

Town of Schroepfel
Town Board Meeting
March 14th 2023

Present: Town Supervisor Cary Redhead, Town Board Members Zachary Gelling, Lewis Hoyt, Nicklaus Hoyt, JoAnn Nazarian and Town Clerk Darlene Owens.

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 and Redhead.

Joann Nazarian: Repeal County Route 57 / Huntley Rd. Water District Resolution

Nazarian said the Huntley Road Water District had to be cancelled because of a publication error and once we have a public hearing we have to allow 90 to 105 days for the public vote and unfortunately the way this was scheduled and the way it landed we would not be within that time frame so we have to start the process all over again. Nazarian said a public hearing on April 11th we have board members out of town and would have a quorum so with that being said I propose we have a public hearing April 25th the public notice will hit April 29th and that would push the vote date out to August 3rd 2023 and that is 96 days from the publication date. Nazarian said the have to make a motion for the Public Hearing on the County Route 57 / Huntley Road Water District for April 25th. Nazarian made a **Motion** to repeal the original Huntley Road / County Route 57 Water District Resolution dated December 22nd 2022 seconded by Redhead. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

6:05 Public Hearing - County Route 57 & Huntley Road Water District

Nazarian made the **Motion** to set the Public Hearing for April 25th 2023 at 6:05 pm seconded by Redhead. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Vote Date for County Route 57 & Huntley Road Water District

Nazarian made the **Motion** for the vote to be August 3rd 2023 from 12:00 to 8:00 pm. seconded by Redhead. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

6:05 Public Hearing – Center Road Town Property

Redhead opened the Public Hearing and Don Huff wanted to know if the easement got abolished and Nazarian said it has not been abolished yet but once they get closer to this being finalized. Huff said the County said they have no proof of an easement. Nazarian said they didn't have an easement on file. Huff said no. Nazarian said once people decide they want to bid on the property there are criteria and specification in there that does state the easement will be abolished and the property will be merged with a neighboring property. Nazarian said we haven't gotten to that step yet so once someone wants to bid on that property they can come in and talk to the Town Clerk and she will hand them a packet with bid instructions in it going to have the specification in there for the property the size and what it is zoned. Nazarian said also the abolishment of the easement and the merging of whatever surrounding property. Huff asked if there was a survey. Nazarian said no not here not the County and the best we have is a tax ID map. Huff said it state on the paper we have to ask the DEC if there are wet lands but it's not our land yet. Nazarian said you can go online Oswego County Real Properties and it show you what part of that parcel is wetlands the only reason we want you to contact the DEC for that information is because it is protected so the whole parcels is not wetlands but if there is a portion it is protected by the DEC and you can't do anything with it.

At 6:08 Redhead closed the Public Hearing seconded by Gelling. All ayes: Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, N. Hoyt and Redhead.

Code Enforcement Software

Nazarian said our new Code Officer would like to implement Williamson Cloud Hosted Software. Nazarian said he is not here so that we could ask question but he did say it was a onetime set up fee of \$895.00 and then the

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annual fee of \$1,270.00 he did say all the parcels of the town would be uploaded to the system and anything that happens like permits & zone change will be stored in the program. Nazarian said we can direct our question to him by e-mail. L. Hoyt said there is money budgeted in there. Nazarian said Weissenberg said money was available but would double check with the Comptroller.

Nazarian:

So it has been stated a few times that I am the one that directed the ordering of the grinder pump parts. That decision is not mine alone; that is a Board decision; I do not have that authority. So I brought in a copy of the emails showing that I did send an email on December 1st (2022) indicating that I had obtained a quote for the parts. I sent it again on January 12th (2023) saying that this was a health hazard and needed to be addressed ASAP. Nick responded and said yes, go forward. Lou responded, yes, move forward ASAP. And Cary responded, yes, I agree this needs to be repaired ASAP. I then asked Cary, can you please email the contractor and advise him to proceed. So I would just like to put that on the record for clarification purposes that this was a Board decision and not mine alone.

