

Town of Schroepfel
Town Board Meeting
May 9, 2023

Present: Town Board Members Cary Redhead, JoAnn Nazarian, Zachary Gelling, Lewis Hoyt, Nicklaus Hoyt; and Deputy Town Clerk Michele Swidowski.

NOTE: *Transcribed (typed) minutes are not verbatim. Full audio of Town Board meetings are available on the Town of Schroepfel website (go to Town at the top of the webpage).*

At 6:00 p.m., Redhead called the meeting to order with the Pledge Allegiance.

SEQR Motion:

Gelling made a **MOTION** that all actions taken tonight are excluded, exempt or Type II actions for the purpose of the State Environmental Quality Review Law unless otherwise stated; seconded by L. Hoyt. All ayes Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt, Redhead.

Redhead reminded the residents that the transcript Town Board minutes and the full audio recorded minutes do not coincide and a lot of the information is not included in the transcribed minutes and are provided at each board meeting and posted on social media. She encouraged that each person resident do listen to the audio minutes on the town website.

Privilege of the Floor:

Mary Ellen Chesbro: Speed Limit Change requested for a short area from where Peter Scott Road comes into CR 54 and then it approaches Pennellville. Chesbro provided a petition that was brought to her by an impacted resident and she was asked to bring it to the Board. Residents would like the speed limit changed from 45 mph to 30 mph in the specified distance. Petition was given to Redhead, who gave it to Swidowski (to be forwarded to Highway Superintendent).

Cary Redhead:

Bankrupt Road WD BAN Renewal: Due on May 31, 2023; a one-year renewal; negotiated and renewed every year. Redhead made the MOTION to pay the \$2,470,000; seconded by Nazarian. All Ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt, Redhead.

Constables for Art in the Park: Coverage from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Had a meeting with Mike Wood (Head Constable) and Helen Knipp (Schroepfel Community Services), and Daniel Gibbs who we would like to appoint as a civilian starting June 26, 2023 to cover the morning program through August 2023. He is a retired police officer and EMT, but he does have to renew his certificate and take the academy course (~\$2,000). Discussion continued for information about incidents Redhead mentioned (overdoses, smoking, custodial issues, etc.) and records kept by the Constables. Redhead said they have a log they keep, and she will get the logs for the past three summers for review by the Board. Other Town Departments provide the Town with a monthly report and maybe the Constables should provide that as well. Redhead mentioned that the teenage volunteers for these events are not comfortable approaching parents smoking or arguing about custody of a child, etc. The Board would like to see the logs and discuss this further since there is time to make a decision, also considering the Academy cost to the taxpayers and if we actually need another Constable. Plus, 911 should be called when necessary, at no cost to the taxpayer.

JoAnn Nazarian:

SR 264 Zone Change: SEQR Part II is complete, which resulted in a Negative Declaration. The next step is for the Board to vote on the zone change. Town Council advised that we have not received notification from the NYSDEC regarding Lead Agency. Council suggested that we wait another 30 days to see if they send us anything and get their input. After that timeframe, he believes that, if NYSDEC does not send us anything, that we are free to move forward and vote on that at the next Board meeting in June (Tuesday, June 13, 2023). The Board agreed that the property owner should be notified of this development to protect the Town Board, making sure we are following all the steps for SEQR and doing our due diligence. Notification should be in writing and will be done by Nazarian, copying the Town Board on it.

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Williamson Code Software: It was prematurely put on the Agenda. Original quote was approved for \$2,200; new quote was substantially greater. Nazarian will contact Dolan as soon as he gets back from vacation to clarify the situation.

Town Line Road: Nazarian said she made an error at the last meeting and Town Council advised that for a property sale, a Public Hearing is not necessary. A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 23, 2023 at 6:05 p.m., and to prevent any confusion, we will keep the Public Hearing on the schedule, which doesn't hurt anything. After the Public Hearing, a Motion/Resolution will be made for Permissive Referendum, which will allow 30 days for a resident to file a petition, then a vote would be put on the ballot in November. The Public Hearing Legal Notice has been posted, and next is to adopt the Resolution for the Permissive Referendum; allow the 30 days. If no petition is brought, then we are free to put the property up for sale.

