoming year. Councilperson Greenberg asked if anything is included in this budget? Building Inspector Cramer replied no. Councilperson Greenberg said that he doesn’t have a salary scale in front of him. What are we talking? Building Inspector Cramer said that it depends on whether the Board wanted to do something part time while Mr. Pine is still here and then go full time afterward or if the Board was inclined to allow someone to come in full time to help speed up the process and help alleviate some of the workload during that timeframe. Councilperson Greenberg asked if he had an update from Mr. Pine on his one to two years. Building Inspector Cramer said that Mr. Pine is also currently working as the Building Inspector in Westerlo and doing assessing work in the town of Rensselaerville. He picked up the Westerlo job with the idea that when he retired from here it was a part-time thing closer to home that he would continue doing. The last time he heard he was a little frustrated with the Westerlo job. Building Inspector Cramer said that his guess would be that two years from now he won’t be here. Councilperson Greenberg added that he was saying a year or two. If it’s more
on the two-year side we don’t really have to deal with this until 2021. If he’s on the eight month end of things then we’d be more likely to consider something. Supervisor LaGrange said that he
did purposely go to speak to Mr. Pine recently. Mrs. Kavanaugh added that she wanted to mention
that this is a Civil Service title. Building Inspector Cramer said that it’s a long process between the
examinations. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that they might have an active list. If the position is part time,
it’s not civil service; however, if it changes to full time you would have to request a list from Civil
Service. If the person is not on the list, they would lose their job. Things need to be thought out.
You need to look to see how old the list is and are they likely to have a new exam in the future.
Someone could take that exam proactively and be on it. He’d have to look to see if there is a brand
new list that would be good for five years or if there is there an old one. Councilperson Leinung
added that there might not be an exam for a few years. Mrs. Kavanaugh added that there might be
an active list and there is nothing we can do about it. Councilperson Leinung added that that’s
more for when Mr. Pine does retire and we’re looking to fill his position. With that being said, he
understands what Inspector Cramer is saying. It’s hard to find someone who can start cold turkey
on day one. Again, we need to look at the numbers. Supervisor LaGrange said that when he asked
Mr. Pine he said as early as six months and as late as 18 months. It has to do with his personal
situation and many variables.

Building Inspector Cramer said that his personal opinion is that the department needs three full-
time people and it should have been like that for a while now. When Mr. Dolin was supervisor he
promised that when Kensington Woods got going he would get him a part-time person to come in
and help out. Mr. Pine and I have done the best we can with just two people. When Mr. Cantlin
was here and Building Inspector Cramer first started part time, he spent the first year just trying to
catch up. That was with zero subdivisions. He would like to see a three-person department as far
as Code Inspectors, not clerks. He needs someone who can answer a question. The way it is right
now with Mrs. Glath leaving at 11:30 every day and Mr. Pine doing inspections, Building
Inspector Cramer is the only person who can answer a question. He gets distracted from other
things that he needs to do in taking care of things. He knows that this is probably not what the
Board is inclined to do, but when Mr. Pine said that he was thinking about retiring he thought this
was the time to address the Board to get someone in so they can train under Mr. Pine. He and Mr.
Pine for the most part do the same jobs but they do different portions. He goes out and does all of
the fire inspections. That would be one thing he would want him to do; go to each commercial
building and all of the apartments that are three units and up. They would go to each one and gain
the history from Mr. Pine. Mr. Pine would show them the process, how to put everything in the
computer, and so on and so forth on top of inspections and planned reviews.

Councilperson Snyder asked what the title would be. Building Inspector Cramer replied a second
Code Enforcement Officer. Councilperson Snyder asked if it would be the same title as Mr. Pine
has right now? Building Inspector Cramer agreed. Councilperson Hennessy asked about the
overlap. If something happened and Mr. Pine retired could Building Inspector Cramer do part of
what he does for the time being until we fill the spot? Building Inspector Cramer said that he can
do anything in his department, but if he were the only person there is no way he could keep up.
Councilperson Hennessy said that he’s not addressing the time constraint; he’s just talking about
the technical component. Councilperson Greenberg said that he just wanted to respond. This is
something we’ve all known was a possibility for the past couple of years, and it was part of the
thinking when hiring Mrs. Stolzenburg as a planner to relive some of what you have to do. We
have to think about this as a Board and what direction we would want to go if Mr. Pine retires in
terms of maybe reorganizing the department to some degree in terms of what the job description is
for everyone. We could go a few different ways. Maybe we should have some kind of workshop
where we really sit down and think about that. It may not be as easy as replacing Mr. Pine.
Maybe there is a more efficient way, department-wise, where Building Inspector Cramer has more
time. Maybe it’s a full-time planner. He doesn’t know, but those are things to think about. He
thinks that if we are going to do it it would have to be done around the same time as Mr. Pine was
leaving, but he’s glad that Building Inspector Cramer came in and brought this to our attention so
we can start having those conversations. We should add this to the list of conversations we’re
going to have when we discuss salaries.

Mrs. Boehlke said that she’s had some conversations with Mr. Cramer. She wanted to point out
that we are a very fortunate town to have a large B fund balance to allow for some training. She’s
saying this just so that the Board knows that we have it. Nobody wants to throw good money after
bad. She and Mrs. Kavanaugh can tell the Board what it’s like to walk into a place that doesn’t have anybody to tell you anything. Obviously, we would still have Mr. Cramer. The other thing she was thinking about is that there is a possibility that we could hire a full-time person if Mr. Pine went part-time here. Supervisor LaGrange added that he mentioned that to him. Mrs. Boehlke said that that would still allow him to phase back. Again, we don’t usually have the luxury of any cross-training. People are gone and then people are trying to catch up. Our biggest problem is this big flex of time. She thinks too that if you can pick someone off a list and Mr. Pine cuts back to half time that might be a more workable situation.

