

Supervisor Schm...: Ben, thanks for being here. Let me just say before we get started. In accordance for the executive order, 202.1, this meeting is not open to the public. We'll be streaming a meeting on Facebook Live starting at 6:00 PM on the Town of Pawling's Facebook page. You can also hear the meeting via podcast afterwards. Clerk, could you please read the roll call.

Cathy Giordano: Supervisor Schmitt.

Supervisor Schm...: Present.

Cathy Giordano: Councilmen Johnson.

Councilman John...: Here.

Cathy Giordano: Councilman McCarthy.

Councilman McCa...: Here.

Cathy Giordano: Councilwoman Snow.

Councilwoman Sn...: Here.

Cathy Giordano: And Councilman DeRosa. I don't see him yet.

Supervisor Schm...: I'm sure he'll be dialing in shortly. Now, would you all please stand and follow me in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Supervisor Schm...: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you very much. We're going to open up with our public hearing for the Inter-municipal Sewer Agreement. So, I'll make a motion to open the public hearing. Can I get a second?

Councilwoman Sn...: Second.

Councilman DeRo...: Second. I'm in here now. Thank you.

Supervisor Schm...: Oh, excellent.

Councilman DeRo...: Sorry.

Supervisor Schm...: We should do a roll call vote on that, correct? On opening the public hearing. We'll go around-

Nancy Tagliafie...: Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow.

Councilwoman Sn...: Here.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson.

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy.

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman DeRosa.

Councilman DeRo...: Aye. I'm sorry. I'm late.

Supervisor Schm...: That's okay. And supervisor Schmidt. Aye. The public hearing for the Inter-municipal Sewer Agreement. Sewer [inaudible 00:01:43] is now open. If anyone has any questions, please let the board know.

Supervisor Schm...: I'm just going to just check in.

Councilwoman Sn...: It looks like there's somebody.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah, I see someone. I think Steve is popping up. Steve, you're on mute, Steve. I can see the mute sign on the corner of your screen.

Councilwoman Sn...: Me too.

Supervisor Schm...: When you unmute, we could have you go first. All right, so while waiting for Steve, I see a Karen there as well. Karen, how are you? Can you hear us? I know we have, I think, five or six in the waiting room. Can everyone in the waiting room hear us?

Scott: Yep.

Supervisor Schm...: Anybody with any questions in regards to the Inter-municipal Sewer Agreement?

Speaker 1: Town board meeting.

Supervisor Schm...: Nancy, this our first time doing a public hearing via Zoom. Let me ask you, do you have any advice on how we should proceed with this?

Nancy Tagliafie...: If we can't get people to speak, I would suggest that we hold it over to the next meeting.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay.

Speaker 2: That's probably a good suggestion.

Supervisor Schm...: Karen actually just wrote in that she doesn't want to comment. Okay. Maybe what we'll do since we seem to have some difficulties possibly where I can't tell if people are trying to speak or not in the waiting room, what we can do is keep the public hearing until next week. Is the board okay with that?

Councilman DeRo...: Yeah, we really have no choice. Maybe the next meeting we'll be back in the town hall hopefully.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. Well, hopefully we're getting closer every day.

Councilman John...: Maybe, Mr. Supervisor, we can allow people to email in a comment [inaudible 00:04:23] until our next meeting also.

Supervisor Schm...: Sure. Yeah. They can even write them in the comment section below. The meeting is live.

Nancy Tagliafie...: In the chat now. Yeah.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. People can write their questions right into the chat if they'd like as well. And then what we'll do is we'll keep this public hearing open, and we'll move on to another part of the agenda. So, Nancy, do we have to-

Councilman DeRo...: We need a motion on that I think.

Supervisor Schm...: I'll make a motion to keep the public hearing open, and we can revisit it at the next town board meeting. Can I get a second for that second for that?

Councilman DeRo...: Second.

Councilman McCa...: Second.

Supervisor Schm...: So, all in favor. Start with Councilwoman Snow.

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson.

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy.

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman DeRosa.

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt. Aye. The public hearing will be held open until the next town board meeting where we can have a better communication with the people that we are trying to... I'm not sure if they wanted to talk or if they didn't realize it, so we'll get better at this and we'll get everyone's comments at the next meeting.

Supervisor Schm...: Moving right along, we have a discussion for the consolidation and reorganization of the town and village governments, as everybody knows. And most of the community has been really involved. And I know myself and a lot of the board members have been reaching out to the community. We have community reaching out to us. There was a petition circulated by some residents and there's a lot, a lot of questions out there. And we're lucky to have a Ben Syden from Laberge Group. Ben works with our grant company. And we're fortunate enough to have a grant company who works in the consolidations town-village mergers and has a lot of experience in this and even teaches classes at the Associations of Towns, classes in regards to this. So, Ben, thanks for being here. The floor is yours. We're all looking for some real clarification. I know we've gotten a lot of the social media that's been going on. We sent it to you guys. You can see what's being said. And we have people that, they need some real answers and need to hear from the experts. And you're the expert. So, the floor is yours.

Ben Syden: Thank you, supervisor. I share with you guys an article and a presentation that we gave at the Association of Towns few years back called the Bumps, Bruises, And Pitfalls: Ability to Disillusion. And we're currently working on a sequel to that since this is not an easy road to go. What I recommend by the way is within the next couple of weeks, having a public meeting and hopefully we can do it in person. If not, we'll do it on Zoom so that we can answer any and all questions that everyone in the public has regarding the process.

Ben Syden: But I want to share a few things, and then I'll answer any questions you have. I had it earlier here. Can you guys see my screen?

Nancy Tagliafie...: Yes.

Ben Syden: I don't want to have the people's names up. So, let me go the other way. Let's go up here to where I had it in the yellow before. I went too far down.

Supervisor Schm...: That's okay. There you go.

Ben Syden: Okay, here we go. So, what you were served with was a petition. And I want to read this because it's important that we read this. It says, "We, the undersigned, electors and legal voters of the Town of Pawling, New York, qualified to vote at the next general or special election, respectfully petition that there be submitted to the electors and legal voters of the Town of Pawling and the

Village of Pawling, for their approval or rejection at a referendum held for that purpose, a proposal to consolidate the Town of Pawling with the Village of Pawling." And the reason why I read that to you is that often this occurs where there's a situation where people believe that they are petitioning to do a study, that they are petitioning to go for a grant, that they're petitioning to get you to talk. They submitted a petition under Article 17A of the general municipal law to hold a referendum to effectively consolidate the village and town. It's not a referendum to do a study, and it's not a referendum to write a grant.

Ben Syden: Often this occurs, and we're dealing with this in the Village of Spencer, New York in Tioga County right now, where people circulated a petition, they go door-to-door, and they say, "Hey, wouldn't it be a good idea to study this?" "Sure." "Sign your name to it." "Hey, wouldn't it be a good idea to have them do a plan?" "Sure." And then all of a sudden they realize that they signed a petition to hold a vote to dissolve their village. And they were in an uproar. The same situation has happened here, where I'm hearing anecdotally and I'm reading things online. You know what they say about what you read online. But you read the social media and you read the newspaper articles, and it appears that people have signed a petition thinking that they were going to ask you to do a grant or thinking they were going to ask you that to do a with study. In effect, they're forcing your hand by doing this petition to have a vote.

Ben Syden: So, let's go backwards and then forwards for a few seconds. First off, in New York State, there are two ways to initiate the process. One is a board-initiated process whereby you as a town board or a village or both, passed resolution to initiate the process. You apply for a grant to do the study. You take your time. In a year, you do a study on the reorganization of government. You review sharing services, dissolving, consolidating, going coterminous, and you decide this was a good thing or not. And you may decide to go out to vote, or you may just not go forward. That's a board-initiated process. Whereas you guys can do this with a lot of intents, a lot of research, and a good plan.

Ben Syden: The other way, starting in 2010, is a Citizen Reorganization and Empowerment Act, which allows there to be a citizen-initiated process, which is a petition. When that happens, you are locked into a very, very, very tight timeframe. And I want to show you that timeframe, if you don't mind. And I want to thank Jess for giving me the ability to do this. So, can you all see this little timeline in front of me?

Supervisor Schm...: Yes.

Ben Syden: It says voter-initiated. So, in a voter-initiated process, a petition is filed. That petition has to have no less than 10% of your registered voters that were registered in the last general election of the village and the town. It was submitted to you, I believe, on or about July 31st. The town clerk and the village clerk then have to certify that petition within 10 days. These things are in State law. You would then have 30 days to call a meeting, pretty much to then call the public referendum. That referendum has to be within 60 to 90 days. So, no less

than 60 days from that date and no more than 90 days can you have that vote. That's all you are required to do under law, which is a problem because then people are voting with their heartstrings or their purse strings. They don't have the proper information. They don't know how their government can potentially be run. They don't know what's going to happen to the village. They don't know what kind of assets they have. There's no information. Just, "Hey, I think that's a good idea. We have too much government," or, "Hey, I think it's going to save money," or, "Hey, there's a grant out there for something. What does that mean?"

Ben Syden: So, there is no information. Our clients have done what you call an interim dissolution or in this case, interim consolidation report within that timeframe that allows you all to come up with what a potential new governance could look like and what would be the shift of the services and the shift of the cost and what could that tax result be to village taxpayers and town taxpayers. That also gives you some information on the citizen empowerment tax credit. And I did spend time today creating a whole presentation that I will share at the public meeting. So, I can go to some of those slides for you. But before I go to that, I want to repeat. You are going to have a vote. That vote is going to be either to... It's going to say, "Shall the Village and Town of Pawling consolidate their government?" If it's no, this process ends. And I'll go back to that screen again. If the vote is no, the referendum fails. There's a four year waiting period before consolidation can come back.

Ben Syden: However, I mentioned earlier, there's two different things. One's called dissolution and one is called a consolidation. So, in a dissolution, only the village votes. They can vote to dissolve. They can do their state-mandated study. They can leave the keys on the desk, turn off the lights, and say, "Peace out. I'm done. It's your problem on this particular day." You have no say in the town. Town residents have no say in a vote. In a consolidation, both the village and the town votes. Both the village and the town helps create that plan. Both the village and the town boards have to adopt that plan. So, you're kind of working together for that new governance. So, now if the consolidation vote fails, has to pass both the village and the town, if it's only one, not the other, it's dead. The petitioners can come back and try for a dissolution. So, let's just say it passed the village and not the town. It shows their support. They can go back and do the whole process over as a dissolution. If that fails, that's four more years of moratorium as well.

