

James: Okay, great. Good evening, everybody. Thank you for being here for the Pawling Town Board meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021. It's 6:00 o'clock. Our meeting will be going live via Facebook and Zoom. It's good to see everybody again, it's been a while since we've been together, so it's nice to have everybody back together and clerk, if you could please read the roll call.

C. Giordano: Councilman Johnson.

B. Johnson: Here.

C. Giordano: Councilman De Rosa.

De Rosa: Here.

C. Giordano: Councilwoman Snow.

C. Snow: Here.

C. Giordano: Councilman McCarthy.

J. McCarthy: Here.

C. Giordano: Councilman Schmitt.

J. Schmitt: Here.

James: Please stand and follow me in the pledge of allegiance. I pledge allegiance [crosstalk 00:01:17]. Thank you very much. I'd like to start off just leading with the first just wishing happy birthday to Councilman Phil De Rosa. Phil happy birthday and I'm glad you're getting some sunshine back to us, hopefully there's many more days like this, right? Immediately following.

De Rosa: Thank you.

James: Right. And then as we opened the meeting, we're going to go to public comment for agenda items only. The agenda is posted online for everyone to view. If you have any questions or comments in regards to the agenda items, three minutes, please state your name and your address for the record and we'll do our best to run through and then have some discussion and get you some answers.

Jess: There are no additional participants in the Zoom.

James: Okay. Let's just give it another minute to see if anyone's coming in and then we'll run through the agenda and resolutions. Is there anyone coming in Jess?

Jess: Nope. No one's coming in.

James: Okay. So, seeing none, we are going to move along QD resolutions and I'll start through and read these this evening. Resolution 59, I'll read these all one at time and then we'll run back and then we'll approve just the three that we were looking to approve and discuss tonight, is that okay with the board?

C. Snow: Sure.

James: Yep. So, resolution 59, payment of bills Town of Pawling, resolution 60 approval of Labuds contract addendum Route 22 sewer additional services, resolution 61, [inaudible 00:03:29] release, Thomas [inaudible 00:03:30], resolution 62, a local law amending chapter 52 in terms of office of the town code of the town entitled alternate members from planning board and zoning board appeals.

De Rosa: I have a comment about that one when you want to discuss it.

James: Yeah. We're going to run through and then we can come back to [inaudible 00:03:51], so [crosstalk 00:03:52]. Resolution 63, authorizing one-time healthcare buyout, Paul Dresnick, resolution 64, introducing local law and providing for a public notice and hearing and one more after that or was that the last one?

De Rosa: Oh yeah, that's it.

James: Oh yeah. That is all the way. Okay, great. Okay, so let's run through the three resolutions 60, 63 and 64 first. Resolution 60, approval of Labuds contract, addendum Route 22 sewer, additional services. Whereas the Town of Pawling entered into a grant management service contract with Labuds Group in 2019 [inaudible 00:04:43] to contract the Labuds Group for additional services related to the extension of sewer line down Route 22, due to their expertise in the field and we asked to require these services with Labuds [inaudible 00:04:54] contract, addendum must be reviewed and executed, whereas a town board or the Town of Pawling has reviewed contract addendum number 2019063-01, therefore be it resolved at the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby authorizes the township [inaudible 00:05:10] to signed contract addendum number 2019063-01 to give effect to this resolution. I'll make a motion for resolution number 60, do I have a second?

J. McCarthy: I'll second it.

James: Okay. All in favor?

C. Snow: Aye.

J. McCarthy: Aye.

B. Johnson: Aye.

J. Schmitt: Aye.

James: Thank you very much, resolution 60 passes. Resolution 63, I believe was our second one for the evening. Resolution 63, authorize the one-time healthcare buyout for Paul Dresnick and whereas the Town of Pawling offers a \$4,000 healthcare buyout paid annually to full-time employees who do not opt into the healthcare insurance plan. Whereas the Town of Pawling employee handbook, unless otherwise authorized notice Teamsters contract, union employees are not entitled to any health care buyout. Whereas the Teamsters contract does not have any provision granting the healthcare buyout to union employees. Whereas Paul Dresnick has been employed by the Town of Pawling for three years and has not taken the health care plan. The town board is agreeable to issuing a one-time healthcare buyout to Paul Dresnick in the amount of \$4,000. Therefore, be it resolved at the town board, hereby authorized as a one-time healthcare buyout payment of \$4,000 to Paul Dresnick. I'll make a motion if there's any, I'm happy to discuss with the board as well, if there's any board discussion on this resolution.