Councilperson Snyder asked Mr. Cramer if having a clerk for longer than three to four hours per day would help him to more efficiently respond to phone calls, correspondence, etc? Mr. Cramer said that his personal opinion is no. Mrs. Glath has been here for 10 years. She can answer the phone but she can’t answer building questions, code questions, or planning questions. There are a lot of things that Mrs. Glath does for the Town or does for our department that he doesn’t have to think about which is nice. Similar to what Councilperson Greenberg was saying, he personally doesn’t think a planner is going to alleviate the workload for him like having another Code Enforcement Officer. Two years ago he came in here after talking with Supervisor LaGrange about the budget and we agreed to put his hours up to 40 instead of 35. Ever since then it’s been great because he doesn’t give two to three weeks of vacation time back to the Town anymore. Last year we hired Mrs. Stolzenburg and he knows there were thoughts about bringing her in to do some of the planning work. Currently that’s not how we have things set up. It’s another step in the process. He spends more time on the process day to day on different applications than it does to relieve the work load. We have Mrs. Latham there for the afternoon to be able to answer the phone. She just puts it through to my voice mail. Still in the afternoon there is not someone there that can answer a question for a resident. Personally he doesn’t feel that there is enough manpower for the amount of things going on right now. He has enforcement actions that he should address right now but he doesn’t have the time to do it. We didn’t have a Planning Board meeting in September. It allocated some time to open up so he got five minor subdivisions done. It’s just a matter of the amount of things that are not necessarily Planning Board applications or ZBA applications. Every time there is a sale in town the realtor asks him about the zoning of an application or people have questions about what they can do with their pools or fences. There are a lot of sporadic questions. There are days that he has 40-50 emails that come in. There are escrow accounts and endorsements to keep up with. There is also stormwater. He’s shut three projects down in the last two months just on stormwater just because people don’t want to put up silk fence or put in construction entrances. He’s got Amedore sweeping the roads every other week because they are tracking mud. He got an email this morning from one of the residents that every time it rains hard there is a problem with the subdivision on the design. They called and said that every time they go to the mailbox they are stepping in mud. It’s not a five-minute fix. There is coordination. He’s trying to leverage the developer to get things done by holding certificates or holding permits. A permit for Miller Road, Creekside, sat on his desk for three weeks until they got the site cleaned up. To get back to the question at hand, he doesn’t think that a clerk resolves the issues that he has or eases the workload. Supervisor LaGrange joked that he will have a lot of time who Creekside gets done. Councilperson Snyder said that that would have been by follow up. Some of these subdivision are on the downstream; certainly the Amedore one and Stone Creek eventually. Kensington looks like a third is done or close to a half. Building Inspector Cramer said that we’re not even at a third. There are only a few, and sooner rather than later we will reach our 50 houses and we’ll have to do away with the transportation corporation and start up on the sewer. We’re at 40 out 170. We still have more phases and more road to be built out and dedications to happen. We’re only on phase II of V. Councilperson Snyder said that the other two that she mentioned are on the downhill. Building Inspector Cramer said that he hopes it’s sooner rather than later. We are waiting on an easement but the Town may have to take action if the homeowner just continues to refuse to grant us the easement. The easement was required after the homeowner had purchased the land. With a lot of them, Mr. Carrow had put the easement in place before the closing because the houses weren’t done yet. We had a little disagreement and he doesn’t feel that he needs to grant the access for the Town where there is a 12-inch pipe that runs right under the gentleman’s backyard. Mr. Carrow had asked Building Inspector Cramer for help, and two minutes later he was getting a phone call from DEC because he’s best friends with the head of DEC who is coming down on the person that regulates us wondering why he’s granting notices of termination on something. He had to answer to her and tell her why he was doing it. She said that that was okay and she would stand by him 100%. Building Inspector Cramer said
that Amedore has four more building permits to acquire. They have one house behind Mrs. Peck. They have half of the first two-family going up right now, and then there are the other two half’s, and then we should be finished up with that. We still have to work on taking ownership of the stormwater ponds. Councilperson Snyder asked if we have Levie that has to be built out yet and Kensington. Building Inspector Cramer said that there are 16 there. Until they come into the Planning Board and modify their approval, they are not getting COOs on that site. Creekside started and we’ve got one of them finished and four in the process. The only thing holding up the solar farm is for Building Inspector Cramer to have a meeting with them. They came into town on a day that he wasn’t here. They ended up selling out to a second solar company. He just hasn’t had a chance to have a meeting with them to go over the conditions of the approval so they can put a packet together. Councilperson Snyder said that she was trying to get a sense of where things were.