Ben Syden: So, I want to go back then to that screen and to that timeline. So, in the timeline, if you have to pass the referendum, then you begin your consolidation plan as required by State law. You have 180 days to accept that plan, then within 35 to 90 days, you have to have a public hearing. After that, you have 60 days to adopt that plan. That plan is your plan for consolidation. In that plan will be the date from which you decide the consolidation will occur. But it's not yet done yet. See this little area down here that I'm circulating?

Supervisor Schm...: Yes.

Ben Syden: That is the permissive referendum. That is that second bite of the apple that people misconstrue all the time. Throughout the information that I read on Facebook and the discussions, people are saying that you vote again in 2021. That is not necessarily true. There is no, as of right, second vote. You have the vote. The one vote is your referendum. That's the only thing that's guaranteed. If people don't like the plan, you need to get two and a half times the amount of people to sign the petition to have another vote. If we recall earlier, I mentioned that there's a 10% threshold to start this process. 25% of the voters have to sign a petition to have that second vote. So, there's some misinformation that I'm reading right now that says, "A, the petition is to do a grant." No, the petition has to have the vote. "B, it says that they can vote again in 2021." Not as of right. They have to go back out and get 25% of people to sign that petition to have another vote.

Ben Syden: If they do get that 25%, then you have to meet again. You have to schedule, yet again, another public referendum, which is the same process. So, you meet again within 30 days. You have another referendum and that'll determine whether or not you pass or fail and whether or not the reorganization occurs. So, it's not as simple as what people have said, "Oh, let's just go ahead and get the public to get the town board and the village board to do a grant."

Ben Syden: And I want to talk about that grant for a second because we got caught with this in the Village of Spencer. The answer is there is something called the Citizen Empowerment Reorganization Grant... Citizen Reorganization and Empowerment Grant. Sorry. CREG. It is in the State budget. It is eligible the first Wednesday of each month for you to apply. However, it is not available right now. In December 2019, Department of State took away or canceled their contract with the Grants Gateway. At that time, they took away their electronic means of doing an application. And in January, February, March, they began developing a paper application to do this project, to do this grant opportunity. They never released it. COVID hit, and it's still under review. There is no grant application today ready for you to submit, although the budget has the money and when it does become available, everything back-datable to April 1st, first 25,000 is reimbursable to you upon award.

Ben Syden: If this was a normal year, if the application was available, the day you get hit with the petition, I call Department of State, I notify them that there's a petition, we begin the process of developing an application for expedited assistance, you will get that grant and go backwards to April 1st. Up to 25,000 from the State, 90% them, 10% you. And you move forward. No one in Spencer has moved forward. They couldn't submit the application. They're still waiting because the application is not available. So, the public that says there's a grant for that is only half right. There is a grant for that, but you can't apply for it right now. You will eventually be able to apply for it and go backwards April 1st. But I cannot submit today.

Councilman DeRo...: In the meantime, we would have to put the money up before the grant.

Ben Syden: If you wanted to move forward and do an interim report, yes. You'd have to put the money up, and then when the grant's available, apply and get retroactively paid back.

Councilman DeRo...: Right. Okay.

Speaker 3: What about the cost of a special election?

Ben Syden: Well, that's all part of the process. So, the only give 25,000. So, that can be a combination of your special election fee. That can be a combination of the report fee. But that's a cost you have to bear because the people who submitted the petition did not get it in to you in July, earlier in July, middle of July. If they would have gotten it to you in enough time, you would have been able to work with the County Board of Elections. I believe their cut off was August 1st or August 2nd, whatever that Monday was, to get on their ballot.

Ben Syden: See, Board of Elections have a cutoff date per county for when they have to have information to print on the ballot so they can finalize their ballots for the absentee ballot and for the oversea ballots. It's not as simple as, "Hey, you have an election November 5th," or whatever the day is this year, "Let's get it on there." This is a county-run election. So, you would have to have had it to them earlier than later. If you would have been served two weeks earlier, Cathy and the village clerk could have certified it, you could have contacted the Board of Elections, and it would have been on that and would not have cost you any additional money.

Speaker 3: In your experience, what's the total cost of a process like this, including a special election?

Ben Syden: To do the study it's normally 25 to 27-ish for the interim side, but you-

Speaker 3: [inaudible 00:19:55].

Ben Syden: Yes. And then you have a situation though, because you haven't discussed whether or not it's going to go coterminous or not. If it's simply a consolidation, 25 and 27 is the number. 25 gets reimbursed from the state. So, 2,500 out of you. Village and town elections, I don't know how much they cost from you. Some towns, it's about 3,500 bucks, but I'm not sure what it is. This is a cost to you. Anyone who says it's not, is not understanding the process. Now, that being said, you can always do a cheaper study. You can always do less, but that's up to you, how much information you want to give the public. From my perspective, the only thing you have to do is have the referendum. But that's not what our governments like to do because they want to give people information to vote on. That's why you the grant program. That's why you have the process. And that's why you meet with the village, you meet with the public, and you go over, "This is what a government could look like."

Ben Syden: There's another pitfall in the process, though, is that you cannot under State law buy in a future government. So, even though you do an interim report and give people the information to vote on and let's say they both do consolidate, and then you go through the State process of developing and adopting a plan, there may be a court challenge later on as to whether or not you'd have to implement that exact plan because you cannot buy in a future government. So, in a village dissolution, the village comes up with the plan, the town is not required to do that. In a consolidation plan, that may end up in court someday.

Councilwoman Sn...: Ben, you-

Councilman DeRo...: [crosstalk 00:21:31].

Councilwoman Sn...: Ben, you-

Councilman DeRo...: [crosstalk 00:21:35]. I'm sorry. Go ahead, Coleen.

Councilwoman Sn...: I'm sorry. Ben, you had touched on this already with Bill's question, but again, I think it's just important to be clear for certainly our board and those that are watching tonight. Again, we've been told that if we couldn't get the ballots on the November 3rd, the election date ballot, we would be the village and/or the towns, I'm going to use words that were said, fault that we were spending taxpayer money. So, just so we're clear, there is no way, as you said, that it can be on the ballot for the November 3rd election day election, correct?

Ben Syden: No, you cannot get it on November 3rd. You're going to have to have a special election. The village has to have one. The town has to have one. In fact, I'm having the same issue of the ballot in Rensselaer County for a town that wants to create an ambulance district. They voted on August 6th and Rensselaer County said it's too late to get put on the ballot. If I was the person circulating the petitions, I would have made sure that there was time to get on that election if I didn't want to cause any additional hardship on the taxpayers. It didn't work that way.

Councilman DeRo...: One question. For years, we've always heard in Pawling and the village that there's been other studies in the past. And I've asked the town clerk, Cathy, and with her office and Mike [inaudible 00:23:07], they found a study that was done in 1969 by the village board. And it had eight factors they looked into and anything like that. Would any of this information be helpful? I know it was 50 years different. And I have heard that there was other studies done of a rumor and I know the village was looking through their records, but this was the only one that we have. It was done May 8, 1969, actually by the Village Board.

Ben Syden: Well, we can look at it, but the reality is we have to work with a committee to work with you all to figure what your new government could look like. And we have to use all of today's numbers. We have to look at your budgets, their budgets, look at the new budgets you're creating, you have to see where the

cost ship would be. Are you keeping this service, or not keeping this service? Is this service being transferred? What are your debts today? Your debts today are not the same as they were 50 years ago. We're going to have to look at the village's attorney and talk with them about any outstanding cases they have, what will be potential liabilities. We have to look at what the debt is for the water district, sewer district. We have to make a decision whether or not there'd be a lighting district and a sidewalk district. There's a lot of decisions that have to be made today that may not have been there 50 years ago. But we will look at that plan to see if there's anything useful in it.

Councilman DeRo...: Yeah, well, just for one example. There was eight factors they looked at. And one of the factors was the tax rates that we get reimbursed from by the state. And one of the conclusions in this study was that if we merged the town and the village, we would get lesser return and our rates from the state and the county than if they were both listed as individuals.

Ben Syden: In the sixties and seventies, there was a tax incentive to go coterminous. I don't know if that's still the case today. When we do this analysis, we have to look at what aid you get. What aid municipalities the village gets, what the town gets, what chips monies you'd get. And the way it works with dissolution and consolidation is you will still get the same amount of chips that you combined have today. So, you're not going to lose the village chips aid, and you're not going to lose the village's state aid. However, we are in COVID. The budget and the governor state \$60 billion in debt. We don't have a buyout from the federal government yet. We're already talking about a reduction in state aid. I can't forecast what that aid reduction is going to be. But we have on our team, a fiscal analyst. He used to be the budgeting, the ways and means of this case. The budget director for Albany County, he looks at all the numbers and he figures out based upon trends what it could be. COVID is that wildcard. We don't know what they're going to do with state aid. We don't know what they're going to do with grants long-term.

Ben Syden: The fiscal impact we have to look at in this is mortgage tax, sales tax, your property tax, your levies. And we have to look at the Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit. And I want to explain that to you for a second. You're going to hear a number of people talk about the CETC. By raise of hands, has anyone heard that yet? Jeff? No. I'm going to go over it with you in a second. No one's even said yes. Good. That means that the public hasn't understood this part yet.

Ben Syden: Let's go to the videotape. Let's go to my sheet here and go down to a different slide and see if I have that. Right there. So, there's an incentive when two governments consolidate or the village dissolves. It's called the Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit and it's equal to 15% of the combined property tax levy at the time of consolidation. Of that, 70% must be used to reduce your tax levy. The other 30% can be used for tax reduction or for capital improvement projects in your budget. So, based on your 2018 tax levies that I have from the comptroller's office, you are eligible for approximately \$775,000 a year forever.