De Rosa: Second for discussion, yes.

James: Okay, go ahead, Councilman De Rosa.

De Rosa: Yeah. So, being a union member all my life, the one concern is the union contract and hopefully I know it's going to expire this year, we can get that wording changed in the union contract, so we don't have any future problems and it's clear, because it definitely saves the town money. What normally happens in a union, is the union covers part of their benefits is their health benefits and their retirement benefits in most construction unions and this one is just the retirement benefits I think they do not the health benefits. So, I would just hope that we would straightened it out in the union contract going forward.

James: Okay. Councilman De Rosa, Yeah, I tend to agree with you this. So, this is, you're one of the reasons we're addressing this, is because it's been established in past practices. Previously in other administrations as well and so, I just came up with this, a huge savings for the town to offer this buyout rather than the cost of the healthcare plan, which would be an additional \$25,000 in cost on top of this buyout. Our thinking is exactly what yours is, is that this year is the year that we get to negotiate the union contract with our Highway Department and this is one of the top things we'll be addressing to get this wording properly and get this, at a point where everyone understands exactly what's made available to them and what isn't. So, that's one of the things we'll be addressing this year for sure, so there's no more issues moving forward.

De Rosa: [inaudible 00:08:25].

James: Any more discussion from the rest of the board?

C. Snow:

No.

James:

All in favor. [crosstalk 00:08:33]. Aye. Thank you, resolution 63 passes as well. Resolution 64, introducing local law 2021 providing for public notice and hearing, okay. Whereas an amendment to the Pawling Town code regarding agricultural uses and properties within agricultural districts within the Town of Pawling was previously introduced before the town board or the Town of Pawling in the County of Dutchess in State of New York on October 2nd, 2019, as introductory local law of the year 2019 and whereas following public hearing on this matter, changes have been proposed to introductory local law of the year 2019 and updated amendment is being introduced by James Schmitt as introductory local law number of year 2021. And whereas copies of [inaudible 00:09:25] updated proposed amendment, which is attached here to lead upon the desk of each member of the board and be resolved that the town board will hold a public hearing on said proposed amendment at the town hall in the Town of Pawling, New York at 6:00 o'clock, PM on April 14th, 2021 and be it further resolved that the Town of Pawling, clerk, publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the Town of Pawling as said hearing at least five days prior there too.

James:

I'll make a motion for resolution 64. I'm sure, Councilman Johnson, Councilman, I'm sorry, Councilman McCarthy may have a few things they have to discussion. I know you worked really hard on all these agricultural stuff for us, if there's any discussion amongst the board, we can obviously have that now as well.

J. McCarthy:

I'll second it for discussion, James and basically the reason why we've been, this has been prolonged is because we're waiting for reply from [inaudible 00:10:23] market. We finally did reply, they didn't reply. There was one more thing they wanted us to change, it has been changed. It was the only thing they had concerned about, it's been taken care of and it'll be great to have this behind us after April 14.

James:

Yeah, we've made some good. I say we worked on this pretty hard in the years past and it gets this done and then we got sidetracked or some other issues and then obviously with COVID and then making a change that we had to make and this would be nice to get this done and get these new rules implemented to our Ag district as well. I agree with you Council McCarthy. Any other discussion from the board members?

De Rosa:

I guess I say [inaudible 00:11:00] thanks [inaudible 00:11:03] McCarthy put a lot of effort in and I'm sure it was a learning experience for you on just how it, what it takes to create a new town code. Thank you for your efforts.

James:

Yeah. Jim, I know you worked really hard on this one for sure. Excellent, any other discussion amongst the board for resolution 64? Seeing none, all in favor of resolution 64. [crosstalk 00:11:34]. Thank you, resolution 64 passes. All right, so then we'll, that leaves us with what, with...Sorry-

De Rosa: If you can go back to 62, the one about the [inaudible 00:11:52], I just have a little discussion, I want everybody to think about before we vote next week.