Councilperson Greenberg asked if he had to say what is not being done right now and what he thinks should be but you or Mr. Pine don’t have time, what would that be? Building Inspector Cramer said that number one on his priority list would certainly be the enforcement actions and coordination with the courts in getting some of these guys in to get things straightened around. Ultimately the first thing that always gets let go is the recordkeeping and organization. He thinks that that’s something that when you’re trying to take care of the homeowner you get stuff done but you’re not properly organizing or taking care of the recordkeeping as well as you’d like to. Councilperson Snyder asked if that could be delegated? Building Inspector Cramer said that some of it could but not everything. He thinks that another Code person that has understanding of what they are looking at as they look at it would be much more beneficial. One of the projects that I would like to do with Mrs. Glath at some point is to start taking all of the files right from the original building permits and getting them in our building software. We had to update our software system after he took over. We are using the same company that we used prior. The program isn’t as advanced as he was hoping it would be. There are a lot of things missing now that would have to be re-logged into the system. He originally looked at this company and BAS knowing that BAS has an excellent system but there was a $12,000 difference in price. He tried to avoid spending extra money because he didn’t think it was necessary at the time. He stayed with the same company we had been using, but it’s just not working out the way he had hoped. Town Clerk Deschenes commented that the Building files are very important and they have to be kept beyond the life of the building so we have a lot of files downstairs. Building Inspector Cramer said that we have files from 1965 and some before that. They just keep adding. He had talks with Corner Gateway. They wanted to do a grant to come in and electronically scan all of the files and put them into the system. He thought that that would be great but he doesn’t have the time to coordinate that. It’s a large undertaking. The Town of Bethlehem got a grant last year from somebody to have a group come in and take all of those files and scan them into the Building software. You would not only know what the permit was and what it was about but you could pull up the pictures of the prints and different things. Obviously it would be a useful tool but it was a large and expensive undertaking. Councilperson Snyder asked if we could we replicate their grant application? Building Inspector Cramer said that he could look into it. Councilperson Snyder said let’s put the money into it if it’s going to make a significant difference. As you pointed out, these files stay here forever. Building Inspector Cramer added that it would be great to be able to pull something up on the computer versus saying, “I’ve got to go down in the basement and I’ll give you a call when I find it.” Building Inspector Cramer said that that would be useful and he thinks our software could handle it but it’s a lot of time. You’d want to have someone who understood what they were looking at when they are putting it in. Town Clerk Deschenes added that it’s a lot. When you go back before 1980 there weren’t tax maps. It’s not like you can just go back and look at a tax map number. Building Inspector Cramer agreed added that there were tax identification numbers. They came about and change along with 911 numbers coming in. Those changed the addresses and numbers of properties. It’s actually pretty crude prior to 1980. It’s amazing to him that there wasn’t even a building code before 1987. We’ve come a long way. We have new codes coming in March from the State. The stormwater code through DEC is looking to be coming out around the same time. Councilperson Snyder said that, going back to what Supervisor LaGrange or Councilperson Greenberg said, incrementally we should prioritize. It seems like that might be the way to go. Building Inspector Cramer said that he would like to address that first but at the same time he needs to start taking care of these enforcement actions and he needs to stop trying to run around with his head cut off all the time because it feels like that’s what he’s doing. He tries not to take days off. He’s taken a week off the entire year because it takes him six to seven weeks.
to get caught back up and certain things aren’t getting done when he’s gone. When he comes back he has 20 emails a day. If you take five days off there’s 100 emails, phone calls, and what not. Councilperson Snyder said to delegate. Building Inspector Cramer said that he would love to delegate more. Town Clerk Deschenes said that a big part of it too is that Mr. Pine has been here for so many years that he has a lot of vacation and sick time. He’s up to about six weeks’ vacation plus sick and personal time. Building Inspector Cramer said that there was a week when he did all the inspections, answered the phones, saw all the people, and doing everything. That’s why he’s trying to suggest a third full-time person so that if someone is out for two weeks because of something happening he doesn’t feel like he’s a month behind. Supervisor LaGrange said that as also is the case, we move from positions to people and circumstances that are better talked about in Executive Session. He thinks we all have a feel for what Building Inspector Cramer is talking about. Councilperson Greenberg said that he’s glad he came in. Building Inspector Cramer said that he doesn’t want to complain. He comes in and tries to do the best he can. He will say that without Mr. Pine he would be buried. There are a lot of things he helps him out with like plan reviews. He does a majority of the construction inspections. Councilperson Snyder said that that helps her out.

Building Inspector Cramer said that Mrs. Glath has been here 10 years and she was hoping to get to the last tier of the salary scale. Mr. Pine brought it up to him because Mrs. Glath voiced her opinion to him a couple of times. His personal opinion is that she could stay where she is but if the Board’s inclined to bring her up to where the other clerks in Town Hall are he would appreciate that. Councilperson Greenberg asked if he wants her to go from 4 to 5? Building Inspector Cramer said it amounts to about $8 a week. She does show up every day and she does what he asks her to do. Mistakes happen but she is here and she is loyal. There are a lot of things she does for him as far as noticing and getting permits processed and he does appreciate it. Mrs. Boehlke said that she will remind the Board before they go into Executive Session.

Councilperson Snyder asked if there is anything else in that budget line? Supervisor LaGrange said that everything else remained the same.

Councilperson Hennessy said that he just wanted to point out the mileage and personal vehicle use for inspections. It’s $5,000 a year. He just wanted to point out that out in comparison to the possibility of getting an electric vehicle we can charge here knowing that we might save more or less $4,000-$5,000 a year in cost, just to understand that while the number is in front of us. Supervisor LaGrange said that that’s a good point to bring up again. He knows that back when he first got on the Board he mentioned that the Cooperative Extension did it that way. We never really pursued it. Councilperson Greenberg added that we need a vehicle for Senior Outreach too. He doesn’t know if there would be a way to somehow share it.

B1670 Central Mailing and Data Processing (Page 140)
Town Clerk Deschenes said that this account is down. Mrs. Boehlke said that she would check on that. Councilperson Greenberg said that $650 seems fine.

B1990 Contingency (Page 142)
Councilperson Snyder asked if we used any this year. Mrs. Boehlke said that if you look at page 16, we used about $800. It would have been in a budget modification. Councilperson Greenberg asked if we always budget about $10,000? Mrs. Boehlke said that we do. Some years we don’t use it. You use it up and then you go to fund balance. Councilperson Greenberg said so if we use it up we go to fund balance or we don’t and it goes into fund balance? Councilperson Leinung asked what we use it for? Mrs. Boehlke said that we would use it for budget modification. For example, if the Building Department needed a printer but they didn’t budget for one, but if you approved buying it she would go to contingency first.

B4020 Registrar of Vital Statistics (Page 149)
Mrs. Boehlke said that that went up ever so slightly because we have an extra day in 2020.

B8610 Veterans Service (Page 152)
This is for the parade.

