

Present:
Town Supervisor: Meg Wood
Councilpersons: Richard Gero, and Leanne Welch (Miller and Donaldson absent)
Town Clerk: Erica Hedden
Wastewater Chief: Brian Ritchings
Also Present: Dave Williams, Albert May, Skip Mahler, Fran Mahler, Tim Sheridan, Sue Palisano, Bob Bearor, Holly Bearor, Joy Koch, Bob Koch

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with a salute to the Flag.

Public Participation:

Joy Koch stated: Thank you for all your work and progress regarding the street lights. I really appreciate it.

Bob Bearor stated: thank you for having me. I contacted the Town Clerk about a grievance I have and it was recommended that I bring my concern to the Board. This incident happened on Nov. 14th, I had family up and we are getting ready to go hunting. Then a dog appears on our front lawn. No licenses, no tags. We started calling around, neighbors' friends and anyone who we thought might know who this dog belonged to. We start going down the road and knocking on doors. We called the state police, they said this isn't their problem but then came to see if they could help. I didn't want the dog to go back out in the road and get hit by a car. The police tried to contact the Dog control officer, they tried to reach her twice and she hung up on them. So now we have a problem. The state troopers took the dog to the station. This is what erks me. First off, I have worked with animal control in Troy for 25 years with the Fire Department. Also, with the Town of Greenwich, additionally when we moved to Newcomb, I worked with Goerge Cannon and became the DCO officer for the Town of Newcomb for 10 years. I am well versed in the responsibilities of the DCO, those responsibilities are not being met here. I am asking and urging the Board to nicely ask the Dog Control Officer to resign or have the DCO removed. The duties of DCO are not being done correctly. I am a tax payer; I want to see my tax dollars used wisely. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings or have anyone upset with what I have to say. I cannot speak for other instances or experiences, but this was my experience and I am happy to discuss it in detail with anyone who would like to. Thank you for letting me have the time to air my grievance, I appreciate it.

Holly Bearor stated: I have one more thing I would like to add. The Dog Control Officer called our house, and asked me where is the dog. I told her the state police took the dog and I did not know where the dog physically was anymore. I don't believe it should be up to me, the complainant, to find the dog. It should not be back on me; she needs to do this. It was a beautiful dog and I hope he got home safe.

Supervisor Wood stated: this was Charlie, right?

Bob Bearor stated: yes, how did you know what? Yes, that was his name.

Supervisor Wood stated: this wasn't his first escape

Bob Bearor stated: well, thank you again for listening to me. The Ag and Markets law regarding this is changing, the whole County is trying work on these changes. I care that things are done right, and that the dogs are safe.

REQUEST TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NOVEMBER 6 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

RESOLUTION #221-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to accept the Town Clerks minutes of November 6th Public Hearings and November 6th Town Board Meetings minutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby accepts the Town Clerks minutes of November 6th Public Hearings and November 6th Town Board Meetings minutes.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE VOUCHERS

RESOLUTION #222-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the following vouchers:

Sewer: \$ 13,994.88 Water: \$ 814.39 General: \$ 36,512.92 Highway: \$ 36,042.11

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the following vouchers:

Sewer: \$ 13,994.88 Water: \$ 814.39 General: \$ 36,512.92 Highway: \$ 36,042.11

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

RESOLUTION #223-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the Building and Codes monthly report for November, as well as the Town Clerks monthly report for the month of November.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the Building and Codes monthly report for the month of November, as well as the Town Clerks monthly report for the month of November.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE DATE AND TIME FOR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND ADDITIONAL MEETING

RESOLUTION #224-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve setting the date and time for the 2026 Organizational meeting of January 12, 2026 at 6PM.

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon also calls for a meeting for the purpose of approve final 2025 vouchers to avoid post audits in 2026 if possible, and any other business deemed necessary on 12/29/25 at 3PM.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves setting the date and time for the 2026 Organizational meeting of January 12, 2026 at 6PM.