James: Yeah, of course. Councilman, so Councilman De Rosa, so resolution 62, sorry my page is got a little out of whack here, I'm just pulling together, I didn't staple my agenda tonight. So, resolution 62 is for the appointment of the the alternate board members for the planning board.

De Rosa: NAZBA, right?

James: NAZBA, yes Sir. Go ahead.

De Rosa: [inaudible 00:12:21] and we're going to appoint one for each.

James: So, we don't have, we didn't have a ZBA alternate at the time, but when we did that with the County Attorney, with Michael [inaudible 00:12:37], the Planning Board Attorney. He had said that it was a good idea to pass the resolution for planning and zoning, so that as it's kind of available, it's already in place and ready to go.

De Rosa: Yeah, no, I agree. And I agree with it that the alternates, just to talk briefly on it, because we talked about it a few years ago and the good part about the ordinates is, in the alternates, it describes that the alternates must attend all the board meetings, all the site visits, do the same training as your regular board members do, so they could be up to speed at any time when they are needed to sit up on the bench and to do an intelligent vote on a project, that's the purpose of an alternate.

De Rosa: The only [inaudible 00:13:27] thing I don't agree with is C5, where it says there's no compensation for those people, for the alternate. And I think we should, there should be a compensation, because they have the same responsibilities, except for just not voting as a regular board member would, attending four hours a year, attending all the meetings, attending all the site visits and the workshop meetings. So, I just would like to see us compensate, them be compensated.

James: I wonder if that's something that we can make an adjustment to in next year's budget Councilman De Rosa, because obviously that position wasn't budgeted this year, because this is a new position that we're offering, so I wonder if we could just go with it for this year and then next year before we do our reorder meeting, we could address it and then we can also address [crosstalk 00:14:21] time.

De Rosa: It's not a lot of money. Let's look at it and see, well, how much money, I think [inaudible 00:14:27] maybe we can find it, it's not a lot of money if you only, especially if you're only talking about one person. It's just a lot of responsibilities and you'll want somebody to be committed, so they can learn what's going on,

so then when we need a board member, that person could step right in and be ready to go. That's the way it works in other community.

James: Councilman Johnson.

B. Johnson: If I can, Mr. Supervisor.

James: Sure.

B. Johnson: I wholeheartedly agree with Phil. This is a tremendous commitment of time, given a lot of the good news that we've been getting from Christina as of late, I absolutely think we can find, like Phil says, it's not a big amount of money, it's a gesture to the person that's willing to give of themselves that much time and I certainly wouldn't expect them to do it without that. So, I'd be in favor of us adding that into the resolution next week.

James: So, we have Christine on right now, Christine would you like to just to address the board quickly on, do you have any concerns, if we were able to find the funds for this position or do you think it's something that we're better off waiting on for next year?

Christine: The funds are available, if you choose to do that, I can put a budget transfer in for next.

James: So, well, it's really up to the board, obviously at this point in time. I'm okay with the decision either way. I was just more, I was always pushing more towards just getting the alternate position there, because I realized how valuable it is to us, to the planning board who works very hard to have that alternate there, because it's hard to have a forum all the time and not even just for the board meetings, a lot of people don't realize outside of town hall that the planning board also takes site visit meetings for all these projects. So, in addition to the meetings at town hall and via Zoom, and meeting as a board and then voting on things and reviewing projects, they actually meet at these properties as well and with the applicant and their engineers and they walk them and they take a look at things and we're building placement is going to be an access to roadway.

James: So, there is a lot of things they have to get to which is hard to always get everybody there obviously, which is why having an alternate and who's basically essentially you're a full-time position board member just like the rest of the planning board people, putting in the hours they're putting in and then you're just waiting to step in whenever need be. I'm okay if the board feels that way about making this a paid position this year to match the rest of the planning board. like I said, my feeling on it going into this was, we had, we have a great applicant this year coming in forward. We're very lucky that Amy Reynolds is willing to do this position.