Ben Syden: So, that's a key. Forever. The State law says in perpetuity, you will get, every September, 15% of the pre-consolidation tax levy. However, there's a little caveat in that that says that it has to be re-appropriated every year. So, that means in the state budget process, they have to re-appropriate that budget line to pay you every September. That's a big incentive. So, in 2010, the program was both a carrot and a stick. The stick is we have 10,000 layers of government, according to the press releases. That includes all kinds of districts and villages and towns and counties, ambulance districts, water districts, sewer districts, and then they gave you an opportunity-

Ben Syden: ... districts; water districts, sewer districts. Then they gave you an opportunity to consolidate or dissolve those districts, and you'll get that 15% tax levy back every year for [inaudible 00:28:10]. But as we can see this year in-perpetuity doesn't mean guaranteed.

Ben Syden: So when you do your interim report, you do your final report, you have to calculate what that tax impact would be before and after. More often than not, we've done a number of these plans, village taxes lower down, town taxes go up.

Ben Syden: Not town taxes as a tax levy. Your individual town taxes, on your town tax bill, often go up in a consolidation and a dissolution. The CETC tax credit mitigates that.

Ben Syden: So by taking 70% of that tax credit off the top, that lowers your levy. So you had a \$3.9 million levy, it can be down to \$3.2. If everything in the village went away, it's \$750,000 off the top and people see their taxes go down.

Ben Syden: The challenge is, this is the government, which means that there are projects, services, and facilities that the village has that you have to determine what to do with.

Ben Syden: Are you going to continue them? If they have a DPW, you have a highway department, am I merging them? Am I merging my facilities? Am I keeping all of my staff? Am I taking their DPW commission and making them my deputy superintendent and keeping their staff or trading out? All of this has to get figured out so you can have a number that you can go back to taxpayers, both roughly in the interim report and very concretely in the full final report, and say, "This is what your governments going to look like."

Ben Syden: It's not simply a turn off the lights and walk out situation.

Councilman John...: And how long does that take to get that study completed?

Ben Syden: Well the all review, the interim report, will be done between ... by the time you have the vote. So if we were to be in next week or two weeks from now, we would have a public meeting where I'd have a 35 slide presentation that's

behind my computer right now, that I keep pointing back to where I explain the entire process to the public and answer all of these questions. We'd begin meeting with the village and the town to develop this plan.

Ben Syden: First thing we would do, obviously, is get the last three years of budgets of both the town and the village. We get a better understand how the village and the town have been governed. We then meet with a committee, we interview the department heads to understand how the government has worked. We then work with the town leaders and the village leaders to come up with a outline of what a new government could look like and we do the numbers so that people have an understanding.

Ben Syden: That's the interim report. That has to ... when we do that, we need enough time that we can have a power point, a public meeting, and a pamphlet put together so that people could read it before the election. Then we normally have a public meeting within seven days, 10 days, of the referendum so the public can answer more questions.

Ben Syden: If the vote is yay, we are to consolidate, then you have 180 days to create the legally approved set forth in Article 17A consolidation plan. That's where we look at every law and determine what has to get changed. What has to stay into effect for two years. We look at what additions are going to be. How are you going to move forward with the water district and the sewer district, because you're going to have to create a new one.

Ben Syden: The village will be an area of what I call the Prince district. Prince used to be ... he changed his name from Prince to The Artist Formally Known As Prince. So that area is the area formally known as the village. Those boundaries have to be formalized during a map planner report for a water district and a sewer district.

Ben Syden: Now you as a town and village may feel that's not fair for the whole entire town for their lights, so you're going to want to create a lighting district. And you may determine that it's not fair for the entire town outside of the village to pay for their sidewalks, so you may create a sidewalk district.

Ben Syden: There will be what we call a debtors district. It's not really a debtors district, but it's a boundary because any debt taken on by that village will get paid back by them on their taxes. Only them. So if there happens to be any outstanding debts for vehicles, for equipment, for facilities, they pay it, not you as a town resident.

Ben Syden: There again, there is a major misconception statewide that if a village dissolves, everyone in the town has to pay that debt. That is absolutely incorrect. Absolutely incorrect.

Ben Syden: So what happens in these studies you see where that shift is. So in the village of Spencer there was a resident outside of the village who owned property in the village and he decided to begin the process of dissolution. He did a petition on

the same kind of pretenses as people here. He felt that it was too much government, I want to lower the costs, and by the way, signed a petition and do a study.

Ben Syden: Well now they have the vote, but when they did their study it turned out that if you dissolve the village, the village taxes would go up 12% without the tax credit 2.5% with 70% and it would only go down about 1.5%, if you used every single dollar of that tax credit to reduce taxes.

Ben Syden: Conversely, town taxes would go down anywhere from 12% to 22%. The reasoning is the village of Spencer did not have a robust DPW. In fact, they don't have a DPW.

Ben Syden: They contract out their paving and potholes. They contract out their mowing. They have the town do the snow removal and winter maintenance.

Ben Syden: The town has is very involved with DPW. So in that case, the village residents have to take on a larger share of a town wide budget and it's costing them more money.

Ben Syden: So their public meeting is going to be August 24th via Zoon. Their votes going to be September 15th, the first day we're allowed to have elections in New York state again. So it's not clear. It's not every town being the same. It's not every village being the same and every process being the same. That's why the devil's in the details.

Ben Syden: But I want to impress upon you, you do not have to do an interim report. Our clients do because they believe that it's in the best interest of the communities. In this case, the village and town [inaudible 00:34:28] together, you cut the cost in half.

Councilman John...: There's not two grants, one \$25,000 for the village and one \$25,000 for the town is there?

Ben Syden: Not in their consolidation, but there are implementations grants open to both teams. Let's talk about that for a second.

Ben Syden: In a consolidation dissolution you're eligible up to \$50,000 and 90% and 10%. They fund it in two separate ways. \$25k for the interim and \$25k for the final. We've done this on every one of our clients.

Ben Syden: If you choose to consolidate and you go through with the consolidation plan and there either is no additional referendum or there is a referendum and move forward towards reorganization, both the village and the town, they're eligible for an additional \$50,000 each per implementation. And that covers all ... not all, that covers most of the transition costs from the governments you have today to the government you'll have tomorrow.

Ben Syden: The closing down, the auctioning, the legalese, working with the attorney's, setting up the accounts, closing out the accounts. For example, if they were to consolidate and the village goes away, you'll have to be named signatory on all of their accounts. You have to then do all new paperwork [inaudible 00:35:42] all the grants they have. You have to set up a new account pretty much all of their bills go to and you cash that out over six months.

Ben Syden: You'll have to change their laws. You'll have to redo your zoning, because you have town zoning and they have village zoning. You'll have to re update the town zoning to include the village or the area formally known as the village. You can either just adopt it or do whatever you want with it.

Ben Syden: We have some communities and towns that did not have zoning. They had to create zoning only for that area where it was basically rural, agricultural, everywhere outside of that boundary and kept the villages zoning in place. And they had to create a zoning board for the first time.

Ben Syden: You're going to have to create a water district. That's map planning report. You have to go through the process. Now, you don't have to have a new vote though. We've gone through this with the Department of State and the Comptroller's Office.

Ben Syden: They have held that if you do the dissolution plan and interim plan, the public is in essence voting for that district in their vote for dissolution and consolidation.

Supervisor Schm...: For the plan?

Ben Syden: For the plans. You don't have to have another vote for water and sewer because that's in the plan.

Ben Syden: Unless you're expanding that. Now if you're expanding the district bigger than what the village boundary and the district is today, then you'd have to have another vote on the water and sewer district just like you're forming a district.

Ben Syden: The little intricacy that came up in a few of my clients. They said, "Wait a second, can they actually vote not to have water, but I have water? What am I going to do with my debt?" No, we don't have to do that again. If you have water, you'll continue to have water.

Councilman John...: Well it's a lot of information. Excuse me, I'm sorry.

Councilman John...: There's a lot of information you're giving us. I know my head is spinning and I think it's a good idea, myself, to start the process. I don't know how the rest of the board feels.

Supervisor Schm...: Well the process is already started, essentially, because these petitions. I think what we're going to do Ben is, we're going to get with the village trustees and

mayor in the next few days and we're going to set up a meeting for sometime at the end of August.

Supervisor Schm...: I know there's a lot of people watching via Facebook right now and there's a lot of questions. I know you've answered a bunch tonight and I thank you for coming in and bringing all of your experience working with this.

Supervisor Schm...: Like I said, Ben teaches these consolidation classes at the Association of Town Training we all go to and every town in New York state goes to every year. That's the first time I took it. I actually took it twice down there with you, because it doesn't just cover consolidation.

Supervisor Schm...: It talks about sharing services and things that I'm a big fan of. That's where I'd like to see us head more towards is shared services with the village and not this plan that's been put out there. And unfortunately been put out there was a lot of misinformation and I feel badly because I know some other board members here have some interaction with the community as well. A lot of folks have reached out saying that they wish they hadn't signed the petition because, quite frankly, they signed it under false pretenses.

Supervisor Schm...: So we're going to get something. And I think Ben, we were talking today, the last week of August is probably going to be good for you?

Ben Syden: Yep. Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: [inaudible 00:38:47] 26th? Something like that? So we're going to-

Ben Syden: Well I just wanted to ... the 26th, that week is fine. The 24th I have ... I'm giving the same presentation. Actually, not the same. I'm giving the actual results of the interim plan to Spencer. So the 24th is no good, but the 25th, 26th, 27th, they're all fine.

Ben Syden: If you ... I mean, if you have additional questions I can go back to the power point that's behind me here and answer any timeline questions or anything you have.

Supervisor Schm...: ... Well I wanted to ask a couple of quick questions and then we'll run through the board and have a couple of questions for you as well. Just so we can get this information out to everybody today.

Supervisor Schm...: Like I said, we're going to get this meeting set up. It'll be a meeting with the town and village together and for all of their residents from both entities. It's going to be strictly just covering this topic when we have this meeting at the end of August. We're not going to have anything else on the agenda, it's just going to be for this because I know there's a lot of people with a lot of questions.

Supervisor Schm...: So I just wanted to be clear about a few things, Ben. First, this ... because of when these petitions were handed in to the town and village clerks, this will not be on the general election ballot, correct?

Ben Syden: Correct. Correct.

Supervisor Schm...: The grant that people were told that is going to pay for this entire study is not currently available right now?

Ben Syden: Correct.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay. Those are my two questions. I'll go around the board here. I'll call on everybody one at a time. I'll start with Colleen. Do you have any questions for Ben?

Councilwoman Sn...: No, I think Ben reiterated it with the date. I think it was important to get the message out that this could in no way be on the ballot for election day, because that was the misinformation that was being sent.