ALSO RESOLVED, a meeting for the purpose of approve final 2025 vouchers to avoid post audits in 2026 if possible, and any other business deemed necessary on December 29, 2025 at 3PM.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE THOMAS MORTON TRANSFER FROM PARKS TO HIGHWAY

RESOLUTION #225-2025

INTRODUCED BY: SUPERVISOR WOOD

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the transfer of Thomas Morton from Parks Department to Highway Department for the winter months effective December 1, 2025. No change in pay rate or grade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the transfer of Thomas Morton from Parks Department to Highway Department for the winter months effective December 1, 2025. No change in pay rate or grade.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

**REQUEST TO APPROVE RESCINDING RESOLUTION #219-2025 AND UPDATE WATER UNITS
RESOLUTION #226-2025**

INTRODUCED BY: SUPERVISOR WOOD

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve rescinding resolution #219-2025 and replacing it with this resolution to change the water units of Sticks and Stones account 135-200, TM# 156.8-2-5.000 from 1.00 unit to .5 units per the Rules and Regulations, and per Bill Jenks. Building was lost to a fire and is no longer operational, parcel is now considered vacant land.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves rescinding resolution #219-2025 and replacing it with this resolution to change the water units of Sticks and Stones account 135-200, TM# 156.8-2-5.000 from 1.00 unit to .5 units per the Rules and Regulations, and per Bill Jenks. Building was lost to a fire and is no longer operational, parcel is now considered vacant land.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

**REQUEST TO APPROVE CORRECTION IN WATER DISTRICT UNIT COUNT FOR 1069 US ROUTE 9 FROM
1 TO 4 UNITS, TAX MAP # 147.53-2-24.000**

RESOLUTION # 227-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the change in water and wastewater units from 1.00 unit to 4 units at 1069 US Rte. 9, tax map number 147.53-2-24.000. This resolution is to correct the units.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the change in water and wastewater units from 1.00 unit to 4 units at 1069 US Rte. 9, tax map number 147.53-2-24.000. This resolution is to correct the units.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE 2026 BARKS AND RECREATION DOG CONTROL CONTRACT

RESOLUTION #228-2025

INTRODUCED BY: SUPERVISOR WOOD

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the 2026 Barks and Recreation Contract and Fee Schedule in the amount of \$2,750.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the 2026 Barks and Recreation Contract and Fee Schedule in the amount of \$2,750.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS FOR
ANNUAL TOWN BUDGETING - TABLE**

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025 ENTITLED LAW PROHIBITING
LOITERING AND OVERNIGHT CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND SET HEARING DATE - TABLE**

REQUEST TO APPROVE REVISED PROCURMENT POLICY – TABLE

REQUEST TO APPROVE EXPANSION OF ADVERTISING FOR HIGHWAY POSITION

RESOLUTION # 229-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: SUPERVISOR WOOD

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the additional advertisements for the open highway positions. Advertisements will be placed in the Press Republican, Post Star and the Sun Community Times.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the additional advertisements for the open highway positions. Advertisements will be placed in the Press Republican, Post Star and the Sun Community Times.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHROON LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLUTION #230 -2025

INTRODUCED BY: SUPERVISOR WOOD

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: UNANIMOUS

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the Thanks to the Schroon Lake Public Library Board. This Board works tirelessly for their cause. For the first 6 months of the year the Board members cumulatively participated in 76.75 hours of meetings, 33 hours of training, 116.75 hours of committee gatherings, 188.92 hours of research, totaling 415.42 volunteer hours by the Schroon Lake Library Board.

WHEREAS, The Schroon Lake Public Library is fortunate to have such an amazing and dedicated Board. Thank you for all of your effort, and hard work to help make our library as wonderful as it is.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the recognition of the Schroon Lake Public Library Board for all their hard work and effort.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLUTION # 231-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the reappointment of the following Board member trustees Laura Donaldson, Betsy Ross, and Carissa Mangan, terms to begin on 01/01/26 and ending 12/31/2030.

WHEREAS, additionally the following list of officers was approved at the Schroon Lake Public Library Board meeting held on November 24, 2025 is as follows:

President: Pamela Ireland

Co-Financial Officers: Cathy Bendert and Julie Chippendale

Vice President: Joan Lawless

Recording Secretary: Diane D'Amico

Corresponding Secretary: Laura Dewey

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the reappointment of listed trustees as well as the new slate of officers.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD

RESOLUTION # 232-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the reappointment of Bruce Murdock to the Planning Board for a term of 01/01/026 to 12/31/2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the reappointment of Bruce Murdock to the Planning Board for a term of 01/01/026 to 12/31/2030.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

RESOLUTION # 233-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the reappointment of Larry Reid to the Board of Assessment review for a term of 10/01/2025 to 09/30/2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the reappointment of Larry Reid to the Board of Assessment review for a term of 10/01/2025 to 09/30/2030.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

REQUEST TO APPROVE REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD

RESOLUTION # 234-2025

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

WHEREAS, the Town of Schroon seeks to approve the reappointment of Colin Mangan to the Planning Board for a term of 10/01/2025 to 09/30/2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Schroon hereby approves the reappointment of Colin Mangan to the Planning Board review for a term of 10/01/2025 to 09/30/2030.