James: She's been on our planning board for a long time, but I had thought that we could get it done and then fund it in next year's budget, I was going to support that, but obviously if the board supports funding this position this year and Christine feels that we can make that happen, I'll support that decision with the board as well.

B. Johnson: Phil, what is the, what individual board members, I'm not positive, how much is the pay?

De Rosa: I think 23 or 2,500 a year. And I think the ZBA [crosstalk 00:17:51]. Well, now yeah. But that's what it [inaudible 00:18:01] and I think it's under 2,500, 2300, I don't remember exactly.

B. Johnson: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. We're not talking about a budget breaking amount and it is a lot of work.

James: How does the, well, I know they're very busy right, I know they have had a lot of projects coming in front of them. They do work hard, the planning board has done a really great job. We have a wonderful group of people running our planning department right now and our planning board. [inaudible 00:18:29] around, I'll go around the board quick, Councilman McCarthy, how do you feel?

J. McCarthy: I would agree too. I mean, you're asking these people to give up their time and they should be compensated. It is, just besides, like you said, the meetings, the site visits, if you want somebody to do the job properly, I think they need to be compensated. So, I would agree with Billy and Phil on this, for sure.

James: Yeah. And they do have additional training every single year that they're required to do and we really push that to make sure that our board is always doing their continued learning every single year. So, that is another valid point and Councilwoman Snow, how do you feel about the decision as well?

C. Snow: Phil, I agree. And I appreciate the clarity. I really wasn't sure sometimes an alternate could be that, it's just once in a while that they're gonna come in for a meeting, but it was a good reminder of the expectations of the classes they still have to take and as Phil and Billy have said that they have to be abreast of all that's going on in the addition they're called in to come to a meeting. So, because of that, I agree they should be compensated.

James: Great. Thank you very much. That's great to have all the board's input on this and then for the public also, I just want to just reiterate the importance of having a quorum. When you're in front of a planning board and you're coming in there most of the times, you're coming in with engineers, attorneys, there are people that are charging you to be at these meetings and if you're coming in for a final approval or something that needs to be voted on that evening and you're paying your engineer or you're paying your consultant or you're paying your attorney to be there, the town is also paying our professionals to be there,

right? Our attorneys to be there, our engineers to be there and people have things that come up, right? Family things matters come up, personal matters come up, work matters come up.

James: So, at the last second, these things happen and then you don't have quorum and then there's a lot of wasted time and wasted money that evening, because then you can vote on something simply because you didn't have the ability to have that alternate there who could step in and then be involved enough and then vote on that project and help keep things moving along. So, it's a huge plus to our planning board and all the work they've done and it will help with the efficiency of the projects coming [inaudible 00:20:42] and moving along and I supported the 100%. So, we'll look to make that change Councilman De Rosa and we'll get that, make sure we get that change before next week and I'll get to work with Christine tomorrow. She's probably working on that already, if I can see her right in the corner of the screen over there. [inaudible 00:21:01] make this much amendment.

James: Thank you for that. Is there any other questions on any other resolutions other than that one from the board?

De Rosa: No, I'm good.

C. Snow: No.

J. McCarthy: No.

James: Let me just flip through this. Okay, so that leaves us with discussion amongst the board and we will actually go right into the Ag law discussion. Council McCarthy, if I could ask you to just speak quickly on this discussion and we'll all kind of weigh in and go from there, just I know you've worked really hard on this and it's been actually over a year now, I guess it's been since 2000 [inaudible 00:21:45], 2019, right?

J. McCarthy: Yeah. The end of 19 I believe. [crosstalk 00:21:50] October, November 2019.

James: If we could do a quick discussion on that, Jim, if you don't mind. I know people are probably wondering exactly what changes we're making, we're not going to be able to talk about every change right now, but if we could just run through just a quick reason of why we're updating this and what brought it up for the people. Then we'll also talk about where the changes to this Ag were going to be posted for people to go if they want to get the Ag law and read up on it and do some looking around for next week.

