



Schuyler Town Newsletter

TOWN OF SCHUYLER, HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK

OCTOBER, 2020

Notice: Town Board Public Hearing

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th • 5:30 PM

RE: FORMATION OF THE WEST SCHUYLER WATER DISTRICT
(Graham Rd. • Brown Rd. • Newport Rd. • Sky View Dr.)

Debt Service: \$581/EDU/Year

Average Combined Debt Service & Water Usage
(Family of 4): \$986.00/year

— Public is Welcome —

Proposed E. Schuyler Water District Vote Results

- The East Schuyler Water Vote was passed.
- A total of 107 people voted.

☺ YES: 71

☹ NO: 36

Thank You to all who came out to vote!

Town Clerk's Hours

MONDAY — FRIDAY • 10 AM — 3:00 PM

Phone: (315) 733-7458

Court Clerks' Hours

MONDAY — FRIDAY • 10 AM — 3:00 PM

Phone: (315) 733-1093

Zoning Board of Appeals

Thursday, October 1st
6:00 PM

RE: Special Use Permit: Johnson's Auto Body
2128 State Route 5, Schuyler

Planning Board Meetings

REGULAR MEETINGS
First Wednesday of Each Month
6:00 PM

George Haskell, Assessor

October Office Hours
Every Thursday Evening • 6:00 — 8:00 PM
Phone: (315) 733-7458, Ext. 225
(leave message if you need assistance)

Philip Green, Codes Officer

Call Before Starting ANY Building Project
(315) 733-7447 (Office)
(315) 534-2232 (Cell)

Deadline for Nov. 2020 Newsletter Monday, Oct. 19th



Articles for publication may be dropped off
at the Town Office or E-mailed to:

Bette Szesny, Editor
At: bszes@aol.com

Next Town Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY EVENING
OCTOBER 14th
6:00 PM



**TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING — SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 • 5:30 PM
FOLLOWED BY REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING — 6:00 PM**

TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

— COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT —

Supervisor Anthony Lucenti; Councilwoman Bette Szesny; and Councilmen Rodney Dodge, Joe Juliano, and Eric Kane. Also present were: Town Clerk Barbara J. Boulia; Superintendent of Highways Philip Johnson; Assessor George Haskell; Codes Enforcement Officer Philip Green; ZBA Chairman Ronald Beach; and 29 Town of Schuyler Residents.

Supervisor Lucenti said the purpose of this Public Hearing is to add to the Local Law #2 of 2017 the following: Solar Farms and Solar Power Plants shall be permitted in the R-A (Rural Agricultural), P-D (Planned Development), and C-T (Cell Tower) Zones of the Town of Schuyler.

Supervisor Lucenti then opened up the Public Hearing; at that time, the residents of the Town of Schuyler were heard. Supervisor Lucenti said there will be another meeting next Tuesday on September 15, 2020.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Lucenti called the meeting to order and led the assembled people in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Kenneth Dodge.

— PAY BILLS —

Motion by Kane, second by Szesny, that the bills for the past month be paid as presented: General, #241 to #9279, and Highway, #166 to #194; all in favor.

— MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2020 —

Motion by Szesny, second by Juliano that the minutes of August 12, 2020 be approved as printed; all in favor.

— RESIDENT COMMENT —

A Town of Schuyler resident asked what the stopping point of the water was on Watkins Road. Supervisor Lucenti said 286 Watkins Road.

ZBA Chairman Ron Beach said he spoke to the Fire Department, and on their sign after the barbeque they will advertise the Sept 22, 2020 voting for Water.

— ASSESSOR'S REPORT: BY GEORGE HASKELL —

Assessor George Haskell said New York State took away some of the STAR Exemptions from some people. He said school tax bills have been mailed. He said his hours will be every Thursday in October until the end of the month, and if you have a problem, you must contact New York State Taxation Department.

— CODES: BY PHILIP GREEN —

Codes Enforcement Officer Philip Green, said building permits are coming in and he has been doing inspections. He said there is Court Case coming up.

— SUPERVISOR'S REPORT —

- **E. SCHUYLER WATER PROJECT:** Supervisor Lucenti said the East Schuyler Water Vote will be held on September 22, 2020 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. He said between 160 and 200 people will be eligible to vote. He said the large road signs that were put up were paid for by a private individuals.
- **INCOME SURVEY — EAST SCHUYLER:** G & G Consulting, who did the survey, said we are a hardship case; therefore, instead of 2.2 % interest, we should be moved to 0%. Supervisor Lucenti said Herkimer County I.D.A. got a one million dollar grant from Northern Border, which will cut the cost also.