Councilwoman Sn...: So, nope I have no further questions for Ben today.

Supervisor Schm...: Thank you Colleen. Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: No, I'm good. Is there a way we could get that presentation that you have for us to view, because I would really like to study it and read it myself.

Ben Syden: Sure. I can send it over. I can send you guys a link of it tomorrow. That's not a problem.

Ben Syden: Basically it's 98%-

Councilman John...: Very informative.

Ben Syden: ... Say that again?

Councilman John...: Okay. I said, very informative. A lot of disturbing information as to how this went down. But I think my goal is to make sure that every citizen is well informed before they go to vote.

Supervisor Schm...: Right, that's what we're looking for here. Like I said, the community, obviously, however everybody votes is how they vote. We're not telling anybody to vote one way or the other. We just want to make sure that everybody has the proper information before they cast that vote.

Supervisor Schm...: Ben, I'm sorry, I had one more question and then I'm going to come back to Councilman McCarthy.

Ben Syden: Sure.

Supervisor Schm...: Just to be clear, the petition that was circulated and people were told that it is a petition to fund this study for the consolidation, when in fact the petition that was circulated was not for a study. It was for a consolidation and that's what's going to be on the ballot? A consolidation vote now, not a study vote?

Ben Syden: Correct. And if I go back to my screen, this is the petition. I want to try to move this down a little bit so that names aren't on here, but it's not working very well. I'm actually ... I'm not at this. I'm doing this VNC upstairs.

Ben Syden: So first off, the public does not get a say in the grant. They don't get to vote to go for a grant. The town and the village can vote to pass the resolution to apply for the grant, but the public doesn't get that.

Ben Syden: The vote, what they put forth on their petition, and they followed Article 17a, it explicitly says, "That shall be submitted to the electors and legal voters of the town and village for their approval or rejection at a referendum held. A proposal to consolidate the town and the village." That's what they signed.

Ben Syden: So unfortunately-

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. It says it right there on top, right? The petition to consolidate-

Ben Syden: ... Right.

Supervisor Schm...: ... right on top.

Ben Syden: We'll go right back again. It's right out of the ... if you go online to the Department of State and download the reorganization guideline, it tells you what you have to put in your actual petition and this is what it says. Okay? And it's right there.

Ben Syden: Now there's no way for a person getting their name off of this without going to court and getting a judge to order an injunction and people to sue for the right to get their name off of the petition. They signed it. 810 people, or something like that, signed this petition.

Ben Syden: So you have to have a vote. This is not a petition. It does not say, "We the undersigned, the legal electors of the town and village, we hereby request that the town and village apply for a grant application."

Ben Syden: It doesn't say that, "We respectfully petition and request that you do a study." It's specifically says, "Hold a referendum for the purpose to review a proposal to consolidate the town and village."

Ben Syden: So what you'll have on that ballot is one question. "Shall the village and town of Pawling consolidate?" That's the question.

Ben Syden: It's not a question of, "Shall we do a study?" It's not a question saying, "Hey, should we ask our elected officials to go for a grant?" The petition expressly says that.

Ben Syden: I feel bad for people that may not have understood that when they signed the petition, but they did.

Supervisor Schm...: Right.

Ben Syden: Same issue happened in Spencer. It's not new.

Supervisor Schm...: By the way, let me just say that I would be a huge favor of this study being done just so you can give the residents of the village and the town all of the information, because people love our village. People in the town love the town.

Supervisor Schm...: Why not put it out there and say, "Hey, this is where the potential savings are and not where savings are. This is where you can be more efficient and this is where you can share services." But this just wasn't the proper way to be more mislead into thinking they were getting something they weren't.

Ben Syden: So let's go over to my other slides here. It's something that's very important. I'm going to go down a slide or two. Let's see. I'm using my finger and I have to mouse. It's so much easier when you use the mouse.

Ben Syden: So here's ... I have two slides here that are important in the process, because you had mentioned that people like the village and people like the town. So village dissolution and town and village consolidation is a very personal decision.

Ben Syden: A lot of people identify themselves with the village or the town. So when they do this, they have to have a preliminary test for themselves, before they go in the voting booth per say. Does this make sense with an S or cents with a C?

Ben Syden: They have to think about their government economically, with efficiency, and effectiveness. Will the proposed consolidation be better for me financially? Will my costs go down? Will my costs go up? Will I save money? And if I'm saving money, are my services still as effective as before? Is there no difference in getting that service to me from the village or the town? I have to understand that question.

Ben Syden: And will it be more efficient? These are all questions you have to answer in the process before you vote, because what happens is people ... let me go back up one.

Ben Syden: People go to [inaudible 00:46:12] looking at balancing their values and their cost savings. If the cost goes up and the services go up, well that's up to them. Is it worth paying more money for a service? If costs go down, but services go up, that's a no brainer. Everyone wants to save money and get better services.

Ben Syden: Well now in this concept of cost, if the cost is neutral but I get better service, well that's pretty much a win win too. And if my costs go down and my service is still the same, well that's a win. But if it's going to cost me more and my services, go down, that's a lose.

Ben Syden: But how do you do that? How do you understand that? How do you vote on that without having any information?

Ben Syden: What happens then is you have 60 to 90 days of people on both sides of the issue giving their opinion. Some people do numbers. Some people look at your budget. They'll say, "You can save this, you can save that." People are going to say, "Get this tax credit."

Ben Syden: You may save money. You may get a tax credit. You may have better services, but until you, the village and town, truly understand what services shift from the village line to the town line, you're not going to be able to provide an answer to people.

Ben Syden: So that goes back to the first question. All you have to do is call the meeting, have the referendum. But our clients have chosen, every single one of them, to work with the public and work with each other to have a plan to give people some information.

Ben Syden: And this interim study is not the be all, end all. And it's not the 180 study at the beginning, but it gives you some information.

Supervisor Schm...: Hey Ben, just a quick question for the audience as well. How many of these town/village mergers, consolidations, dissolution, how many types of these things have you worked on personally?

Ben Syden: About 10 of them already.

Supervisor Schm...: I see.

Ben Syden: So we've worked with some of the smallest communities in the state. Village of Spencer, right now, a couple hundred people. To the largest village that dissolved in the state, which is Mastic Beach.

Supervisor Schm...: How big is that?

Ben Syden: The village of Mastic Beach was 15,000 people and it dissolved. And that was a unique situation. The village was only created six years prior to dissolving,

because New York state does not require there to be a plan to create a village. You need 500 people and you have a vote.

Ben Syden: So they had a group of people that felt that they were better served as a village and they sold the public. Said, "Hey, what we pay the town, we could keep ourselves or on a village [inaudible 00:48:34], and they created a village.

Ben Syden: Unfortunately there was no plan of action that says, "This is how my government will be run. This is what my tax implication is going to be. This is how your services will be provided."

Ben Syden: So now all of a sudden they happen to have a new village and they're kind of going aimlessly to create and provide services and six years later dissolved. In New York state though you are required to have a plan to divorce, or to dissolve, to consolidate, but you don't have to have a plan to create a new village.

Ben Syden: So I do have a slide on my screen, I'll go back to my screen again, and answer a question that somebody else had earlier. I think it may have been Scott from my staff. He asked, "How many villages have dissolved?"

Ben Syden: Well prior to 2010 you have all of those villages in white going back from 1900 to 2009 that dissolved during the previous way or reorganization and dissolution. In 2010 with the law change, the ones in yellow have dissolved.

Ben Syden: Of the ones on the right hand side, we did Van Etton, Mastic Beach, Port Henry, Macedon, and Salem. So in the last seven years ... in the last four years we've done the majority of them.

Ben Syden: We've also had some villages vote not to dissolve. The village of Bluemenburg in Sullivan County voted not to dissolve. I'm not going to handicap Spencer. It's just odd that the village residents would pay more, so we'll see what they do.

Ben Syden: The Village of Mastic Beach, it was a unique situation where when we did their analysis we came up with three different options. One was to dissolve the village. One was to keep the village. And one was to keep the village and properly actually fund the village. If they were to fund their village the same way as the other villages in their town, there would have been an almost 400% increase in taxes because they didn't charge enough. A couple hundred dollars a year in taxes is not enough to run a village on Long Island.

Councilman McCa...: No.

Ben Syden: So we gave them, and they chose to rejoin the town, and it was a huge success. Huge success. Town came in right away and they stay out of the process.

Ben Syden: In a dissolution, the negative is the town has to hands out. It's not my problem yet. I don't want to persuade anybody. You do your election. You do your plan. If you vote to dissolve, then we'll help you and figure out how to do this.

Ben Syden: They came in and they cleaned up the streets. They did the code enforcement. They did the potholes. They did the houses. They did a great job. [inaudible 00:51:05] is top notch. They're a 496,000 person town, 15,000 employees; they did a top notch process providing the services to the former village residents with all the things they have to go through.

Ben Syden: And I gave you, Supervisor, I think you shared it with the rest of your town board, a couple of links to my project websites which have all of this information. It's the [www.labergegroup.com/Mastic Beach](http://www.labergegroup.com/Mastic%20Beach) or [Spencer](http://www.labergegroup.com/Spencer) and you can go to documents, you can see what an interim plan looks like. You can see what an initial power point looks like. You can see what petitions look like. You can get state information and links to their information.

Ben Syden: If we were chosen to work with you, you would have a website too and it would be up within a couple of days. It would be www.labergegroup.com/pawling and all of the information about the process would be there. The initial power point would be there. The petition would be there. It would be open and linkable to your websites.

Ben Syden: So if that's the way you wanted to go, that's available to you. It starts right away.

Supervisor Schm...: You know, Ben, I think one thing we could all agree on here is part of being on these boards, it's our job to be fiscally responsible and that's why we're always making the tough decisions here and making changes and outsourcing departments where we need to be.

Supervisor Schm...: We've made a lot of great changes in the last few years, but one thing we agree on as a board for sure is if you're going to take on something like this, you've got to follow proper procedures. The proper procedures would've been for us and the village to work to have been able to involve you folks earlier and have this study to show the community where they could potentially be savings and where they wouldn't be savings.