J. McCarthy: I think the, one of the biggest things James, is it had not been updated for many, many years and when we reached that with Ag and market, a lot of our codes were way too strict. There was even a part in there about not having animals having babies, which is kind of difficult when you're a dairy farmer or something

like that. There was some concerns about certain animals on certain areas. So, we were very restrictive as per Ag and market. As everybody knows, Ag and Market is obviously pro agricultural and they're very strict on what you have to do with your animals and make sure that they're safe and healthy and they have enough land. So, most of what we did in the updated is we referred back to the Ag and Markets recommendations and their codes and their laws. So, it just makes it much easier going forward that if Ag and Market changes something, it automatically changes with it. And that's the majority of the law that we're going to hopefully vote on next week, month

James: Well, we'll have the public hearing obviously, if we and we had a public hearing already open on this. I think it's actually still open.

J. McCarthy: It's still is open. We have not closed it. It's just we, the main reason we're actually setting this new date of April 14th is because of the amount of changes from the original code, law of [inaudible 00:23:56] that came out back in October of '19. As Phil said, I definitely learned a lot that it's not simple making changes to the government and so, we've gone back and forth, I think this is the third draft back from Ag and Market and there was only one issue they were concerned about, which was taken care of. So, again most of it is based on what Ag and Markets recommends for agricultural land.

James: Yeah. I just want to piggyback quickly off of what you were saying just so the residents understand. A lot of this is based on recommendations from Ag and Markets. We did have New York State Ag and Markets step in a few times in the last few years and tell us where we're restrictive on things and it's as an old law. I can't remember how long it's been since it's been updated, but it's a long, long, time and this is really, it is also helps with care of animals and people realizing how much land you need to put animals on, so they're properly fed and they have enough grazing space and you don't have people overloading properties and whatnot as well. This is a, with Jim's background, obviously in farming, I think when he took this on, it was kind of like the speed limit reduction.

James: He took [inaudible 00:25:16] this should be easy and after we got to split a reduction on a bunch of roads, so he [inaudible 00:25:21] did a great job Councilman McCarthy, but then he tackled this one, it's been an year and a half. I think Jim is probably done tackling new laws for a while.

J. McCarthy: Amen.

James: For folks listening at home, this Ag law is posted here, it's on our agenda. It's in the comments on the pawlingdata.org where you can go if you want to read what we're proposing for the new Ag law and it's here on the agenda for you to see, you can find it online as well. We will have a public hearing on it again. I don't imagine it'd be too many comments, because we did address this once already, but we will have it open, we'll do it again and run through the process and get it closed and adopt this new law in the near future. Is there any other comments from the rest of the board on the Ag law?

De Rosa: I would just like to, again say thanks to Jim and I know you reached out to [inaudible 00:26:13] up in [inaudible 00:26:17] and Greg is an expert on this stuff. The Ag has been looking to review town codes and make them more acceptable for today's time, so thanks a lot Jim.

C. Snow: Yep.

De Rosa: And I'd also like to thank Joanne, George and Nancy and Jamie. It was not me by myself trust me, it was a great team, we all worked very hard and if it wasn't for those other people, yeah, so I just want to thank, again, Nancy, Jamie, Joanne and George, sorry.

James: Perfect. Thanks Jim. Anything else from Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman Snow?

C. Snow: Nope. Again, I'll just [crosstalk 00:27:01].

B. Johnson: Good job.

C. Snow: Yep. Good job, that's right.

James: Excellent, thank you everybody. Okay, so the next item up for discussion, I think this one's going to be a real, real community favorite, bulk pickup, okay. Obviously last year we canceled both pickup due to the COVID 19 pandemic and it just didn't, it was something that we felt it was safer to put off. I know some people were upset and we apologize and we hope people understand why we [inaudible 00:27:30] from doing something like that, we do have a date set for this year, I believe is April 17th, correct Jim?

J. McCarthy: April 17th, yes.

James: So, it's April 17th, bulk pickup, just like we've done it in the past. It's, hopefully a lot of people clean out their houses this past year. I know we had, we went through a lot of trash at the transfer station this past year. Folks were home, because of COVID and workplaces being closed and they were cleaning out their addicts and their basements and all that stuff, but we're going to honestly bring this back to this year. It will be April the 17th, 2021. It'll be posted all over social media, our website, we'll get it out there and we will make sure we mention it at all the board meetings prior, so that we are continuing to get an address, so everyone understands when it is. I don't believe there's any changes to the process, correct Councilman McCarthy?