B8010 Zoning Contractual (Page 154)
Councilperson Greenberg thought there was a typo in the .4 because it went from $800 to $8,000. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that that’s for Mrs. Stolzenburg. She was doing a lot on the zoning codes. Councilperson Greenberg said that he thought that came out of the $20,000 that we had allotted for a planner. Mrs. Boehlke said that three of us have had this go-round. She believes we originally put Mrs. Stolzenburg under Planning for $20,000. Mrs. Stolzenburg has done a more significant amount of work in Zoning than Planning which is all under the B fund, so we moved it into the Zoning line. She believes that we did that through budget mods. Councilperson Greenberg asked if that $20,000 should be $10,000 in one and $10,000 in another? Mrs. Boehlke said that in Planning we still have $20,000 there. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that the $20,000 is not just for her, though, and Mrs. Boehlke agreed. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that she thinks they split it up. She was pointing out that most of the vouchers were under the Zoning code so they split it. It just makes it so that she doesn’t have to do a budget mod. Mrs. Boehlke added that he’s saying there should still be $20,000 in Planning. Supervisor LaGrange agreed adding that there are newspaper notices, education, training, printing, dues, and planning. Mrs. Boehlke said that they capped it all at $20,000 so there would not be $20,000 available for Mrs. Stolzenburg in the Planning code either. Councilperson Greenberg said that we moved $7,200 over to the Zoning Contractual for this year so we lowered Planning by $7,200. Mrs. Boehlke said that she didn’t see a lot being billed from Mr. Stolzenburg currently for Planning, so her estimate is very low for the .4 in Planning unless someone can tell her that she’s working on something specific before the end of this year. Councilperson Greenberg said that she is working on some Zoning code issues and subdivision issues. Mrs. Boehlke said that the subdivision is being billed through escrow. She’s seen that come through. Councilperson Greenberg said that he was talking about subdivision codes. Mrs. Boehlke said that that’s Zoning. Supervisor LaGrange said that that’s what he mentioned when we were talking about it. She will come in with a few more bills before the end of the year because she’s continuing with the code changes. Mrs. Boehlke said that we might need to move the money within B (from Planning to Zoning) for what’s she’s being requested to do. Mrs. Boehlke said that they’ve had a lot of conversations about this. She felt uncomfortable the way she saw it falling out.

Planning Board B8020 (Page 158)
Supervisor LaGrange said that page 160 shows the $20,000 and some of the other things that go into that. Mrs. Boehlke said that she believes that last year we capped them at $20,000 and since there wasn’t a submission we just moved forward with the same cap. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that last year it was capped at $23,000 in the preliminary budget. She thinks that that’s the reduction because Mrs. Boehlke shifted some over to Zoning. Councilperson Greenberg said that that would imply that we only shifted $3,000 over to Zoning. Mrs. Boehlke agreed adding that that means it won’t pan out to what we would like. We would want to reduce this by $4,000 to make up that additional. Supervisor LaGrange said that he thinks we had to split Mrs. Stolzenburg’s salary up. Supervisor LaGrange said that he did some work in Parks so some of her $20,000 is split with the Zoning code. Mrs. Boehlke felt that what Councilperson Greenberg was saying is that this $20,000 would be even less. Should we reduce it? Would the Board be more comfortable with $15,000? Councilperson Greenberg said that if you want to be precise it would be another $4,200 off. Supervisor LaGrange said that we want to be sure that we’re still allowing for $20,000 total for her services. Mrs. Boehlke said that we’ll review that and get an email out. Supervisor LaGrange said that he knows there is some in the A fund. She reviewed some stuff for the park. Councilperson Greenberg said that she did a lot of grant work. Supervisor LaGrange said that she worked on the Comprehensive Plan. Councilperson Greenberg said that probably most of it went toward the grant preparation. Councilperson Hennessy said that that’s part of the budget which was $3,000-$4,000, but he thinks the Planning and Subdivision Law could be construed to be part of the planning component. Councilperson Greenberg added that he’s saying the part that went into Parks went into grant preparation. Councilperson Greenberg said that that was about $4,000. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that she did some stuff on the barn which is the A fund. She thinks we put some into that. Councilperson Greenberg said that he’s trying to think what she would be doing next year because presumably we don’t have the $4,000 for the grant. He guessed we could resubmit. Councilperson Hennessy said that he envisions her being more involved in the completion of the zoning law improvements and codification of all the zoning and subdivision laws. Councilperson Greenberg said that you then want to take it out of Parks and put that money into Zoning. Supervisor LaGrange asked if we put anything in the budget for Mrs. Stolzenburg for the A fund for 2020? Supervisor LaGrange asked if we put anything in the budget for Mrs. Stolzenburg for the A fund for 2020? Supervisor LaGrange added that we budgeted and we allocated for 2019. There was $20,000 budgeted but he doesn’t recall where. Mrs. Boehlke said that we budgeted
$20,000 in B originally. Supervisor LaGrange said that it’s been allocated a little to A and a few things to B. Councilperson Greenberg said that we don’t really care too much between Zoning and Planning. You care a little bit between A fund and B fund. What he’s saying is that he’s not sure we’re going to have as much this year coming out of Parks in A as we did last year. He thinks we want to take what we have allotted in A and move it back to Planning and Zoning for the most part. Supervisor LaGrange asked if we had her at all for A fund in the budget. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that she still has $20,000 in the B fund. Mrs. Boehlke said that she doesn’t see her specifically budgeted in B for 2020. Supervisor LaGrange said that that’s what Councilperson Greenberg is getting at. We just want to allocate the $20,000 in B for her services, and it will be primarily with Zoning. It’s not necessarily the Zoning Board. There will be some Planning. Supervisor LaGrange corrected himself saying that that comes out of escrow. Councilperson Hennessy said that if there was something budgeted for A already he would have left it in there. Can that be checked out? When we continue with the Hilton Road and barn improvements in 2020, there may be stuff she can do for that. He doesn’t know what it is yet. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that we had a discussion about what code to put it in. Councilperson Greenberg added that there may be some grants too. Supervisor LaGrange said that he doesn’t remember her projected cost for the finished Zoning code but it has to be a fairly aggressive number. Councilperson Greenberg said that he has that somewhere. Right now she is working on what we call the “low-hanging fruit.” Next year she will probably get into more complicated stuff. Supervisor LaGrange asked if we want to stay with the $20,000 and maybe put $5,000 under A and $15,000 under B, Planning and Zoning. Councilperson Greenberg said that he didn’t think we needed that much in A. Councilperson Snyder said that maybe Mrs. Boehlke should just check it. Mrs. Boehlke said that she’ll check what we did in 2019. If we were able to get grant money we could amend the budget in 2020. If we had $5,000 in revenue, we could bring $5,000 of expenditure and have a net zero. What she’s hearing is that maybe in 2020 it still may be heavier in some areas. Do we do $15,000 and $5,000? That doesn’t limit her for what she does for escrow. Again, it’s B fund. Councilperson Greenberg suggested $17,000 and $3,000. Councilperson Hennessy agreed some kind of division like that. Mrs. Boehlke said that she will look to see what we did in 2019. Councilperson Hennessy suggested $16,000 and $4,000. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that most of the bills she’s handled have been Zoning or ended up under B Comprehensive Plan which isn’t here. It’s actually been paid under a B code that we don’t budget for. It’s just from Planning. Comprehensive actually has its own code; it’s still in B.