Cary said it was a Board decision and I do have the email that I did send to Kevin Conway ordering the parts that you did list and that you provided that we needed for the OTB building pump station. So I do have that where it says that this email to confirm phone conversation with Town Board member Joann Nazarian of yesterday, January 12, 2023, where she confirmed with you that one of each item listed in the quote you provided to complete the job located at the OTB building located in the Town of Schroepel is required. So I do have that email. Nazarian said, for clarification purposes, that was a Board decision and not my decision, just so that we are all on the same page. Cary said there is a lot of clarification that needs to be done this evening.

Nazarian asked, also for clarification purposes, was the grant applied for Ag & Markets for the dog kennel. Cary said the grant for Ag & Markets, we received the registration numbers and the instructions and the packet and everything, and everything has gone through. Joann asked, so it was submitted on March 9th? Cary said yes. Nazarian asked that Cary email that to the Board because we have not received any notification of that. Did the paperwork go in for Don Clark that the County requested? Cary said no it has not. She had just confirmed with Brenda today that is it her understanding that we are to move forward, and she said under her impression, it looks like. It is her understanding that we are to move forward with it.

N. Hoyt said we already made the Motion as a Board. Zack said you voted yes. Cary said that was before the County asked for clarification of the job descriptions and duties because there is no such job description with the County. So it a process, I guess with my signature on it, and just make sure everything is all legit and set. We want to make sure everything is all set. N. Hoyt said, we are going to be able to see that before it is sent, correct? Cary said, if you like. Nazarian said we always want to see everything before it is sent.

Nazarian mentioned there was an email that was sent out for partial delivery of the grinder parts. I think it just should be delivered all at once. I think it might just add to the confusion to an already confusing situation. So to keep it simple, are we okay with just having them deliver all at once. N. Hoyt said he was fine with that, and he saw that there was a request for a partial payment, not sure why, or a partial shipment; we can't do anything without all the parts.

Nazarian asked if Henderson has been notified that they have been awarded the work to do the labor for the grinder pumps. Redhead said she did not notify Henderson; was she supposed to notify Henderson; she didn't have that on her list and set of notes from the last set of meetings. Gelling said if she re-reads the minutes, he clearly stated that we would make the Motion for the parts, contingent on you getting the warranty on it and that you would get basically the status of the ordered parts, and reach out to Henderson to make sure that they could, as soon as we got the parts, they could get them in. So that way we are not waiting weeks and months for Henderson. Redhead said she would reach out to Henderson.

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N. Hoyt:

Last Board meeting, February 28th, the meeting ended with L. Hoyt asking you about the easement progress for the Rt. 46/Bankrupt Road District. You implied, the best of my memory, the focus was on the easements required near the Granby bridge, and that only a portion of the easements needed have gone out so far, only to get the project started. As soon as you made that statement, everyone in the room was kind of in awe, including the rest of the Town Board. You gave the impression that there was a lot more to go and stated that only a portion have gone out so far. Is that a true statement? Redhead said they're not attached here, but during the December 20th meeting with Kevin Caraccioli, he also made the same statement as well, that the Granby end... We only have ever received the Granby end, from the Holbrook property over to Blackwell's easements.

N. Hoyt said that's all the easements that were required. Redhead said that's all the easements that I have ever known about and that I have ever been made aware of. I never knew anything past that.

N. Hoyt: So we have all been on that same page and at the last meeting you made the statement that only a portion of them went out.

Redhead: Of those easements, we received, we got what, three left? Of those easements, and one, we believe is hospitalized. So we don't know when and if we will get that.

N. Hoyt: On March 2, 2023 at 7:09 pm, you forwarded an email, just two days after our last meeting, to six people, that included Lou, Zack, Joann, myself, and Graham and Lonnie (at our attorney's office) that said, besides the private drives that have already been discussed, that Joann, Zack, Lou and Nick were under the impression that additional easements were required for the Water District. Then you forwarded an email from Ian, who wrote on March 1st at 10:25 a.m. that after our last Town Board meeting stated that there are no additional easements beyond RFHs and the ones we sent last week. Attached is the most recent easement tracking sheet with the ones we added. There are 19 easements required total. That is what you forwarded to the Town Board.