Supervisor Schm...: Because right now, you said everyone's acting on opinion, and quite frankly nobody has any idea what they're going to be voting for when this hits the ballot because there's not one piece of research that's been done. There's nothing that can be put in front of anyone to show if there are potentially any savings at all.

Supervisor Schm...: You know [inaudible 00:52:59]-

Ben Syden: Correct.

Supervisor Schm...: ... taxes can go up from this. Who knows, for this grant to not even be available you said in 2019 and then COVID hits and there's just the crisis that's created in a bunch of states, who really knows when and if that grants ever coming back? Because, I mean, New York State as I know it is really struggling with money right now. So how do we know what grants they're going to fund and which grants they're not going to fund moving forward?

Ben Syden: We don't know that. And in fact the CFA, the Consolidated Funding Applications, not been released. They haven't ... it's widely held and understand that they may not be released this year given the financial strains we're in.

Ben Syden: But what's interesting, Supervisor, is that the town board understanding that there is opportunities for sharing services, at least review it, could have applied in a normal year. In a normal year, non-COVID, July 31st you would've made an application to do this study and it would've been a 50/50 process.

Ben Syden: You would've applied for a grant. You would've been eligible for \$25,000. You would've then worked with the village for the other \$24k. You would've done this entire process, but that would've been a government reorganization and shared services study.

Ben Syden: You would've had then the year. You would've had one in December, we then have a year to do this analysis, and then go back to the public. But unfortunately you were shortchanged in that opportunity and now you're forced into a process on a very, very tight timeframe.

Supervisor Schm...: Well I'll tell you, I don't want to keep ... I know I got to go to Councilman McCarthy. Then Councilman [De Rosa 00:54:28], I'm coming to you next also, to see if you've got any questions for Ben.

Supervisor Schm...: But Ben I got to tell you, I really appreciate you getting on here with us. I look forward to communicating with you and the village board and my board in the next few weeks. We'll get this meeting set for the end of August. We'll get it out to the community so that everybody knows where we're going to have it. We'll try our best to have it in a location where we can have a lot of people in attendance and make it easy for people to ask questions. We're going to try and get as many answers as we possibly can for everybody before the end of August.

Supervisor Schm...: So with that ... before anymore waiting, Councilman McCarthy, do you have anything for Ben?

Councilman McCa...: No, I just want to thank Ben for clearing up a lot of questions I think we all had; and the public. And I'm sure we all will have more questions towards the end of the month.

Ben Syden: Sure.

Councilman McCa...: Thank you, Ben.

Ben Syden: Towards the end of the month what I would do is the full presentation, but I won't have the numbers yet. That's just what the process is and how to go forward. And I'll answer the questions from the public too.

Ben Syden: In a non-COVID year we would do that in a school and have a big two hour presentation and discussion. I'd just be sitting there with a couple bottles of water answering questions for a few hours.

Ben Syden: So it may be a little different via Zoom, but we'll make sure that I answer as many questions as I can. And quite frankly, should you want to move forward in that process you could also create an email address, you know consolidation@pawling.org or something, and people could email questions prior to that meeting and I can address them that way too.

Supervisor Schm...: Great idea! That's a really great idea.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay, Councilman De Rosa, do you have anything for Ben?

Councilman De R...: Yeah, just a couple of quick things. One, I want to thank you for all of your information along with the rest of the board members. It's really been informative.

Councilman John...: It's really been informative. I just want to be clear on a couple of things you said. One is it's the county regulations that made this petition miss the November 3rd general election date. It's the county's rules. It's not the Town Board, or it wasn't the clerk's failure to do her job properly or her office. It was because it wasn't submitted in the right time for the county's rules. Am I correct?

Ben Syden: Sort of. I'm not sure if it's the county or the state, but it's definitely not the town and village. I'm not sure if the state board of elections political calendar had that deadline, but your county and Rensselaer County had the same exact answer, because I'm doing a district there, so I'm going to probably say it's definitely the county or the state. It's absolutely, unequivocally, not the Town of Pawling and the Village of Pawling, and it's not the town clerk, it's not the village clerk. The county has said, the board of elections said, that you would of have had to have it to them by August 1st or August 2nd. I think August 2nd was a Monday.

Cathy Giordano: It was a Monday.

Councilman John...: Thank you. I just wanted to be absolutely clear on that because, again, the public isn't getting the full information. And I know both the town and the village did their due diligence in trying to produce this in the right timeframe. And again, thank you for your presentation.

Ben Syden: Oh, you're welcome.

Supervisor Schm...: All right. Thank you, Ben. I think that's all we have for you now. Like I said, I know there'll be a lot of dialogue back and forth with us as there has been already. Nancy, do you have anything for Ben?

Nancy Tagliafie...: Nothing but admiration for a great presentation. Thank you. We all learned a lot.

Ben Syden: Oh, thank you. Thank you, and I'll forward this to you all tomorrow. Let me finalize a few numbers in there. I did it today real quick, so 98% of it's there, but I want to talk to Cathy, make sure I have the right numbers of petitions that were signed and the right dates in there, and then I'll share it with you.

Ben Syden: If we're working with you, this is basically the presentation that we'll give in August, so you'll have some information to review and understand. In the meantime, you can go to one of those two websites and download those. I shared with you the Bumps, Bruises, and Pitfalls article in PowerPoint. And if you don't have that, I could share that again. I know the word share is out there like shared surfaces, but I can provide that again so you can have it.

Supervisor Schm...: Thanks, Ben. I really appreciate your time. I know the board does, and I'm sure the 8,500 residents of the Town and Village of Pawling definitely appreciate this last 59 minutes of your time. And this is a short one but I think the end of August, they're going to probably have you here for a few hours, and I'm okay with that because I want all of our residents to really be informed. And I like your idea of developing that email address. I think that's something we'll work on, and we'll start trying to gather as many questions from folks as they need. And like you said, we want everyone when they go vote, it's your right to vote however you'd like, but we'd like them to have the proper information or the necessary information before they cast that vote. Because right now, you're going in blind.

Ben Syden: So what we would do if we're working with you, and we create that website, I would create a FAQ page off of that website, and as the questions come in, and we'd vet them, if they're the same question, I'm not going to put it up there 10 times. I just put it up there with the answer. My staff is myself, it's Scott Siegel, who's a former village and town trustee or town board member and village trustee. Kathy Rooney, a former county manager. And I also have as part of our team a former town supervisor and a former village mayor that are available to work on these kinds of processes. They've been on your side of the table, and we've done this numerous occasions, and we'll answer the questions as they come up.

Ben Syden: I'm not going to have information yet until you do the study on the tax implications, but procedures and processes, if you have that consolidation@pawling.org or whatever your email address is, you'll be able to begin getting that information up there and answering them through the process because questions have to be answered. Misinformation ... And I don't believe anybody is spewing misinformation on purpose. I believe that everyone

is doing their research and understanding it and putting forth how they see it, but unfortunately, information does go through filters. How you hear it is not always how you present it back. So I'm just giving you unbiased information from my years of doing this, and I'll continue to do that on a FAQ process.

Supervisor Schm...: Thank you, Ben. Thank you very much, again. We appreciate your time, and we look forward to working more with you. And right in the immediate future, we're going to try to get the village involved in some of these conversations, and we'll be well prepared for the end of August for all the residents from Pawling. Hopefully, at that meeting, we can get them everything it is that they're looking for.

Ben Syden: I hope so. Well, good luck to you guys. Enjoy the rest of your evenings.

Supervisor Schm...: Have a good night, Ben.

Councilwoman Sn...: Thank you, Ben. Thank you.

Ben Syden: You're welcome. Bye bye.

Supervisor Schm...: Bye. Well, that was informative. A lot of questions out there. I know I've been getting them from people. I've been walking around the village and engaging people and business owners and people around town, and a lot of the same questions we've all been getting. And Ben really hit them all right on the head for folks, so at least now the information is out there. People can come back to our page. They can watch the meeting over and over again, and they can see what some of the facts are regarding this. And I think by the end of August, hopefully we'll be able to get enough of stuff out there where everyone will be happy in making their decision knowing what they know at that point in time. All right, so moving right along, approval of minutes, July 8th, 2020, I'll make a motion for that. Could I get a second?

Councilwoman Sn...: Second.

Councilman John...: Second.

Supervisor Schm...: All right, I'll do a roll call vote. Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy?

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow?

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt, Aye. Approval of minutes passes. Okay, resolutions. I'll read them all first, and we'll vote on them one at a time.

Councilman DeRo...: One comment before you read that, Supervisor. We have no comment from the public on any of the agenda items, and I just think we should allow that before we add the resolutions so we can hear if anybody objects to them until we vote on them.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah, so I know in the past, we've started doing that, Councilman Derosa, and that is the procedure we are going to go back to. Tonight was just a little more confusing because we were going right into a public hearing, and then, I'm not sure, I know you were just dialing in at that time, but the public hearing, we were having issues with ... We couldn't tell if people were trying to talk, if they were in the waiting room or not, so that's why we had that issue. So we're going to run through the resolutions then we're going to open up to public comment at the end.

Councilman DeRo...: Well again, I just feel as a Councilman, we should hear from the public before we vote on resolutions, not after. I'm just voicing my opinion.

Supervisor Schm...: I understand. Resolution 110, Payment of Bills for the Town of Pawling. Whereas the Town of Pawling bookkeeper has reviewed and prepared the vouchers and has offered them for review. Whereas, the vouchers have been approved in accordance with the town of public policies; Whereas the vouchers have been numbered 637 through 790, now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Pawling Town Board hereby accepts the vouchers as prepared upon recommendation of the bookkeeper and hereby authorizes the payment of said vouchers from the Town of Pawling on this date for the amount of \$748,225.52. I will make a motion for resolution 110. Can I get a second?

Councilwoman Sn...: Second.

Councilman John...: Second.

Supervisor Schm...: I'll do a roll call vote. Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy?

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow?

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt, aye. Resolution 111, Award of Bid for Heating Fuel Oil and Service of Oil Fire Heating Equipment. Whereas, bids were duly advertised and noted for the No. 2 heating fuel oil and service, boiler maintenance service for the year 2020-2021; Whereas, the bids have been submitted for the Town Board review and the tabulations have been provided by the town clerk, now therefore be it resolved that the following bids for No. 2 fuel oil be awarded per the specifications within the bid packets to Taylor Oil in the amount of plus \$0.59 per gallon, and for boiler maintenance, the service bid is hereby awarded to Taylor Oil in the amount of \$92 per hour. I'll make a motion for resolution with 111. Can I get a-

Councilman McCa...: James, sorry. That's .059.