Mrs. Boehlke asked if the Board interested in knowing how much work she’s doing in escrow or not. Councilperson Greenberg said that he’d be curious to see that in an email. Councilperson Snyder said that that would be good information.

Councilperson Snyder asked if we used the engineering up. Are we okay there? Mrs. Boehlke said that she believes we are. Stantec is being much better about billing on a timely basis so she doesn’t feel that we’ll be going over. In 2018 it was $4,929 but she’s not seeing it trending toward that right now. Councilperson Snyder said that for now we’re going to stay with the $4,000.

Storm Sewer B8140 (Page 162) Supervisor LaGrange said that this pretty much stays the same. Supervisor LaGrange said that this includes the Stormwater Coalition. He doesn’t know if he mentioned it but Voorheesville rejoined our group. That’s very good. Councilperson Snyder asked if our coalition dues stayed pretty stable? Supervisor LaGrange said that there has been some fluctuation. We went down a bit for a little while but then we went back up to what we were previously paying which is about where we’re at now. The updated permit should be in our hands pretty soon. That’s another thing that Inspector Cramer has to be on top of. It’s going to be interesting because we’re still wondering what it’s going to look like. There have been some drafts. Councilperson Snyder asked if there have been any more audits? Supervisor LaGrange replied not on us but there have been on other coalition members.

Refuse and Garbage B8160 (Page 166) We covered this already.

B Fund Employees (Page 168) Supervisor LaGrange said that he had a note that we were going to increase the $41,793 by $2,200. That was something Mrs. Kavanaugh suggested. It’s going to $43,993. Councilperson Snyder
asked if Mrs. Kavanaugh anticipated any other changes. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that she never knows what employees are going to do. She can have someone with single coverage go to full family. That’s a huge hit on the Town. It’s like $18,000 a year. Councilperson Snyder asked if we have been good on our Workers’ Compensation? She noticed that that hasn’t changed. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that they kind of shift around categories which makes it hard to pin down. It’s odd. Occasionally they will shift and have a different category for certain workers and then it turns out it’s higher. She usually tries to get close but she doesn’t want to over budget either. Councilperson Snyder asked if our experience has been good? Mrs. Kavanaugh said that it had. It was bad there for a little bit. We’re in a consortium, so you have a medium category which is at let’s say zero. We were under that and we got like 5% discount and then we were above that point for a couple of years. We’re back below it again. Councilperson Snyder said that it’s helpful to understand that our experience is going in that direction. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that the State level the past two years hasn’t gone up drastically. It’s sort of like a tax.

DB Bund Employee Benefits (Page 188)
Supervisor LaGrange said that we had a figure for hospital and medical again. She had $29,000 written in. Is that the increase over last year? Mrs. Kavanaugh thought so. Supervisor LaGrange said that maybe the $2,200 was the increase over last year in the B Fund. Mrs. Kavanaugh thought there was something in B and made a note to look at it. There was one of them that she needed to do an increase in because we have a new employee in DB. She has to look at what they decided. She has a new employee in the A fund too. Mrs. Snyder said that the total is $460,882. Are you saying it should be $29,000 more? Supervisor LaGrange said that it’s $29,000 over the medical from last year. Mrs. Kavanaugh added that there was one that she needed to make an adjustment to. She thinks it was B but it might have been A fund. She will look at it.

Special Paid EMT Program SA4540 (Page 191)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this was the old coverage that encompassed the whole Town. He thinks that last year it was in the $70,000 range. What we did here is we put in the original request of like a 25% increase and then he dropped it down to what we talked about at the meeting with the Sheriff to the $80,000. Mrs. Boehlke said that there is information on the sheet called “budget notes.” We put in a 14% increase which is subject to discussion. We know where we all stand on that; we’re not happy. She talked about this at our last meeting. There is a meeting to be set up at the end of this week or early next week. The County Executive seems very open to entertaining some sort of help here. That’s the best she can tell you at this point. Mike McLaughlin said that he would set up a meeting but that hasn’t been set yet. Councilperson Greenberg added that she said that that was with the Bethlehem supervisor too. It was with Supervisor Van Luven, the County Executive, and some of his staff.