J. McCarthy: No. I know everything will be posted next week. I know Jay and Deb were extremely busy this week with other issues, it will all be posted next week and then they will have, the residents will have to call the Highway Department and make an appointment just so they know where to go and pick it up, but it will all be done next week [inaudible 00:28:40].

James: Yeah. We'll have all the information out there and like I said, we'll continue to share it. We'll get that out there to the community, we'll tell as many people as we know, but we will also continue to bring us up at each and every board meeting prior to bulk cleanup. We'll let the village board know and Mayor Lauri Taylor know as well that they can mention it down there, so that they know that everyone knows when this is coming and when this will be available to everybody and I'll go around-

C. Snow: James, can I just add to that? I just and speaking with Lauri, because there were some people asking about the village bulk pickup and my understanding from Lauri is that, if he hasn't already, James, Dan Peters is going to reach out to you, because they want to try to coordinate the date with us.

James: Perfect. Yeah, that makes the most sense, that's great. I haven't spoke to Dan yet, but I will, I'll speak with him tomorrow and we'll just make sure we get to figure it out, but that's really a great idea to try and coordinate a date, so when it gets out there and it's one of those double-edged swords. You've got a bunch of people utilizing the service and they love it and then the people that aren't utilizing, don't want to see all that trash out of the curb side. So, let's try and get the date figured out, get it out there and get it cleaned up as quickly as possible and hopefully roll right to a beautiful spring. So, that is our update on bulk pickup and while we're in discussion, I was going to go around to every board member. I'll call on you as you appear on my screen and everyone has a chance for discussion this evening as well. I'll start with Councilwoman Snow, do you have any discussion for the board and for the community?

C. Snow: I do well just to add with the idea of putting things out, I know that the Rec Department has been putting a lot out on their social media with dates that they are going to have times when you can call and make an appointment for a space if you choose to get rid of some of your belongings that you actually want to sell as well as people coming to buy them. So, they're going to have little tag sales, I guess, is what you might call it, but it's all on their website and they're going to keep promoting it as a way for people as they're cleaning out things, if you feel like you'd like to try to sell some things, then they're going to be doing that at Lakeside, so that's just a followup to our bulk pickup.

C. Snow: Secondly, I did text Terry, because there were a couple of pleas last week for volunteers for the Pawling Resource Center and she did, I'm just going to just read what she, she did respond that they're in really need of drivers, if anybody who's comfortable driving to give Terry a call at the resource center, they're really, really short on drivers and that they need people that could commit to three hour shift every week that would just help out with getting some of the food together and putting it outside. But anybody that's, pledge to want to volunteer at the Pawling Resource Center to please reach out to Terry. And lastly I guess it was two weeks ago, I was able to do some of the virtual classes.

C. Snow: I miss being down in the city with a lot of us last year for the association of towns, but one that came up and maybe we'll plan a time when I can talk to the

board a little bit more about it was, town boards and diversity, which was a really good class this year that I think would be helpful to share and whether I do it even publicly, however you would like me to do it, I think that was one of the classes that I think was new to the association of towns this year, but a really good class.

James: Yeah, sure. That's just wonderful. I mean, definitely we can talk about that hopefully more as we all get you back into the building again and hopefully start doing more meetings together as a group as well. I also want to mention real quick before I forget, we were talking about the bulk pickup day and [inaudible 00:32:37] and they're tag sales that they're trying to, there's a new, one thing we don't lack here is Facebook pages and Facebook groups in Pawling, we have a lot of really active groups, which is great, with the recreation page and our Pawling community groups and our resource page, there's a new page up and going, I'm not sure exactly who the admins are on it, but it's Pawling Free Marketplace, which is a really awesome site and is people just, it's really people helping people, right?