Supervisor Schm...: [crosstalk 01:05:05] Oh, I'm sorry. I read that wrong. .059.

Councilman McCa...: It's just under \$0.06.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. I read through that two quick, sorry about that.

Councilman McCa...: No worries.

Supervisor Schm...: Thank you. And it's in there as well, and the resolution will be posted online for everybody.

Councilman McCa...: Correct.

Supervisor Schm...: So I'll make a motion for Resolution 111. Can I get a second?

Councilman McCa...: I'll second.

Councilman John...: Second.

Supervisor Schm...: I'll do a roll call vote. Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow?

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy?

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt, aye. Resolution 111 passes. Resolution 112 Adoption of Constable Manual. Whereas, in New York State division of Criminal Justice Services, DJCS, requires every municipality to adopt an internal policies and procedures governing the constables; Whereas these policies and procedures are contained in the Town of Pawling Police constable manual attached hereto; and whereas the Town of Pawling Police constable manual has been thoroughly reviewed by the town attorney and the chief constable therefore be it resolved with the Town of Pawling Town Board, hereby approves, and adopts the Town of Pawling Police constable manual by official policy of the Town of Pawling. I'll make a motion for resolution 112. Can I get a second?

Councilman John...: Second.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay. I'll do a roll call vote. Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: Aye. It's just a shame that we have to do this thing in our small town, but it's a safety issue and something that we need to have to protect our... Go ahead, I'm sorry.

Supervisor Schm...: Thank you Councilman Derosa. Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow?

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy?

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Resolution 112 passes. Resolution 113 Approval of Waiver for Transfer Station Permits. Whereas, the Town of Pawling has established.. What's that?

Councilman John...: James, I just want to make sure that this gentleman is not requesting a waiver for commercial use. He's requesting for it to not pay?

Councilman McCa...: Correct. He's asking not to get a [inaudible 01:07:30] sticker at no charge.

Supervisor Schm...: The transfer station permit. Okay. I'll read your resolution into... Well, want me to read the resolution in here? And then we have a discussion? Approval of

waiver for transfer station permit, whereas the Town of Pawling as established new rules for the 2020 operation and use of the Pawling transfer station;

Supervisor Schm...: and whereas the recipients of a waiver are only permitted to dump household waste at the transfer station; therefore be resolved that the following individuals are hereby approved for a waiver to obtain a 2020 transfer station permit by the Town Board of the Town of Pawling: Robert George. Now Councilman Johnson, did you want to have some discussion here?

Councilman John...: I will second for discussion. This gentleman claims he has two bags of garbage a month and can't afford to pay for a transfer station sticker. Now I will also go on to say, we have never, ever waived the cost, correct Kathy? For a transfer station sticker.

Cathy Giordano: No, never.

Councilman McCa...: And I would also say that I don't think this is something we want to start doing, because where does it end?

Supervisor Schm...: Correct.

Councilman John...: Correct.

Councilman DeRo...: Just to continue the discussion, this is the first year I haven't had a transfer station permit in many, many years because I have two or three bags of garbage and I end up bringing them up to Wingdale now. But that's my choice. And he has an option. He can do that also. I don't think we should waive the transfers fees either just for a couple of bags.

Councilman John...: Until we go to a bags system.

Supervisor Schm...: Anyone else for discussion?

Councilwoman Sn...: I agree with what's been said already, James. I mean, I think that if that was something that was ever going to be decided by this board future-wise and that it was something that other people could, because of financial reasons or whatever, do spelling out some kind of form. I do think it needs to be more of a discussion. I think we can't just do it unfortunately for one person and not all people.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. I would tend to agree and with what's being said right now. Councilman Johnson, have you ever dealt with this before? Someone coming to get a waiver on a transfer station, all the almost 20 years of you being on the board?

Councilman John...: No, we finally cut off all the people that weren't paying.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah.

Councilman DeRo...: It's only taken us about, six, seven years.

Supervisor Schm...: Sure. No, I understand.

Cathy Giordano: Can I ask a question, though? Because this resolution is not correct, and to avoid confusion, maybe we shouldn't do it with this resolution and maybe a motion should be made?

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. I think we're going to have to table this resolution.

Councilman John...: No, I'll make a motion to amend a resolution 113 to say that it should read "A Request for Waiver of Cost of Transfer Station Permit."

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. I'll second that motion. I'll second that motion [crosstalk 00:15:04].

Cathy Giordano: [crosstalk 01:11:03] We need a vote on the amendment.

Supervisor Schm...: We'll vote on the amendment first. So Councilwoman Snow? On the amendment.

Councilwoman Sn...: On the amendment, yes.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy?

Supervisor Schm...: Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt, aye. Now we're going to go back to the resolution. Back to the resolution and we're going to vote on this now.

Cathy Giordano: Right.

Supervisor Schm...: Did we have a second already on this?

Cathy Giordano: I'm not sure, Billy seconded it, but I wasn't sure who initiated the motion?

Councilman John...: James.

Cathy Giordano: Okay, then we're good.

Supervisor Schm...: All right, so we've got to do a roll call vote on the original resolution of 113.

Councilman DeRo...: The amended resolution, right?

Councilman John...: On the amended resolution.

Cathy Giordano: Right.

Supervisor Schm...: We just voted on the amendment resolution.

Cathy Giordano: You just voted on the amendment, not the resolution.

Supervisor Schm...: Oh, I'm sorry. So now we'll go for a roll call on the amended resolution.

Cathy Giordano: Right.

Supervisor Schm...: Just for the record, Councilman Johnson, can you restate the amended resolution again for us?

Councilman John...: The amended resolution says that it's an approval for the waiver of costs of the transfer station permit. So if you wish to deny it, you would vote, no.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay. So now we'll go to a roll call vote. Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: No.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy?

Councilman McCa...: No.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: No.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow?

Councilwoman Sn...: No.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt is also no, Resolution 113, the amended one, does not pass. Resolution 114 Acceptance of Street Name Liberty Lane. Whereas a new road name has been proposed for the Lawrence Oates Subdivision in the Town of Pawling; And whereas the said subdivision will be found on parcel numbers. 6855-04-911488, 6855-04-964490, and 6855-04-978457;

Supervisor Schm...: and whereas the proposed road name is Liberty Lane; whereas Duches County real property tax services have reviewed through polling and has found no conflict; therefore be it resolved that the Town of Pawling Board here by

approves a road name and Liberty lane found on parcel numbers 6855-04-911488, 6855-04-964490, and 6855-04-978457. I will make that motion for Resolution 114. And could I have a second?

Councilwoman Sn...: Second.

Supervisor Schm...: I will do a roll call vote. Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy.

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow?

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt, aye. Resolution, 114 passes. Resolution 115 Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials, RF2417-A, be resolved at a Town of Pawling 30350, hereby establishes the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and local retirement system based on their record of activities. I will make a motion for a Resolution 115.

Councilman John...: Second.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay. We'll do a roll call vote. Councilman Derosa?

Councilman DeRo...: Being this isn't really about me should I abstain from this? It's about reporting our retirement incomes, even though I retired.

Nancy Tagliafie...: I think you can vote on it, Phil.

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy?

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson?

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow?

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmitt, aye. Resolution 115 passes.

Nancy Tagliafie...: That's it.

Supervisor Schm...: Oh, that's it. That's the end of it. Okay. I was about to get into the constables manual. Okay, moving onto discussion amongst the town board members. Let's start with the highway department generator, I guess. And then we'll go jump into the discussion amongst all of us. Councilman McCarthy, do you mind heading up to discussion in regards about the highway department generator?

Councilman McCa...: Correct. I just want to clarify that this generator is for the transfer station and it is to run the compactor. Unfortunately in the last two or three weeks, we've had three days without power at the transfer station. It makes their jobs very difficult. So this generator would be for the compactor. I know the world we live in when it comes to grants, I did talk to Scott, the open grant that we currently have now for the roll off and the few boxes that is in the process. This could be added to that. It might be added to it, or we may have to file another one. But we could possibly somewhere in the next four years, if things get better, get reimbursed for a percentage of this generator. I'd have to talk to Jay and find out what percent this generator we use is for recycling. It's the DEC recycling grant. So there is potential that we could get some of the money back.

Councilman McCa...: We have one confirmed bid of around \$14,000. We have three other bids out. They all were hoping to get them back to Jay before tonight's meeting. But because of the storm, all three of them have been out for the last week taking care of generators. So that's where we are right now.

Supervisor Schm...: So Jim, this is a highway department generator you're speaking of or the transfer station generator?

Councilman McCa...: This generator is only for the transfer station. The highway department has a generator that, Billy correct me if I'm wrong, I think John got it a few years ago?

Councilman John...: Yes.

Councilman McCa...: It's there. It just needs to be hooked up. And that's a different issue that Jay will address next month. This strictly is only for the transfer station.

Councilman DeRo...: That \$14,000 cost, that isn't the total cost of hooking up the system, is it?

Councilman McCa...: That is the total cost unless the propane company charges us to hook up to it. But that is wired. That is a 200 amp transfer, automatic transfer, and a 25,000 KW generator.

Councilman DeRo...: And I think he has \$10,000 left in the budget for that transfer station. And plus there's money left in our capital fund that we have put aside from the \$40 from every sticker, also.

Councilman McCa...: That's correct. I did confirm that with Christine yesterday, the \$10,000 for equipment is still in the transfer station budget and it has not been touched.

Councilman DeRo...: And we have the balance in that other fund that's attributed to the transfer station for equipment.

Councilman McCa...: Correct. And we're hoping that maybe the other three will be less than that. We know that's the highest we have right now, so we're hoping that the other three will be less.

Supervisor Schm...: And when do you think, Councilman McCarthy, when do you expect those other bids to be in?

Councilman McCa...: One we're hoping to have by Friday, and the other two sometime next week. So I don't know if we can vote on it tonight to not exceed \$14,000 and move forward with this, or whatever the board wants to do.

Councilman DeRo...: I think we can make a motion to let the supervisor and the highway superintendent get the lowest bid or the correct bid from the three once they're submitted.

