

Town of New Scotland
Special Town Board Meeting

August 31, 2016

The following Town Officials were in attendance:

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

Absent: Councilperson: Laura Ten Eyck

1. Call to Order

Supervisor LaGrange called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Discussion/Action re: grant application to the Hudson River Valley Greenway’s “Greenways Communities Grant Program” to be used for comprehensive plan review.

• Resolution authorizing grant application and committing 50% funds match

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and apply for a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway. Supervisor LaGrange advised that we have a deadline of September 9th which necessitated this meeting for Board approval. Ted Kolankowski from Barton and Loguidice has offered his services to make this application at no charge to the town. Supervisor LaGrange said we can apply for up to \$10,000. The point of this is to continue and finish our Comprehensive Plan review. This is a grant so if it is approved that’s great. We can decide later whether to accept it or not. It is a 50-50 grant. We’ve had discussions and there are thoughts that we shouldn’t exceed \$20,000 to complete everything. Attorney Naughton said that the proposed resolution says that we are willing to commit up to a certain dollar amount which is blank right now. Supervisor LaGrange said it would be for \$10,000, and that would be our match also. If we get the grant, great; otherwise we would have to come up with it on our own. At this point we are tentatively putting \$10,000 in the budget towards this and were assuming this was a \$10,000 grant. Councilperson Hennessy said that he’s totally supportive of this effort. We began this effort many years ago and essentially put it on the back burner when the whole 85/85A issue came about, and we saw that we were going to be dealing with the zoning of that. We wanted to piggyback it all together. In pursuing this, Mr. Kolankowski mentioned that even though we did receive some grants for this process years ago for a portion of it there is another grant program available, so it wouldn’t be a total town cost to finish the update. He thinks it’s a great opportunity.

Edith Abrams asked what this buys us. Supervisor LaGrange said that it helps us continue the process whatever that might be, whether it’s hiring someone to consolidate the stuff we’ve done so far and to continue what we have left to do. There are public hearings that need to be held across the town, and then there is going to be some final codification. Mrs. Abrams asked if this was to update a greenway. Supervisor LaGrange said that this was to update our Comprehensive Plan through the Greenway Grant.

Thomas Hart said that it’s great that Mr. Kolankowski is doing this pro bono, but is there a concern with it becoming prejudicial to Barton & Loguidice doing the work if the grant is an option? Supervisor LaGrange said, “Not necessarily.” He’s offered and that’s it. For some grants now, if one applies they can’t come back around because if they were to bid on the follow-up work they’d have an advantage over other firms. Supervisor LaGrange said that he didn’t know if this would preclude them from doing this in the future, but those are things we are going to be watchful of from now on for any of these grants. Mr. Hart said that he’s not objecting to it; he just thinks it might be good to know what our position might be on that before accepting Mr. Kolankowski’s offer.

RESOLUTION NO. 209 OF 2016 Town of New Scotland, New York

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY FOR GREENWAY COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of New Scotland wishes to apply to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program for a project entitled “Comprehensive Plan Review” to be located in the Town of New Scotland, and intends to accept the funds if the grant is

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awarded; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the applicant municipality to obtain the approval of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that that the Town Board of the Town of New Scotland hereby: (A) approves and endorses the application for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program, for a project known as “Comprehensive Plan Review;” and (B) commits to the expenditure of up to \$10,000 in required matching funds and/or in-kind services; and (C) hereby directs the Supervisor to execute any and all necessary documentation required in connection with said grant.

A motion by Supervisor LaGrange seconded by Member Hennessy to adopt Resolution No. 209 of 2016.

In favor: 4 Ayes

Opposed: 0 Nays

Motion Approved: 4 Ayes

Letter from Mr. Snyder regarding a water bill

Supervisor LaGrange advised that we received a letter from Mr. Snyder regarding his Swift Road water bill. He has a dispute on his water bill from January through July. He has contacted us over that period a couple of times. He claims that when the Swift Road pumps were down back in January he observed that the meter was pushing air at 10 times the amount of what water would. We have statements from the engineers and the meter company that conflict with his assertion that it would go 10 times faster. Supervisor LaGrange asked him what his benchmark was to come to that conclusion, and he didn't really have one. His bill has been at a similar volume in the past. He came in recently to deliver that letter if he didn't get satisfaction from us. Everything looks right. Mr. Hensel went up and checked his meter yesterday morning. In the 54 days since the reading for the first part of the year and yesterday morning, he had used around 21,000 gallons. That's extremely high. Mr. Hensel checked it again this morning, and from yesterday morning in about a 22-hour period he used another 5,590 gallons. Mr. LaChappelle went up there immediately this morning, and there were two $\frac{3}{4}$ inch outdoor hoses running. The lawn was like a sponge which accounts for that almost 6,000 gallons overnight. Supervisor LaGrange said that he's concerned on a few levels for Mr. Snyder that he didn't want to speak about in public. We are looking into finding out what's going on. Supervisor LaGrange added that he doesn't know if he is leaving faucets on at times. He did go away immediately after the pumps were shut down in January for 10 days. Could he have left something on? We don't know. We are trying to compile all of the fact that we can find and help him through the situation, but at the same time we can't have his neighbors held accountable for his usage. As a side note, two of his closest neighbors, one higher in elevation that would have more air in his lines at that point, both had the minimum usage for the six months. It seems like it's isolated to Mr. Snyder's property. Again, we are trying to help him sort through it and see what's going on. Councilperson Snyder asked if he had checked for leaks. Supervisor LaGrange said that Mr. LaChappelle checked yesterday. He couldn't find anything immediately yesterday; that's why we are thinking it might be more of an issue with a faucet being left on at times. Supervisor LaGrange offered to keep the Board updated.

Employee Manual

Board members each received a new copy of the employee manual that includes the recent mileage change.

3. Adjourn

Supervisor LaGrange made a motion to adjourn seconded by Councilperson Snyder. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Diane R. Deschenes, Town Clerk