Councilperson Leinung asked if this was the townwide coverage. Supervisor LaGrange said that this is the original townwide backup. Councilperson Leinung added that because Onesquethaw already has ambulance and Voorheesville used to, this is the backup. Councilperson Greenberg added that he thinks that this has become less of an issue. A couple of years ago it was a big issue because the County was covering a number of calls per week for Onesquethaw and they’re not as much anymore. Supervisor LaGrange said that he stopped sending those reports to the Board that Mr. Mauro sends to him because it was redundant. Councilperson Leinung asked if this number reflects the lesser amount? Supervisor LaGrange said that it’s a flat fee. Councilperson Leinung asked if it matters how much we use them? Supervisor LaGrange said that he’s sure if Onesquethaw went out of business we’d see these double. Councilperson Snyder asked on what basis? If it’s not per call they must have the same number of people on call. Supervisor LaGrange said that he can’t answer those questions. Councilperson Snyder said that he would have to challenge that. Supervisor LaGrange said that there are a lot of questions throughout the whole program that he’d like to find out better but he’d rather put them on someone else’s budget. Councilperson Snyder said that it seems like that’s in the very distant future. Supervisor LaGrange said possibly. He thinks a year is reasonable from what he’s heard. Councilperson Snyder agreed. Councilperson Snyder asked if it’s safe to use the $80,347.20? Supervisor LaGrange said that it’s safe according to what the Sheriff said. Councilperson Leinung asked if it could possibly be negotiated down? Supervisor LaGrange agreed. This is the high point of what we’ve been told they were requesting at this point; that was with the Sheriff putting $150,000 into the program to offset the municipality. There is no guarantee it will be there next year. He thinks it’s going to have to be part of all those upcoming discussions we’re going to have. He wishes we had been
Town of New Scotland  
Budget Workshop  
October 15, 2019

notified earlier. He wishes we had a meeting with the Sheriff earlier and this could possibly be better decided by now. We designed the budget to accommodate it. He doesn’t know that there was any negotiation. He thinks they probably came in on the high side but it is what it is.

New Salem Ambulance SM4540 (Page 195)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this is a percent increase too. This is what covers the New Salem-Voorheesville District that used to be VAAS. This is our figure. This is 61% of the actual total figure. The total figure is split between us and the Village. Again, this is the same 14%. Mrs. Boehlke said that she will recheck the division. It’s still 61% and 39%. Supervisor LaGrange agreed. He added that the ALS is in the A fund, and that went up 10.3%. We will sit on those figures for now.

Clarksville Lighting LC5182 (Page 196)
Supervisor LaGrange said hopefully we will see a difference. He had hoped that the new lights would be up before daylight savings time. As National Grid goes, they have 90 days to comply.

Douglas Lane Lighting LD5182 (Page 198)
Supervisor LaGrange said that these are pretty stagnant.

Feura Bush Lighting LF5182 (Page 200)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this district should see some good savings.

Heldervale Sewer District (Page 202)
Supervisor LaGrange said that we are budgeting about the same amount as last year. Councilperson Greenberg asked about the reserves. Supervisor LaGrange said that they are coming along.

Mrs. Boehlke said that the big one we were concerned about was Heldervale Sewer and Feura Bush Water. Feura Bush has already seen a nice repay towards that. She anticipates more this year. It was a big hit but it’s paying off well. Rate-wise she talked to Supervisor LaGrange. A slight increase might be needed in one or two and a decrease in one because it’s a newer district and we’re acquiring more fund balance. On page 3, Summary of Estimated Fund Balance, it shows you where we are. She cannot budget to add to fund balance. We have a good repayment reserve plan in place. She has gotten very few calls. She was fortunate that Mrs. Miller was willing to come back and do the billing. That is one thing she doesn’t do here. She came back and did it. Again, she was on maternity leave when the bills went out. We received very few calls. She thinks that on the first and second billing we did. She had a conversation and was very clear that we sent them a letter and the Board invited them. This is where we are. She thinks all of that hubbub is in the past. She’s anticipating that we can do this in five years with Feura Bush. Supervisor LaGrange added sooner for Heldervale. Mrs. Boehlke added that we can’t forget that Heldervale Water and Sewer should benefit from Barbera Homes (Creekside). More people will be paying in. Supervisor LaGrange added the Olsen project and Kay’s project too.

Councilperson Hennessy said that historically we had a fund line item back in the Dolin days for water research and water exploration. Where did that fall? It existed. He could put money in there for periodic investigation. He doesn’t know if we need to reactivate that or not. Town Clerk Deschens thought that before New Salem was formed they used from fund balance but kept track of it so it could be paid back to the district. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that if we did that it would be A, Common Water. Mrs. Boehlke added that that would mean that every person including the Village would be paying to research water for people. Councilperson Hennessy said that it existed before. All he’s asking is what was the line item? Mrs. Kavanaugh said that years ago there was B, Common Water, and it paid back $250,000 to the B fund from various water districts. It was in 2008. Councilperson Hennessy asked if she could prepare a memo with that history. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that she could. I think there is a memo in a summary sheet. Supervisor LaGrange said that he thinks the point is what we always did when we had a potential system that we were working on and we had to expend some money we just drew it from reserves and the district would pay us back later. Which is kind of what Mrs. Kavanaugh is alluding too and the whole B, Common Water, was illegitimate. Mrs. Kavanaugh said it was more that they forgot to pay it back when they created the district. She thinks that back in the 1950s they did a water survey that the Board might be interested in. Councilperson Hennessy said that he has that. Mrs. Kavanaugh said
that there might have been another in the 1970s. Councilperson Greenberg asked if she wants a line item to do some exploration? Councilperson Hennessy replied yes. We have the Water Committee and we have people coming there. Where is Stantec, if they are even part of it, if they have a charge, because they come to every meeting? Mr. Dempf used to do it as a resident; he is no longer with the company. Maybe it’s not a volunteer anymore. Supervisor LaGrange said that he thinks it is but he’s not positive. Mr. Frueh is a resident. Councilperson Hennessy added that he has said that he wanted to do water consolidation for four years. He wants to pursue that whether we get a grant to study it or whether we hire a consultant to do it. That’s where he’s going. Mrs. Boehlke said that that’s where the conversations were between us and Mr. Dolin. Who pays to explore water? Is it people from the A fund where she and Councilperson Snyder are receiving water from the Village and already pay for that? Mrs. Kavanaugh added that she has a well. Mrs. Boehlke added she’s probably never going to get water. Councilperson Hennessy said all he asked was can you please find what that line item was? I can call Mr. Dolin and ask him. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that it was B, Common Water. Mrs. Boehlke added that she would get him those sheets. Supervisor LaGrange said that it still comes down to whether we want to do that; we would just use fund balance and eventually charge it to the districts that benefit. Councilperson Hennessy said that he understood.