Councilman John...: Depending on the timeline, Councilman McCarthy, by the time you gets these bids in, we might be closing in on the next meeting anyways, is there that much of a crunch in time to get this done?

Councilman McCa...: James? Like I said, we should have them hopefully by the end of this week or the first part of next week.

Councilman John...: Here's the other issue. If you order a generator today, your 30 to 60 day [inaudible 01:20:38] comes in anyway. I personally would like to see the proposals. I'm absolutely in favor, but I would like to see it. I'd like to see their calculations for the size that they selected, only because I've run into issues with the big generator project at the Water District in Holmes. And I'd just like to get that reviewed potentially, by our engineer, to have someone look at it, to make sure that it is properly sized, and not just take the word of a generator company.

Supervisor Schm...: And we probably shouldn't approve anything tonight, as well. Because it actually changed the bid process. If any of the other potential companies were bidding or watching the meeting, then they already know where the one bid is fallen, actually. So we should just wait until these bids come in and then handle it that way. And if it's a crunch time decision, we can just have a special meeting to go over the bids and approve it that way.

Councilman McCa...: I think that's fine, James, I think like you said, we're going to have two meetings back in September, so we should be fine.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. Let's get as many bids in as we can. And then I'm sure there's a shortage of generators right now because everybody's been buying them. Because everyone was out of power. But yeah, let's get as many bids in as we can and we'll discuss the numbers as we open them. And this way there's no competitive edges to anybody else as far as the process goes. All right. Thank you, Councilman. So we've got a discussion amongst the board. And I'll start with Councilwoman Snow, do you have anything for discussion?

Councilwoman Sn...: I do. I have just a couple of updates basically if that's okay.

Supervisor Schm...: It's quite all right.

Councilwoman Sn...: Okay. So the different areas, as the community knows, were all assigned liaisons to different agencies and/or community groups. So starting with the Pawling schools, just to let the community know if they haven't already Kim Fontana and her administrators were unfolding public radio this past week, it's recorded just like our meetings are, so you can go on it. Parents were able to ask questions and that was the first of three forums. They'll be having another one next. And then another one I believe the week after. So I do think that that's really going to be helpful information for any of the parents in the community regarding the Pawling schools and what opening may look like.

Councilwoman Sn...: Secondly, just with the Pawling Rec, I did notice that they're going to be trying to do some voting event this weekend. It just, again, it sounds like they're really trying to do so many things for the community amidst COVID. So again thanking Jessica. And I'm glad with offering things for the community members, families, and kids during this time of COVID. The Pawling Resource Center, Terry did give me a call asking us that we don't forget them. They're stairs that were crumbling, they can't be used at all. So she had to tape them, and she is hoping... She understands we're in a pandemic now, but that the work on the ramp... I'm sorry, the work on the ramp that that will not be forgotten and that we'll get back in the swing of that because they're in desperate need of a way to get in.

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [01:24:04]

Councilwoman Sn...: ... that because they're in desperate need of a way to get in. So, things are kind of pretty bad there with their steps. And I said, I would bring it up tonight and that I'm sure that'll be something we can look at again, hopefully in the near future for them.

Councilwoman Sn...: And then lastly, the Polling Community Foundation, they have put up a website and that is pollingfoundation.org. So, that can give the community all of their information. Unfortunately, they did let me know that they had to cancel their

gala in November. I think they were hoping they could do it, but they're just not able to really plan for that, not knowing how many people we're allowed to have with the pandemic. But on that website, if people would like to donate, there is a way to donate to help them out.

Councilwoman Sn...: And then lastly, Bill and I have been in contact, and Bill I'll let you speak more on that, again with Gabrielle Semel. And we were talking with [George Apap 00:01:05] and we had a meeting with Jessica Dickinson too, just to look around for the community garden. So, there's been some discussion and I think we'll be able to talk more about how we can kind of look at the exact site in our September meeting. So ,those are my comments regarding the liaison things.

Councilwoman Sn...: And I guess just to have a minute during my time, I would just like to just say again, especially after the great presentation tonight from Ben that social media can be a good thing and it can be a really bad thing and that going forward, I would just hope that our community members, if you have questions, to please email our board. Email the supervisor, email the board. We're happy to answer your questions, but I do think, and we've seen that tonight, sometimes things do get interpreted and they're not quite exactly the right way. And all I can say is that some of the back and forth that I saw on Facebook this past week was just such division for our community. And we're really trying to help bring people together desperately. And I think we all need that feeling of being brought together and not divided. So, I just felt I needed to say that. So, thank you.

Supervisor Schm...: I agree with it. And thank you very much. And before I go to the next council member, the Resource Center actually, when you brought it up, I think we have to give a shout out to [Sean Fox 00:02:38], who brought over the generator during the power outages. The Resource Center had reached out there and power wasn't coming back. And we obviously weren't getting the amount of dry ice that our community required from the utility company. And Sean had messaged me and I got ahold of Colleen and he got over there that night. And I know it wasn't able to power all their refrigerators and whatnot, but he able to power several of them with his generator for the Resource Center. So, Sean, I just want to say, thanks a lot. You always seem to step up when the community needs you. And I know the Resource Center, they appreciate it, and we appreciate it for sure.

Councilwoman Sn...: Thank you.

Supervisor Schm...: Very much. Councilman Johnson. Do you have anything for us?

Councilman John...: Yes. I'll pick up where Colleen left off with the community garden. First of all, very excited to keep this project moving forward. I heard from [Wendell 01:27:29] today that the RFP for the asbestos abatement is done. And Cathy, he should be dropping it off for you to get it distributed to the appropriate places.

Cathy Giordano: I have it.

Councilman John...: Perfect. I know that they went over there and they were kind of looking at other sites, and I'm really trying to keep us working with PCF and their layout. They've got double ready projects in certain areas, and I think their concern is in the soil. So, I think what we may have to do is once that house is abated and it's demolished and things are cleaned up, obviously we want to get it all checked and make sure that that's good. And I think it'll wind up being a very successful project.

Councilman John...: Also, recreation. As you all know, my wife, [Lori 00:01:28:16], is president of the rotary. And they've come up with a great idea for the kids and parents to do a movie night up at the park. Now, people are going to say, "Well, how can you have kids inside and watch a movie?" Well, you're not. You're going to be outside in the great lawn in designated areas watching on an inflatable 25 foot screen that I would like to make a resolution asking the town board to accept the donation from my wife, Lori and I, giving that screen to the community to use at that event and any other future events that they deem necessary. So, I would need a second to that resolution.

Supervisor Schm...: I'll second that. And I'll do a roll call vote. And I'll second it for discussion. That's very generous and I think that's great considering the year we've all had, I think people probably can't wait to sit outside and socially distance and watch a movie. Sounds like a wonderful idea. So, I'll do a roll call vote now. Councilman DeRosa.

Councilman DeRo...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy.

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson.

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow.

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye. And thank you.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmidt. Aye. That resolution passes for the movie screen. Thank you, Councilman Johnson. Do you have anything else?

Councilman John...: Nope, that's all I have. I hope everyone in town is finally back up with electric. This has been very trying times, and I can tell you that my wife finally said, "Let's get a whole house generator," because 60, 70 gallons of gasoline and switching from this refrigerator to the weld pump, it's a nightmare.

Supervisor Schm...: Yeah. And this time we had communications down as well, so people not only had lost power, they lost the ability to make a phone call and get on the Internet. And we had a lot of calls with the utility companies, our State Senator, our county executives, and we're going to be reaching out to the public service commission in regards to how we think their response and the lack thereof the response I should say. And it's not to the men and women who were out here doing the work. The utility workers, we can't thank them enough for being out here and doing that, but the leadership of the people that are supposed to get them here just didn't seem to get that in a timely fashion. So, I know a lot of other communities are upset as well. Parts of Danbury are just getting power back today. And other places still don't have it. It's just-

Councilman John...: One of our dealerships got it just last night, and that's on a main thoroughfare. But I do know that Senator Harckham is working on a proposal for a bill to require generators at cell towers so that at least you have your phone and you can use it for data and other things.

Supervisor Schm...: And I thought those cell towers had battery backups. Aren't they supposed to have battery backups at the cell towers already?

Councilman John...: I don't know, but they certainly aren't going to last six days.

Supervisor Schm...: Sure. Sure. You'd think the easiest thing with a battery backup on a cell tower would be to have a small solar panel that self-charges during the day, and then it can be charged enough to run at night, but I'm not a utility engineer. I'm just taking a couple of shots at it. But thank you, Councilman Johnson. Councilman McCarthy.

Councilman McCa...: No, I don't really have too much, James, other than the reason why I'm in the dark is I have one wire to my modem because we just got a temporary line from Comcast. So, I apologize. We're still waiting for the TV and the phone, but at least I got the internet for tonight. Other than that, I do want to thank everybody. The town employees, the highway employees, the fire department. I know your brother and I were out that night until late at night, just opening Quaker Hill. It was the first time that Fran and I were actually stuck at Station 3 for an hour and a half where we couldn't move. We couldn't go down the hill. We couldn't go up the hill. We couldn't do nothing. I've never seen it that way. So, I just want to thank everybody for their help and all the residents for their patience.

Supervisor Schm...: Thank you, Councilman McCarthy. Councilman DeRosa, I am sure you have a bunch, so we're coming to you next.

Councilman DeRo...: Okay. I want to echo Jimbo's comments there about thanking everybody, all the emergency workers and everything. We got through this thing, most of it. A couple of issues. Yes. One, on the ASPCA building site, their development site, they're at the process and the planning stage that the town board has to talk

with our attorneys about maybe a pilot in lieu of taxes, because they're a non-profit organization and they don't pay any taxes. And it's a lot like we did with the Castagna, the group on the apartments over there. They actually reproved that there were services we had to offer them. And we negotiated a pilot with them in lieu of taxes because we will have to give them fire protection and ambulance protection and probably on the roads, work on the roads and stuff. And I just think it's time we have to open that up, discussion with our town board, the planning board, and the attorney.

Councilman DeRo...: Also, on the dam, I was down there during the hurricane, and we gained about two inches of water. It was just going over the woods spillway when we checked it on the following day. So, we're pretty good with the hurricane there.