DULY ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2025 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTES:

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

AYES: Councilpersons Gero, Welch, Supervisor Wood

ABSENT: Councilpersons Miller, Donaldson

DISCUSSION: FAIRFIELD AVE SPEED LIMIT

Supervisor Wood stated: we received a letter from DOT that states,

This letter is in response to your August 25, 2025, letter to our New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Office of Traffic Safety and Mobility regarding your request for a speed limit evaluation for Fairfield Avenue in the Town of Schroon.

According to the NYSDOT Essex County Local Road Inventory, Fairfield Avenue is measured at less than ¼ mile. Our directives do not recommend linear speed limits for segments less than ¼ of a mile in length. Such short lengths do not allow excessive traffic speeds and enforcement efforts would be minimal, if any, on these low volume roads. Therefore, we will not take any action regarding a speed limit reduction at this location.

DISCUSSION: TOWN HALL CLEANING CONTRACT

Supervisor Wood stated: we are tabling this for now. We are in communication with several interested parties.

DISCUSSION: AED STATUS

Supervisor Wood stated: Steve Miller is not here, he is the board member that is taken all the initiative with his, so I have nothing to report and I will get in contact with him to see where he is at. He is not here today because he just welcomed a new grandbaby! Congratulations to Steve and his family.

DISCUSSION: STREET LIGHTS

Supervisor Wood stated: no updates, we have the bulbs but have not been able to put them in yet. Our Building and Grounds worker is so busy, he has not had time to address this yet, but rest assured, it will get done.

DISCUSSION: ESSEX COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Supervisor Wood stated: The Essex County Emergency Preparedness needs to be reviewed every 5 years. We have adopted the updated version. We have a meeting to review all of our emergency preparedness across the county.

DISCUSSION: HIRING A PER DIEM COURT CLERK

Supervisor Wood stated: we had a request from the current court clerk to be allowed to work overtime. We have assigned a clerk to help her on Mondays. The back log in the court is extensive. When we were getting ready for the budget decisions, I did 2 months ago send a request to the Justice for documentation of needs. So, we could have an explanation of what we were doing, the request was acknowledge but no information is fourth coming. I had spoken with Maureen in September, as well as more recently, this is a need that we have to take care of.

DISCUSSION: SLA HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO PRESENT INFOMRATION AT 5:30pm BEFORE THE FEBRUARY MEETING – WAKE BOARD ON SL

Supervisor Wood stated; SLA Association has requested that they be able to have a presentation prior to the meeting on the issue of wake boards on Schroon Lake. How wake boards affect the lake and the shorefront.

DISCUSSION: HYDROLOGIC ASSESSMENT

Supervisor Wood stated: we have been talking about recently the need for a hydrologic assessment. Talking with DPW, Sewer Dept, Water Dept, and Highway about stormwater. We know from Brian that stormwater does get into the sewer system, which can cause problems or make any current issues larger. We have issues with stormwater causing erosion with our roads. Issues on Leland, Broad and Dock to name a few. Before we can get grants, we need to have an engineer's report. Having this report on hand will help expediate the grant process.

DISCUSSION: BAND STAND

Supervisor Wood stated: We are still waiting for the specs from the engineers. We need the specs so we can put out to bid for historically appropriate repairs to the bandstand.

Councilperson Gero stated: I would like a shout out to Dustin and to Joe for helping getting the tree. I really appreciate Pete and Doty for donating the tree, we really appreciate it. There are about 8,500 lights on the tree. I'll work with those three guys any time, they are an absolute joy to work with. I'd also like to welcome Mr. Williams to the board. Also, to Lynn, thank you for your four years of service, she was an integral part of our team and she will be missed.

Councilperson Welch stated: I also want to say Thank you to Rick. He helps out so much in so many places.

THANK YOU TO TOWN STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR COMPLETING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

THANK YOU TO THE SCHROON COMMUNITY FOR THEIR OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE STICKS & STONES FIRE

ADJOURN MEETING AT 6:53 PM

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILPERSON GERO

SECONDED BY: COUNCILPERSON WELCH

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM, carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

Erica Hedden- Town Clerk