Redhead: I was not made aware of anything of easements until Mr. Whorral. That was the surprise when Pine Tree came up.

N. Hoyt: At the last meeting you made the impression that there was a lot of easements and we were only putting out a few at this time to get the project started, which made zero sense. So at 7:16 p.m. on March 2nd I responded that you made statement saying that only a portion was sent out just to get the project started. You made the statement and set the impression, not Lou, Zack, Joann, or myself. Please forward exactly what you sent Ian that prompted Ian to respond to you. Also, your statement to Graham and Lonnie is false, you made the impression, not us. So that is when I asked you if you could forward the email, that exactly what you asked Ian.

Redhead: And I said I had a conversation with him.

N. Hoyt: On March 2nd at 7:38 p.m., you wrote that the "easements were sent out when Lynette was still supervisor, so I will not further comment until I listen to the audio from the meeting. Additionally, I have nothing more to forward regarding what I asked Ian. I had a conversation with him." So that is what you sent back to me that there was nothing for you to forward to us that would have prompted Ian to respond to you. So Ian sent me exactly what you sent to him, which was on February 28, 2023 at 7:42 pm... while it was fresh in your mind, you sent an email to Ian, Town engineer from C2AE, immediately after the end of our last Town Board meeting. This is where you said that there was nothing; you had a conversation with him. I asked you if it was in person, or over the phone. You decided not to answer that. The actual email from you to Ian: "This past week Graham, Lonnie and I went and obtained outstanding easements for, mostly from the Granby side, with the exception of RFHs.. In the upcoming future, will additional easements be required past RFHs? In tonight's Board meeting, they were under the impression that multiple easements are required for that water district and our main objective was to obtain the majority of these easements ASAP." So there *was* something that you could have forwarded, and you were the one who gave all of us the impression that these easements were only a few that were sent out when we needed a bunch. We were all on the same page prior to that. I also asked you multiple times if you wanted to correct your answer about there was something to send, and I asked if you had a conversation in person. I asked if a conversation took place over the phone. Redhead said you asked that after the meeting and that. I wasn't aware of any additional easements until after we had already gone out.

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N. Hoyt said you gave us the impression, everyone in the room had the impression that we were only doing a few just to get the project started, which made zero sense to any of us. And then you asked a question on behalf of us to Ian that you said didn't exist. You said there was nothing.

Redhead: How does that make zero sense to have the easements started and signed from the Granby side? If the water is coming from the Granby side, if they have to start at Shane Blackwell's house...

N. Hoyt said there's just 19 total easements. It's not just about Granby; it's about every property that will have permanent work done on it.

Redhead: Right, but what do they have to do first.

N. Hoyt: you stated that only a portion of the easements had been sent out to get the project started. That doesn't make sense. All of them were sent out. You gave us the impression that we were only working on a few when we had a whole bunch to do.

Redhead: But I didn't know about the other 19 additional easements.

N. Hoyt: But you did know about an email that you wrote to Ian that I asked about.

Redhead: After we left here, after you questioned me about it, if there was additional.

N. Hoyt: You wrote that night. And you said the email doesn't exist. That is a blatant lie. Nobody here on the Board has seen what I just read. Nobody has. I read exactly what you wrote. You were the only one under the impression that there were more easements that needed to be done, not us. That's not what you wrote, which you sent to the town attorney and his legal aide. But it did exist and this is just one of many announcements, claims, lies, whatever you want to call it, which makes it very difficult on my end to make decisions based on a lot of the things that you've been saying.

Redhead: Lou, did you not ask me if we got, how far did we get and if there were additional easements. And then Owens said we have them all but three. We were then all of a sudden 19 more or whatever.

L. Hoyt: It's 19 total.

Redhead: From Holbrook over to...

N. Hoyt: there are 19 total for the whole district. My whole point in all this really isn't about the easements, it's about the constant lying that we are seeing or the way things are getting twisted in every topic that comes up, there's so much added confusion to it. Nobody understands what's going on. That I believe is unnecessary. This is just one example, and then the delivery lie; if you would just forward the email, I don't see what the big deal was. I'm not sure. That is a blatant lie.