- **WESTGATE DEVELOPMENT — THIRTY-ONE NEW HOMES:** Supervisor Lucenti said he received an E-mail from the Health Department regarding the project. He said there were issues with the Health Department; they wanted to create a Sewer District and Storm Water District with retention ponds, and also requested changing zoning from R-A to R-1; C-H. to R-1. He asked the Town Board if they wanted to proceed, and their reply was "go ahead to proceed."
- **WEST SCHUYLER WATER PROJECT UPDATE — 1.5 % USDA LOAN:** Supervisor Lucenti said the Town Board submitted an application for a grant. He said the grant was awarded in 2019. They applied to the USDA and received a 1.5% interest rate. He said this 1.5% interest rate will expire the end of September, and after that it will be 2.0%.
Motion by Szesny, second by Dodge to lock in the interest rate from USDA at 1.5% before October 1, 2020; all in favor.
- **CITY OF UTICA TRAFFIC ON HERKIMER ROAD** — Supervisor Lucenti said he received a call from the City of Utica, regarding the heavy traffic on Herkimer Road. He said Herkimer Road is a "State Schedule A Road Certified Truck Route."
- **JIM COGAR: NURSING HOME PATIENT RIGHTS** — Supervisor Lucenti said he received a call from Jim Cogar regarding Nursing Home Rights. Supervisor Lucenti said Jim Cogar would like the Town to send a letter to the County Legislature regarding our support of Nursing Home Rights.
- **BUDGET WORKSHOP: SEPTEMBER 23, 2020** — The Budget workshop meeting will be on September 23, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

— **ELECTION CUSTODIANS NEEDED** —

Herkimer County Legislature Jim Bono said the Election Department is looking for 4 to 5 people, who would be interested in working the poles. He said they pay for training and for time spent working at the poles, and to contact the Herkimer County Board of Elections.

— **HIGHWAY REPORT: BY PHILIP JOHNSON** —

- Superintendent of Highways Johnson said the Highway Dept. has been hauling sand. He said the Town of Schuyler should be receiving \$82,259.75, which is 75% for the washout of Bull Road.
- **CHIPS FUNDING:** The Superintendent of Highways said we should be receiving 80% of the chips money spent.
- **SEWER ROAD — MOWING — GATE CLOSURE 7 SIGN:** Superintendent of Highways said the mowing has been done, and they are working on a fence and sign.
- Superintendent of Highways said the floor grates at the Town Barn are one half done.

— **PARK RANGER** —

Supervisor Lucenti asked the Town Clerk how everything was at the Park. She advised him everything is good.

— **WATER BOARD REPORT: BY BETTE SZESNY** —

Councilwoman Szesny said the next meeting agenda was not yet available. The meetings are still being held remotely via the Webex program.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: BY BETTE SZESNY

Councilwoman Szesny said the next meeting will be held on Sept. 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

RESIDENT COMMENT

- Superintendent of Highways Phil Johnson said the Town of Russia is very happy with the Western Star Snowplow truck they purchased from the Town of Schuyler.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

— *Barbara J. Boulia, Town Clerk*



PLANNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

Chairwoman Donna Salamone called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Board Room at the Schuyler Town Office, 2090 State Route 5, Utlca, NY 13502. Other Planning Board members present were: Vice Chair David Fusillo, Jean Finster, Victor Costanza, Daniel Tripoli and James Digristina who attended remotely via Zoom. Absent were Michael Ritter (excused) and Alternate Member Dale Dodge (excused). Bette Szesny served as recording secretary.

Also present were Codes/Zoning Officer Philip Green, Mike Bechner (TRC) and several members of the public, as follows: Collin Treen; Craig Treen; Michele Treen; Michael T. Lavelle; Cheryl Bletsch; Will Gaspa; and Frank Spatto.

Chairwoman Donna Salamone led the assembled persons in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES: AUGUST 5, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Victor Costanza, seconded by David Fusillo to approve the minutes of the August Regular Meeting as presented; all in favor. Motion carried.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOCAL LAW #2, 2017

Ms. Salamone stated the Planning Board's primary task for this meeting is to review this proposed amendment and render a recommendation to the Town Board as to whether it should be amended to allow solar farms to be situated in C-T (cell tower) districts of the Town of Schuyler, which would allow for the SunEast solar farm to move forward.

Members of the public who reside in close proximity to the proposed solar farm then voiced their concerns with regard to a number of what they consider to be negative impacts on their health created by the solar panels, along with many esthetic concerns such as obliteration of their view and elimination of their peaceful countryside atmosphere.

Codes Officer Green informed the audience that the time to address these issues will be at an upcoming Town Board Public Hearing when the impact of solar farms in C-T Zones on the residents and environment will be considered. He stated the Town Board will take the residents' comments into consideration at that time and then make a decision based on the merits of the project as well as any impact it may have on the residents.

At a later time during the meeting, more conversation was entertained by members of the public in attendance with regard to their opposition to the proposed solar farm. Dr. Lavelle informed the secretary he requests, and fully expects, all comments made by members of the public in attendance at tonight's meeting will be included in the minutes of this meeting.