James: Rather than throwing something away, just thrown up there on social media, "Hey, I have this available, if somebody wants to come grab it. Here's where it's at." It's got six or 700 members, is grown pretty quickly. It's a really, really useful Facebook page and it just gives you a better, another way of recycling and giving back to people, because you want to say one person's trash is another person's treasure and to have this ready at your fingertips, you can go on and look for something and do a quick search right here, local. It's nice to see, so I wanted to throw that Facebook page out there, they're doing a really great job and it just Pawling Free Marketplace. It seems like a really great site, I follow it, I know some of the board members follow it and you see how many things that are getting utilized and now do a posting looking for things. "Hey, if anyone has a shelf like this, I'm looking for one." It pops right up.

James: So, it kind of goes hand in hand with this whole meeting with between bulk pickup and the Rec stuff that they're doing now as well and for this time of year as well, you roll into spring and summer, it's nicer out, people don't mind coming over and picking things up and obviously, great little site. So, I just wanted to give that a quick plug and let everyone know that it's out there and feel free to follow it and it seems very, very useful for the community. Councilwoman Snow, do you have anything else to add after that or should I move on?

C. Snow: And just lastly and I don't know if they'll speak more about it, but just to follow up that, we did talk about honoring people in the community. So, I won't say too much about it, except that the board has decided we wanted to make it special, so we will start doing that with honoring one person a month at this time and I'll let you talk more about that if you choose to James or...

James: Yeah. I do, I won't mention who we're going to talk about and we'll reach out to those folks tomorrow, I think. Colleen, you and I, we'll get that done somehow

and we'll let them know. And I think this is a really great idea. And Councilwoman Snow had been mentioned to me about a month or two ago and really a wonderful idea and coming through a year that we've experienced in the pandemic, you really started to look around and notice how many great people you have in this community and when I say that, I mean, people that just stepped up and were helping others when they didn't have to, but you saw people going above and beyond on a daily basis and it was just amazing to see and it makes you realize how great of a community we all live in.

James: And Councilwoman Snow had mentioned to me, she says, "You know, we should really think about a way to honor these people." And I agree with her. I said, "Wow, what a super idea." So, we kicked around a few ideas, how many people to do at a time, who to do, is it employee related, is it resident related and what we're going to do as a board is every month we're going to come up with someone in the community who we see is going above and beyond it and we'll probably even get into a point where we allow people maybe to reach out to us say, "Hey, I recommend so-and-so, because of some of the things you're doing, because obviously we're a community of almost 9,000, it's not possible for us to be absolutely in touch with everybody all the time, but when you get people reaching out to you and saying what's going on and then we look into it and we can figure who we're looking on or that month.

James: And what we'll do going forward is we'll mention those people at the first meeting of the month, we'll recognize them, we'll talk about their accomplishments, what it is that they're doing and why they're being recognized and then the second meeting of the month, we'll have them there and we'll award them with a, present them with a proclamation from the board, recognizing everything that they've done and why they're making a difference in the community and it's a token of our appreciation. I think everyone in Pawling will appreciate it and they say one good deed makes the world a better place, so hopefully more people seeing this will start doing little things also, because it takes a village, right Colleen?

C. Snow: It does, yeah.

James: So, if you could spark this, it could be a great thing, but there are so many good people that are doing great things and well, we haven't even mentioned to the community yet who it is that we're looking to honor next week, but Colleen if you'd like, I'm happy to say now or if you want, actually Colleen, go ahead and tell them.

C. Snow: No, you can do it. Go ahead.

James: Yeah. Colleen, this is your idea, I'm going to kick it to you? I'm going to [crosstalk 00:37:08].

C. Snow: Well, we haven't contacted the family, so maybe if they're watching, we'll see, but we had decided that we really wanted to honor [inaudible 00:37:20]. And for those of you that don't know Crew, you might've had his ice cream, that Henry has been so generous to allow him space at the quick stop and what's been amazing and heartwarming about this young man, there's a lot of things, but is that all of the proceeds from this, he goes then to the store, I get a little choked up and he buys supplies for the Resource Center and then he brings them all to the Resource Center and talk about paying it forward and an act of kindness, I think we just felt that we would like to start with Crew. So, if his parents are watching, surprise, but if not then, James will be in touch with you tomorrow, but we just thought that would be a nice start.