Councilperson Leinung said that we had some new legislation that passed a couple of years ago. There is this new Drinking Water Quality Counsel. Part of that is that there are new chemicals that need to be tested. He’s not sure if that increases our testing line or not. If we see something happen it might be because we have to be testing for more than lead. There are a few more they are adding on. Mrs. Boehlke said that we are seeing the cost of purification and testing. Purification is generally the cost of the testing that goes to St. Peter’s Laboratory and any chemicals that they put in. We are seeing that trend so that very well could continue.

Councilperson Snyder asked if the Supervisor’s office could give us the number of users like they did last time. You did it for Heldervale. Mrs. Boehlke said that she would.

Clarksville Water District (Page 203)
Councilperson Leinung said that he doesn’t know if we would have this in the budget but we’ve talked about possibly building fencing. Is that reflected in here? Supervisor LaGrange said that we were trying to work on grant money for that. We were working with Mr. Frueh from Stantec. He is still exploring those things with an overall picture of each water district. It’s something that we really need to get back after. At worst, we’re going to have to bond something and take care of those things. Someone is going to have to go back. Mr. LaChappelle got some of these prices but I’m sure they’ve changed over time. Supervisor LaGrange then discussed the specific areas that need fencing. Again, we were trying to get some grant money and work that way. Councilperson Leinung said that he was just wondering.

Supervisor LaGrange said that Clarksville is one of the areas where we might entertain a slight increase. Mrs. Boehlke added that we were talking $0.25 to $0.50 per 1,000 for rates. Councilperson Leinung asked if we didn’t increase them $1 last year? Mrs. Boehlke replied that we didn’t increase them anything last year; it was the year before. In comparison we are estimating just shy of a $15,000 fund balance on a $155,000 operating budget. It depends on what the Board is comfortable with.

Colonie Country Club Water District (Page 204)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this is one that we’re still getting a feel for as far as fund balance and so forth. We are going to probably wait another year before we make any changes in the rate. Councilperson Greenberg asked if this is Village water? Supervisor LaGrange said that it was. Mrs. Boehlke added that it’s much better now that its usage by home versus a meter. We supply them by usage by home. They used to bill it on the master meter so after the second or third day of their billing cycle we were at the top rate. Supervisor LaGrange said that was a request he put in to the Mayor who took it to his Board. Mrs. Boehlke said that she couldn’t image what we would have had to charge them. They are large homes, big users, and beautiful lawns. They don’t know that when they move in. It’s not what they are using as a selling point. Supervisor LaGrange said that the Village was good about changing the way it was billed. Mrs. Boehlke said that she would say that more realtors are calling now, and we give them as much information as we can. On a
$100,000 home it’s not generally the breaking point but it needs to be reality. She’d rather have that conversation before they get a bill. The conversation afterward is never pretty.

Feura Bush Water District (Page 205)
Councilperson Greenberg said that this went down a little. Obviously something got paid off. Mrs. Boehlke said that we have much less in water equipment requests. We lost almost $14,000 in water equipment requests. Councilperson Greenberg said that he thinks it’s the bond. Mrs. Boehlke agreed that the bond was reduced. That’s about $20,000 altogether. Supervisor LaGrange said that this district is looking good as far as the rate. Councilperson Leinung said that it looks like we made up $10,000 already.

Font Grove Water District (Page 206)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this is one we might have to entertain an increase in because we need a little fund balance. The problem is Bethlehem is looking for us to do some things there. I don’t know that we want to. It’s one of those places where they’ve asked us to clean up and have it metered on us. This would be coming across from Heldervale.

Councilperson Snyder said, speaking of Bethlehem, are they giving us adequate notice when they change their rates? There was a disconnect in the past. Mrs. Boehlke said that the answer to that is no. Councilperson Snyder asked if it still has not worked out? Mrs. Boehlke said that it’s after our budget is posted and we find out by checking the website. Councilperson Snyder asked if they could put on a notice? As a courtesy they could let us know. Mrs. Kavanaugh said there is an automatic increase. A year ago or so they passed a law or resolution where they automatically increased their rates 3% a year. Councilperson Greenberg said that they can’t let us know in advance because they probably don’t raise them until after their budget is done and after our budget is done, but they could tell us when they raise them. Mrs. Boehlke added that Mrs. Kavanaugh is saying that they are just going with a straight 3%. Mrs. Kavanaugh said that now it’s automatic. We do know ahead now. Councilperson Greenberg asked if they were saying that it’s at least 3%? He didn’t realize. He thought it could be more than that. Councilperson Snyder asked if they know it’s automatically 3%? Mrs. Kavanaugh said that she can’t remember the percentage so don’t hold her to that. On January 1st their rates are going up. Councilperson Greenberg said that maybe we should just take that into account. Mrs. Boehlke said that you take that into account with a bit of an increase in the water usage. Again, I also can’t guarantee that usage will be the same. Mrs. Boehlke said that she does try to take that into my “crystal ball.” Councilperson Greenberg is saying that it’s not a crystal ball. Mrs. Boehlke said that it’s only one part.