Secretary Szesny then informed the residents in attendance that Planning Board meetings do not include public comment sessions.

PROPOSED OPERATING PERMIT

Examples of model municipal operating permits were reviewed by the Board. Codes Officer Green provided his recommendations, which would be carried out by the Town Justice, as follows:

- First Violation of operating Permit: Shut Down business operation for a period of no less than 14 days or more than 30 days;
- 2nd Violation: Shut down business operation for a period of no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days;
- 3rd Violation: Revocation of the operating permit, forcing the business to close permanently, but with a verbal warning in advance of the end of the 30 day period so as to provide some additional time for the owner to comply.





Mr. Green stated he contends a monetary fine has proven to have no impact on business owners' compliance; however, fines could be set, with dollar amounts to be determined by the Town justices.

The above recommendation will be forwarded to the Town Board for their review.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Chair Donna Salamone stated the Board is required to make a recommendation to the Town Board in order for any further action on the proposed Zoning change referenced above can be undertaken. She said the Planning Board could adjourn the meeting and table the matter until such time as the planning board has had the opportunity to research the matter, then reconvene and make a decision to include a recommendation to the town board.

Motion by Daniel Tripoli to make a negative recommendation to the Town Board, as he does not believe this project should move forward. A discussion ensued, when it was decided to table the matter until all Board members have had the opportunity to undertake the necessary research so as to be well prepared to make a recommendation. All voted affirmatively by voice vote to table the matter; motion carried.

Secretary Szesny stated the ZBA is tentatively scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 1st; however, no meeting agenda is available at this time. She stated this will be a special meeting, not a public hearing. Mr. Costanza suggested the planning Board members attend this meeting, in an effort to become more familiar with all aspects of this project since at present, board members have little knowledge. However, after further discussion, the Planning Board then unanimously agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:00 PM for the purpose of entertaining a motion to make a recommendation to the Town Board on this project. Meanwhile, Planning Board members will undertake independent research on line to obtain as much information as they can with regard to the pro's and con's of solar farms and solar panels. A lengthy discussion entertained by members of the public regarding the negative impacts of solar farms and solar panels ensued. Secretary Szesny encouraged all planning board members to review their copies of the Solar Ordinance before the September 15th meeting.

REVIEW OF TOWN LAW #1, 1984

It was discovered there is a more updated of this law, which was enacted in 1986; therefore, the discussion was abandoned. Chairwoman Donna Salamone stated the 1986 Flood Plain Law is included in the members' packets. It was decided to address the 1986 version at the October meeting.

FLOOD CONCERNS

Mr. Gaspa, a resident, stated he has had flooding issues on his property and he has been trying to get some help but has been able to receive no assistance whatsoever. He was advised the Planning Board has no authority to assist him.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Donna Salamone adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM on motion by Daniel Tripoli and seconded by Victor Costanza; all in favor.

— *Bette I. Szesny, Recording Secretary*



PLANNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOCAL LAW #2-2017

Vice Chairman David Fusillo called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Board Room at the Schuyler Town Office, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY 13502. Other Planning Board members present were: Jean Finster, Victor Costanza, Daniel Tripoli, Alternate Member Dale Dodge and Codes Officer Phil Green. Absent were Chairwoman Donna Salamone (excused), Michael Ritter (excused) and James Digristina (excused).

Also present were Kevin Murphy, Esq., Christopher Biamonte, Esq., Councilmen Rodney Dodge and Joseph Juliano, Clerk Jeffrey Dingman, and several members of the public including Richard Finster, Julie Todd, Thomas Todd, Ken Green, Michael T. Lavallo, DDS, Cheryl Bletsch, Frank A. Spatto, A. Eugene Snyder, Susanna Newton, Adam Spatto, Michelle Treen, Craig Treen, Frank P. Spatto, Richard Finster, Linda Spatto, Harold Moss, Cate Ricci and Kyle Treen.

Bette Szesny served as recording secretary.

Vice Chairman David Fusillo led the assembled persons in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice Chairman Fusillo then stated the Planning Board is assembled here tonight for one reason only: to recommend or not recommend the Town Board's approval of the proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2020, which would allow solar farms and solar power plants in C-T (Cellular Communication) Districts in the Town of Schuyler. He stated the Planning Board's legal counsel is present tonight to answer any questions the Planning Board may have regarding this proposed action.

Mr. Fusillo then asked for a motion for the Board to enter into executive session with legal counsel for the purpose of discussing the proposed action.

Motion to enter into executive session for the above referenced purpose was made by Victor Costanza and seconded by Dale Dodge; all in favor. Time: 6:04 PM.

Motion by Victor Costanza, seconded by Dale Dodge to return to open session at 6:52 PM; all in favor.

BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION

Vice Chairman David Fusillo asked whether the Board wished to entertain any further discussion regarding the proposed action. There was none.

Mr. Fusillo then asked for a motion of the Board regarding approval/denial of the proposed action.

Motion by Dale Dodge, seconded by Jean Finster to make a recommendation to the Town Board that they approve the proposed action by adopting Local Law No. 2 of 2020 to allow solar farms and solar power plants to be situated in all CT Districts of the Town of Schuyler.

Roll called by the secretary elicited the following responses: Dale Dodge: yes; Daniel Tripoli: No; Jean Finster: yes; Victor Costanza; Yes; David Fusillo: Yes.

Motion to approve referral of the proposed Local Law #2 was therefore was carried by majority voice vote (4 to 1) among all members present.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Planning Board; therefore, Vice Chairman David Fusillo adjourned the meeting at 7:04 PM.

— *Bette I. Szesny, Recording Secretary*



*East Schuyler Miller Cemetery
Burial Sites Available*

4' x 11' — \$600.00

Corner Markers — \$100.00

Beginning Nov. 1, 2020
until April 30, 2021, you can
purchase a second site at half price
— \$300.00.



Anyone who is interested or would like further
information, please call the following Cemetery
Board Members:

- Harry Robbins,
President 315-269-0861
- John Schuyler,
Treasurer 315-416-9674
- Ray Hendrie,
Superintendent 315-894-3000

— NEXT TOWN DUMPSTER —

OCTOBER 24th & 25th

Saturday: 8 AM — 4 PM Sunday: 8 AM — NOON

ITEMS ACCEPTED

(Limited to (1) Pickup Truck Load (4 cubic yd.)

- ✓ Green Waste (Brush, Grass, Leaves)
- ✓ White Goods & Metals (Household Appliances)
- ✓ Stuffed Furniture, Mattresses, Rugs
- ✓ Batteries

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- ✓ Construction & Demolition Materials
- ✓ Chemicals, Oil, Toxic Containers
- ✓ Large Tires (Over 16") Tractor Tires
- ✓ Household Garbage
- ✓ Paint Cans
- ✓ Recyclables

ADDITIONAL CHARGE

- ✓ Car Tires up to 16" — \$6/ea.
- ✓ Car Tires up to 16" with Rims — \$3/ea.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS VACANCY

— Alternate Member —

- Alternate members are required to attend all ZBA Public Hearings and/or ZBA Meetings
- Public Hearings and Special Meetings are held on an as-needed basis, usually on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Candidates must be a resident of the Town of Schuyler.
- Candidates must possess an interest in our Town's best interests and future.
- Preferred candidates will have a valid E-mail address

Submit Letter of Application to:

Supervisor Anthony J. Lucenti

Town of Schuyler • 2090 State Route 5

Utica, NY 13502

WEST SCHUYLER CEMETERY



Burial Plots Available:

4x10 = \$750.00

10x10 = \$1625.00

(Lot -\$1500, Markers -\$125.00)

10x20 = \$3125.00

(Lot - \$3000, Markers - \$125.00)

20x20 = \$6125.00

(Lot - \$6000. Markers - \$125.00)

Any Questions, Please Call

Earl Haman-315-733-2920



Schuyler Town Newsletter

OCTOBER
2020

STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #566
UTICA, NY



Kenneth M. Dodge
Former Town Supervisor

In Remembrance ...

The Town of Schuyler expresses our heartfelt sympathy to the family of our former long-time Supervisor, Kenneth M. Dodge, who passed away on September 30th at the age of 90.

A life-long resident of Schuyler, in his younger years Ken became involved in the family farming business on Short Lots Road, where he and his wife Eleanor resided and raised their family. Ken's beloved wife Elly passed away in 2017, after 63 years of marriage.

Ken became involved in Schuyler politics as a young man, serving many years as Town Supervisor until his retirement in 2016.

He was a 65+ year member of the Schuyler Volunteer Fire Dept., a member of the Herkimer County Republican Club, the Schuyler United Methodist Church, and founder of the Schuyler Athletic Club.

Ken is survived by two sons and one daughter-in-law, Ronald Dodge and Town Councilman Rodney Dodge and his wife Tina; five cherished grandchildren: Dale Dodge, Lacey Dodge, Charles Dodge, Jennifer Dodge, Craig Dodge, Melissa Dodge, Kelsey Dodge and her fiancée Kyle Rowlands; and four great grandchildren: Zoe Dodge, Olivia Dodge, Tyler Dodge and Jackson Dodge, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Covid-19 Update

Covid is still a threat.

All persons entering the Town Hall must wear a mask and observe 6' social distancing regulations.

Masks are available from the Clerks.



Monday, October 12th

ALL TOWN DEPARTMENTS

WILL BE CLOSED



Saturday, October 31st