Nazarian: And also the criticism of Board members to our engineers and to whoever else you are dealing with. And then my name being put in emails.

Redhead: You said you were going to send an email as well.

Z. Gelling:

Last year at the June 7th meeting, I made a statement in regards to delegated authority and our town supervisor. One quote from my statement at that meeting was "it won't stop at taking away the delegated authority, but at least somebody can't sign a document and purchase something without the board's knowledge because that's the course we are headed down. A scary path." In the 8 months following that statement, we are indeed sliding down that slippery path I mentioned. In June of last year after that statement, supervisor Redhead had our former town attorney write an email to the board and our county legislators accusing a highway employee of illegal activity stating, "Such activity not only violates the NYS Constitution, but may constitute a crime under the NYS Penal Law..... it may be necessary to contact the Oswego County District Attorney's Office to report this activity and commence a formal investigation." When we asked the supervisor and our attorney for answer on these allegations we were constantly stone walled. It ended up not being true. Furthermore, supervisor Redhead has constantly made false statements and accusations, sometimes to residents and abuses her powers to target people resulting in the lack of confidence from state, county and local officials. Simply put, supervisor Redhead is playing personal politics. Some examples of this are when the supervisor charged mileage to the town, your taxpayer dollars, to go to another board member's house, take pictures of their property and

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demand our former CEO writes him up, after a difference of opinions on a subject. Then, demanding the CEO write up her neighbor to get it cleaned up before her daughter's graduation party, Accusing a sitting legislator of threatening her and her family. Accusing another board member of stalking her, pulling a constable during court to write a ticket to someone parked in the wrong spot because "she thought it was someone from earlier" who she had an argument with and consistently lying creating confusion, chaos and needlessly spent tax dollars. I had made the statement about items being purchased without the boards approval and that's where we were headed. Well, that's exactly whats happened when in November we were notified that the town was charged and paid another town for park signs. No approval from the board. When we brought it up to the supervisor about the signs, she basically stated the vouchers were on her desk and she just signed them without realizing what it was for. Resulting in more confusion and the other municipality sending back the town's money. I had made a statement about important things falling through the cracks and that is exactly what's happened. We received a sewer grant from the county. Don Clark and I worked together with county officials to secure that funding and had to send a letter to the county legislature requesting those funds to be able to receive them. It had to be in by 4pm that day as it was Friday and when I called the supervisor to tell her the letter was being sent to her email for her to review, sign and send. She stated she was busy getting candy for the homecoming parade and that she had to meet our community service coordinator at the town for the homecoming parade. So while our community service coordinator is at the town and can't sign important documents, our town supervisor is out getting candy and not worried about important things like securing grants and checking vouchers before she signs them. It took numerous calls and arm twisting to ensure that the supervisor signed and sent the letter. Finally, the supervisor has countlessly interfered with department heads and elected officials. For example, just this week she instructed our community service coordinator to do the postings that the Huntley road water district vote was rescheduled to April. First, that is the job of the town clerk and ended up not getting posted in the right places causing confusion. Secondly, the vote isn't even scheduled for April so more inaccurate misinformation spread to the residents. She has had to be asked from department heads and the board to not interfere multiple times with departments and she still does. She has requested medical information from residents stating HIPAA does not apply to her. She was notarizing code department stuff and had to be told by our town attorney that she needs to stop immediately. Even going as far as withholding important information about a health hazard to other board members for multiple days. With everyday passing, a board member asking for an update and her refusing to give one. I just wanted to give you the residents a tiny fraction of what this board deals with on a weekly basis from our supervisor, but the 3 others on this board and myself remain united and committed to progress for our taxpayer dollars to move the town in the right direction.

N. Hoyt walked out of the Town Board Meeting.

At 7:29 Redhead made the **Motion** to adjourn the Town Board Meeting seconded by Nazarian. All ayes Nazarian, Gelling, L. Hoyt, and Redhead. The audio of the meeting is available on the Town website (go to the "Town" menu at the top of the home page.)

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Owens
Town Clerk