Nick Hoyt:

Dog Kennel Grant: Asked Redhead if she had an update on it. She replied yes, and said again it was applied for. N. Hoyt said it has been 45 days for the FOIL, and nothing was provided back. Redhead said no, and to explained parts of the Grant. Discussion continued as to whether it was actually submitted to Ag & Markets. Redhead replied to N. Hoyt and said yes. Redhead mentioned that the Town would have to match part of the funding requested. Board members asked how much was applied for to know how much the Town would have to contribute. Redhead continued to read details of the Grant. Nazarian asked when did the Town set aside 50% of the Grant; others said we have not discussed it. Gelling asked how much was applied for to know what we have to contribute half of. Redhead said we could apply for a minimum of \$10,000 up to \$50,000. N. Hoyt asked what was submitted, and said we have never seen that and never voted on it. Redhead stated more rules about the Grant and previous thoughts for the kennel. It was again asked what did Redhead actually do. N. Hoyt asked how was this requested, by phone? Redhead replied no. N. Hoyt asked why can't it be shared with the Town Board; we've been asking since the beginning of March. Redhead said it will get shared with you. N. Hoyt said we've already FOILED it and Council told us our option is to sue you, and it is not fair to the taxpayers. It was asked again, how much was applied for. Redhead talked more about the rules. Board members again asked how much was applied for. Redhead said we applied for \$20,000, and Board members said there is no "we". Nazarian asked, how did you submit the application; Redhead said she downloaded the NYS Gateway and Nazarian also has access to, but Nazarian asked to be copied on any previous email that included her.

N. Hoyt said he sent an email to the Program Manager for the Grants at NYS Dept of Ag and Markets. He got her info from the original letter that Redhead provided to the Board about a Grant opportunity coming up. N. Hoyt read the email aloud explaining the situation about no response from Redhead via FOIL and no response nor numerous requests for weeks from all Board members, and asked if the Board could get the information. He also indicated that our local legislator also contacted Ag & Markets to try to get information. He got a response on Monday, May 8, 2023, which stated: "Our records do not show that any application for the Town of Schroepfel was received. The deadline for proposals of this Grant was around April 4, 2023." Redhead said, "I spoke with her today and she said that our, everything is there." Redhead asked if N. Hoyt specified 289 or 290. He and others responded that we wouldn't know what to specify, and that the question was asked 'generally speaking'. Redhead said she first spoke with her back in the beginning as she was confused between 289 and 290 and she actually helped her through the process between them.

A taxpayer/resident in the audience asked, "Why won't you give us the paperwork to prove that you did it? You're talking about money that's going to help our town and you, as the Town Supervisor, are refusing to give it. Why?" Redhead replied, "Yes, I am." N. Hoyt again said the Town Board has to make a commitment to it. Conversation with resident continued asking again, why? Redhead said again, "yes I am". Resident said, "Why' is the question out here." Redhead said it is actually a ridiculous answer. "Well give it to me because I am really interested, because if it's not a good enough reason, why are you still the Town Supervisor." Redhead said it is a very good question and because in January, these guys held a hiring and firing session without the Town Supervisor. They interviewed more than one (for Codes). Without Lew and without Cary.

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N. Hoyt said he was not there either and there was no quorum. Redhead said every time I go to give them the information, something comes back and slaps me. I've been accused just the other day Nick accused me of stealing the Grant money. N. Hoyt said that is a false accusation. Audience said you (Redhead) are doing it; you're not giving us paperwork to back up what you are saying. Redhead said actually this is the first time she has ever acted this way in the almost two years that she has been here. Audience said, then you don't deserve to be here. Stop acting like this.

Redhead said she has asked numerous times for paperwork from them, and talked about the last meeting and other comments. Audience said they are not interested in any of that. "All I'm saying is that you are the head of this group, head of the Town. Redhead said according to them, we are equals. Resident said, as a taxpayer, you are the Town Supervisor and you applied for a Grant and you cannot or will not prove it to me. And that, as a resident, is unacceptable. Redhead apologized. Resident said, "Regardless of any of this infighting that is going on, it's telling me that you didn't really do it, and that's telling me that I can't trust you if you're not going to show it to me. And you're unwillingness to show it to me is not good, and it's gonna take me back to my neighborhood saying I don't trust her, because you won't show me." Redhead said she was sorry that she felt that way. Resident said, "But you're still not going to show it." Another resident said you can change it right now. "And you got a FOIL request, and you know what, I say, use my tax dollars and sue her to get to the bottom of it to see if she really did it. And that's a horrible thing for me to say because I'm not like that. But if you're not going to stand up for what you think you did, or say that you did, let's get to the bottom of it."

N. Hoyt said he will contact Ag & Markets again and ask about a 280, 289, or 290, but didn't know why she wouldn't mention that to him when she just said there is "nothing on behalf of the Town of Schroepel."

At 6:49 p.m., Redhead made the **MOTION** to adjourn the Town Board meeting, seconded by Nazarian. Nazarian-Aye, Gelling-abstain, L. Hoyt-Aye, N. Hoyt-Abstain, Redhead-Aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele Swidowski
Deputy Town Clerk