Councilman DeRo...: The other issue is we haven't received the permit extension for the work that needs to be done on the dam this fall. And I'm getting concerned. And I think we have to start preparing a letter to put out to the residents because we need to lower the lake over 12 inches. I believe it's 12 inches in the report, but I'm not sure if they're taking into effect the eight inches of wood that we put on top of the concrete spillway. And we have to have that completed by October 15th by the DEC rules, because we can't allow water to go down that stream because of the critters down there start to hibernate. So, I think we have to let the residents know what day we're going to start this process, and I think we should start it around September 15th to start lowering the lake to give them a chance to take their boats out if they want to. The lake will still be able to be used, but it will just going to be lower until this construction process is completed, which should be a short time once we get it going, hopefully. So, I believe before the next meeting, we should have that letter prepared and getting ready to send out to the residents because that'll be in September already. So, that's an issue that needs to be worked on.

Councilman DeRo...: The other thing, thank you, Billy and your wife for the screen for the movies. I just have one thing. The [Holmes's 01:35:36] residents, we don't see that all this stuff is going on unless you're on the Internet and everything. There's no community board and signs. And that sign at the Holmes's firehouse there has the latest one that the town issues is talks about signing up for camp on the 15th of January that starts. So, I think items like that should be listed on that Holmes's sign so that we can all participate in the events up there at the park.

Councilman DeRo...: The other issue I have, I'd like to make a motion. I'm glad to hear that we got the RFP for the asbestos on the [Bear 01:36:22] House, but I'd like to make a motion to prepare an RFP for the asbestos in the town hall in the basement. Let's do the proper testing that needs to be done. They'll identify the asbestos down there. And let's remove it. Now that we got most of this stuff moved out of that big room, there's still quite a bit of stuff in there. And there's different organizations like the Historical District and stuff has information in there. We should clean up that information in that big room so it could be tested properly and the asbestos removed. So, I'd like to offer a motion to prepare an RFP for that task.

Supervisor Schm...: So, just so I understand, a motion to determine how much asbestos... Do we have a report done on it, basing [SELS 01:37:20] to how much asbestos-

Councilman DeRo...: Not on the whole thing, because they couldn't do the proper testing in the whole area. That's why I would like to get the basement area tested to identify any asbestos that's down there and also a LRP to remove it once that's done, because I've been trying to get this cleaned up down there for almost eight years. And now that we're moving people out of there, let's get it cleaned up. If we have to renovate it and do things like that, the asbestos has to be removed before that.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay. So, are you making that motion right now?

Councilman DeRo...: Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: All right. I'll second that motion. It seems like in the three years I've been here, every year we seem to do a little bit of work down in that basement. And every year it's a little bit of work, a little bit at work. So, maybe it's time to do the research and have it looked at by some professionals and determine how much asbestos is down here and what it's going to take to mediate it and make it safe. It is a good workspace and it can be usable for us. So, I'm happy just to second that motion as well. And I'll go around the table here at Councilman Johnson.

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow.

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy.

Councilman McCa...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman DeRosa.

Councilman DeRo...: Aye. And thank you.

Supervisor Schm...: And Supervisor Schmidt. Aye. Okay. Anything else, Councilman DeRosa?

Councilman DeRo...: No, that's enough. Thank you very much.

Supervisor Schm...: All right. Thank you. Jess, we have, I think, Mark Chipkin waiting to speak tonight. I think he's been holding on for a while, correct?

Jessica: Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: Okay. Go ahead, and we're going to pass Mark in during public comment. Mark Chipkin. Are you there?

Jessica: It's connecting.

Supervisor Schm...: Hi, Mark Chipkin. Can you hear us?

Mark Chipkin: I can hear you.

Supervisor Schm...: How are you sir?

Supervisor Schm...: Good evening, Mark. You're on for public comment. Go ahead and make your comment.

Mark Chipkin: I am here. I just want to see if I can get on just one screen. I've got two screens. Do you hear me?

Councilwoman Sn...: Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: Yes, sir. We can hear you loud and clear.

Mark Chipkin: Okay. Thank you very much. I'm very impressed with Ben's presentation. It was just what I needed to be able to make a more informed decision in terms of voting. And I feel once again, as I have with other issues, that it's so important, and I appreciate that the town is taking the time to maybe have an interim study before the vote to allow people to hear the facts about what's really going on. I think it was quite clear from Ben's presentation that there's quite a bit of confusion. And I found the same in discussing things with people. And I have appreciated local residents who have talked to me about this, but Ben really was so knowledgeable. It was a big help. And I think that it's up to us to all to look at the pros and cons before we vote on this funding. Residents need to be made aware specifically what this vote is for has Ben suggested tonight. It's a yes or no vote, a research vote.

Mark Chipkin: I am concerned that if this was to pass, how the town boards would find all the time to do the things that are necessary from what Ben was talking about. It was overwhelming. I imagine you'll hire a consultant group like Laberge, but I think it's very important that the board let us know what kinds of things might be held up if this is actually was to continue. And we know now that the grants may be held up, that we'd have to put the money out ahead of time. And that's something new to me and hope that the grants would be reimbursed later on. But as I said, all of us benefit from opening the light on this and to communicate in a respectful debate about what this mandate actually is going to be.

And I would like to know if the town board can provide for us a list of what shared benefits they have right now in terms of the village and the town and what you expect this consolidation would increase in terms of shared benefits

and a number amount or a relative estimate of tax benefits for the village and town residents if we go through with this. I mean, people are voting. I don't know what they're voting on. They're voting on the idea that it may lower taxes, but as you know, from my past presentations, I like the facts. I like to know how much it's actually going to help us. You've answered most of the questions. As I said, I hope we look at both the positive and negative impacts of these actions. And I think it's really important.

One thing that was not mentioned is that to me, the village and town boards have different mindsets. Most care about our residents, but they are two different governments that specialize in two different natures of our community. The urban part is the village where the board members have special skills to manage the infrastructure of their municipal water sewage, the waste pickup, local businesses. Well, the town, they focus more on transfer stations, the dam or green spaces, the parks, the agricultural lands. Each government has its own comprehensive master plan and goals. And I want to know would forcing the village and town into one board be helpful, or will it actually dilute their effectiveness?

Now, today I called up Lake George. Their town, which has a village, and they went through the same process and I asked them, "Did you go ahead with it?" And they said, "No. We decided just to work on..." After years of study and doing this study, that they decided to have actually improve the services, the shared services, rather than make any changes in terms of consolidation. So, all the concepts and questions that are raised here are worthy for exploration. I hope that the town board will have that meeting with the village, make it available to the community. And once again, I thank you again. And I thank Ben.

Supervisor Schm...: [inaudible 00:20:03]. Jess. I think Mr. Chipkin was the only one in the waiting room. We have one email that did come in from [Helen Grasso 00:20:12], which I'm going to read into the [inaudible 01:44:14] as well right now.

Supervisor Schm...: It was, "Dear Supervisor Schmidt and town board. Why is it a deadline at noon today to submit questions and comments to the town board before the 6:00 PM meeting tonight? Isn't the Facebook Live meeting meant to approximate a live meeting? I hope in the future you will consider letting residents submit right after the time of the meeting or even during it. I believe the school board allows this sort of access.

Supervisor Schm...: I see [inaudible 01:44:43] tonight has an early discussion on the consolidation's reorganization. My name is one of the two petitions submitted to the town and village roughly 10 days ago to initiate the process to consider consolidation of the town and village. [inaudible 01:44:56] town and village with the required 10% of registered voters to put a referendum up for a vote, specifically to consider a [continuous 01:45:04] consolidation of the town and village, that means a partial or complete consolidation of government services. Voters [inaudible 01:45:12] a resolution that allows a village and town to apply for

state funding to analyze and research the potential and cost savings for taxpayers.

Supervisor Schm...: Then there is a second vote in 2021 if a suitable proposal has been created by an appointed review board. I have spoken to the regional representatives at the Shared Service Department of New York State. He says that sometimes this is an advantage and results in cost savings and sometimes it doesn't. There have been many towns, mostly in western and northern New York, that have looked at this and/or adopted the results. I understand also that the grant professionals now on salary with a town called Laberge Group have experience in this area in applying for the state grant to study this possibility. I hope we have a positive voter response and get the chance to initiate this process.

Supervisor Schm...: I believe everyone is trying to do their best in this current climate and stress on a pandemic and recent outage that revealed critical vulnerabilities in our communications and infrastructure in Dutchess County. Please consider letting residents help with the fact-finding and debate that might result in a positive proposal for all taxpayers and leadership in Pawling. There are many people who are assisting with the collection of petition signatures and signing petitions who are actively interested in helping to create a sort of advisory group to help with outreach and expand the interaction of the Pawling residents. Thank you.
Helen Grasso.

Supervisor Schm...: Helen, thank for your email. I hope you are listening this evening. Ben answered pretty much all of these questions, I believe. So, we're not going to get back into those. We are going to have that meeting, like I said. It'll be very heavily posted and the community will be aware of it. We're going to shoot for the end of August. We're going to collaborate with the village mayor and his trustees. And we'll have a lot of conversations with our council and their council and Ben from the Laberge Group.

Supervisor Schm...: And like I said, Ben has worked on a lot of these. They are one of the premier grant companies in New York State, who work on these types of things. So, he's very knowledgeable in this field. By the end of the month, I think everyone will be informed enough to make a conscious decision when this does come to vote. We believe this meeting is going to have to be well-attended and well-informed. And that's why we're pushing it at a couple of weeks away so we can get all the information we need as a board. We'll continue to communicate with the residents and with the village and we'll get out there to as many people as possible. And by the end of the month, we'll have enough information to hopefully answer everyone's questions.

Supervisor Schm...: So, with that, great meeting, everybody. Thank you so much. Can I get a motion for adjournment?

Councilman McCa...: I'll move.

Supervisor Schm...: I'll second that. Roll call vote. Councilman DeRosa. I think he's on mute.

Cathy Giordanol...: Muted it.

Councilwoman Sn...: I think he's on mute. Yes.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilwoman Snow.

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman Johnson.

Councilman John...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Councilman McCarthy.

Councilwoman Sn...: Aye.

Supervisor Schm...: Supervisor Schmidt. Aye. Councilman DeRosa' still on mute, so thank you all. Great meeting. And I will talk to you all in the morning.

Councilman McCa...: Good night, everybody.

Councilwoman Sn...: Good night.