Heldervale Water District (Page 207)
Supervisor LaGrange said that we’re making good progress. Just as a point in case anyone asks we’ve been working off the original loan. We were working to pay off the BAN fees. There were several years that we worked that down. He believes that next year it will probably go back onto the tax bill. Mrs. Boehlke said that approximately $10,000 is going back onto the tax bill. Mrs. Boehlke said that what happened was there were some previous years’ projects. Let’s say up to $50,000 as an example but we only used $45,000. We still BAN the $45,000 and the money sat there. She finally pushed Mr. Purinton to find out what we could do with that money sitting there. It had to be used to pay back debt. So we took that money and we didn’t charge their debt repayment on their January bill until we used that. In 2020 we will use that money up and we go back to charging them on their tax bill for the difference. Councilperson Snyder said that she understands that but she doesn’t know that the average person is going follow what’s happening. Mrs. Boehlke said that we discussed that when we had the open meeting with Heldervale. She’s sure she will get those calls. It was their money and we used it to pay their debt. It gave them a reprieve for a couple of years. Supervisor LaGrange said that we must have been the meter pit and that’s collected in our indebtedness sheet. It’s paid off in 2028. We only have to pay back about $7,000. Town Clerk Deschenes said that on the schedule of tax assessment it’s showing up as $7,526 and that’s what’s going to be split amongst all the people. Supervisor LaGrange said that the nice part about that is it is before Creekside came on. They will help split up the resulting amount so it will actually be less than what they were paying a few years ago. Councilperson Snyder added that there will be more users. How many users are there now in Creekside? Mrs. Boehlke said that there are four or five. Both Paige Pierce’s properties came on and there are two to three structures that have already been paid for. Supervisor LaGrange said that they’ll be billed.
There is also the property across the street. There are probably six or seven now; Mrs. Boehlke thought five. Supervisor LaGrange said that either way they are adding all the time. That’s nice because it defrays the cost.

Kensington Woods Water District (Page 208)
There was no discussion.

Northeast Water District (Page 209)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this went down. Councilperson Leinung said that there was a bond for quality improvement and $5,000 last year got paid off. In three years Northeast will be done.

New Salem Water District (Page 210)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this is pretty much the same. This is where we might see a slight rate decrease too.

Swift Road Water District (Page 211)
Supervisor LaGrange said that this had a slight decrease. While we’re on this, they’ve been working on the VFDs and getting them installed. They will hopefully have one of the motors up and going by Friday, and then they will start working on the other one.

Supervisor LaGrange said that that’s everything other than that we need an Executive Session. Councilperson Snyder asked how much is the tax increase? Supervisor LaGrange asked if she meant budget-wide? Councilperson Snyder said however he wants to express it. She knows that we’re staying within the tax cap but she’s not sure what the tax cap is. Mrs. Boehlke said that the allowed levy limit is 2.97%. Supervisor LaGrange said that part of that is because of our growth factor. Councilperson Snyder said that with this budget at this moment do you know where we are in relation to the 2.97%? Supervisor LaGrange said that we’re just a little under that. That’s why we have the $39,000 to play with. Councilperson Leinung said that percentage-wise if you look at page 4 the rate per 1,000 in the A and B funds go down at this point. Councilperson Snyder said that she thought it went up in A and DA if you look at the amount to be raised by taxes. Councilperson Leinung said that the amount went up but that’s because we have more value in the Town. Councilperson Snyder said that she sees that the rate went down. Supervisor LaGrange said that that’s mostly due to the growth we’ve had. Mrs. Boehlke said that we had to take an approach to start the budget. She suggested that we take last year’s tax and increase it by 2% to see where we fall. Councilperson Snyder said that she can see that on page 4. Mrs. Boehlke said that when you started adding in the increased values that’s where those other numbers fell out. There is $39,969 of tax cap not used in this budget. We could tax it to one district or multiple districts but we also left that for you to have some mobility in these decisions that you need to make with salaries, COLA, or Albany County Sheriff. It’s only $39,000. It’s a lot for one thing but it’s not if you have to spread the wealth. Again there is $39,000 that could be used and in Mr. Purinton’s mindset it should be used. Carrying it forward does not benefit the Town.

Councilperson Snyder said that if the cap is 2.97% are you saying that the amount levied in here is 2.9%? Mrs. Boehlke said that it’s not far off; $39,000 is 2.93%.

Councilperson Greenberg asked if she knew what a 2% COLA costs. Mrs. Boehlke said that she could give him that. Councilperson Greenberg asked what Social Security announced. Town Clerk Deschenes said 1.6%.

Supervisor LaGrange said that with what we put together so far we have some wiggle room. He thinks that with the $39,000 we are just under what a 2% COLA would be. That’s something to take into consideration. The funds are available if that’s what we choose to do. He’d go back to entertaining what fund balance we want to use after we narrow down these other numbers and these salary numbers that we’re going to talk about.

Executive Session
Resolution 2019-215
Supervisor LaGrange offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:
RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Scotland does hereby authorize an Executive Session to discuss personal issues.

Seconded by Councilperson Greenberg. All present and voting, the motion carried (5 Ayes).

Executive Session began at 8:44 PM.

Councilperson Hennessy made a motion to adjourn Executive Session, seconded by Councilperson Snyder.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Adjourn
Councilperson Snyder made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Councilperson Hennessy. The workshop adjourned at 10:05 PM.

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Diane R. Deschenes, Town Clerk