James: I agree. It does get you choked up thinking about him. Here's a young man who goes above and beyond every single day and we've all seen him through the years working and whether it be working at the Tap House or O'Connor's or helping out at the Pizzeria Place, he's just always involved. And we see his mom and dad, Christi and Jimbo walking town and they're just the nicest, they're the nicest people, they're always waiting to help out and you can see why this young man is just involved every step of the way and in any way possible. So, this is the big surprise, because obviously they don't know this is coming and moving forward, we'll make sure we reach out to folks before we say it.

C. Snow: Before we announce it.

James: Before we announce it. I don't think Crew will turn down his accommodation. [inaudible 00:38:59]. But we are, I'll tell you this, that is a young man that we're fortunate to have in our community, making a difference every single day. So, we look forward to reaching out to the family tomorrow and we'll work together as the board and we'll put together a nice accommodation form that we will be presenting next week and that's what we're going to be doing moving forward. Every month, we're going to be looking for somebody who's making a difference in their community. So, Crew has definitely set the bar very high for the next person to be chosen, but it is something we will do every month moving forward.

James: I'm excited to work on this with the board. I know the board all love the idea, Colleen thank you for it. And it's something we looked at. I hope that the community loves it and appreciates it as much as we love and appreciate everything they do. So, with that, I'll go around to the rest of the board, obviously, Councilman McCarthy, do you have anything to add to this?

J. McCarthy: No, just it's a great thing that he does, it's great.

James: Thank you. Councilman Johnson.

J. McCarthy: Yeah. I actually and wholeheartedly behind this, but I think on a monthly basis, we should award the Town of Pawling Crew Recognition Award and why don't we call it that?

C. Snow: Oh!

James: Because he's the first [crosstalk 00:40:19], see now that's a great idea, since he's the first ever to get it.

C. Snow: That's a good idea Bill.

J. McCarthy: Great idea. That's excellent, thank you Councilor Johnson. I love that idea actually. Councilman De Rosa.

De Rosa: Yeah, [inaudible 00:40:34], he's a great example and a great first choice and I agree.

James: So, just as Colleen has said before, I guess we'll just say surprise if they're watching. I know they are watching the board meetings a lot in the past, so hopefully they're watching tonight and if they're not, they're going to find out shortly. I know that we always have folks watching and then they'll talk about it and we'll let them know and I'll probably shoot them a message immediately after anyways, but it's something that we appreciate seeing the community really come together and seeing people do things that they don't necessarily need to be doing, but they do it anyway. So, that's what we had to say much, it's a great thing and we look forward to carrying on in the future. Councilman McCarthy, do you have anything for discussion?

J. McCarthy: No, I don't. I'm good, thank you.

James: Thank you, Councilman Johnson.

B. Johnson: All set.

James: Councilman de Rosa.

De Rosa: Yeah, just one quick thing and the Whaley Lake and the Whaley Lake Dam, two things, one I'd like to make an approval next week to go forward with a shed, so down at the dam site, so we can get one of the small shed to go down there in the [inaudible 00:41:55] area next week, let's vote on that and two, on Friday we're going to swap out the [inaudible 00:42:03] board in the Georgetown Chamber and let the Lake close the valve to let the lake go up. We're going to star that process, I believe on Friday.

James: How full is the Lake right now Councilman Johnson? Have you been down [inaudible 00:42:19], do you know what the level of the Lake is roughly now?

De Rosa: No, but it's slowly defrosting and as warm as it's going to be in the next week or so, we should be losing what's left of the ice [inaudible 00:42:34] this next week.

James: Okay.

B. Johnson: I think we just need to be very conscious of the ice around people's docks. I think that needs to be visually inspected before we raised the water, because you could do a tremendous amount of damage.

De Rosa: It's quite a level now, the level of the dock, so probably 6, 8 inches [crosstalk 00:43:01] space.

B. Johnson: That's fine for docks that are freestanding, the docks that are anchored through the ice to the bottom of the Lake would suffer damage.

James: We can get out there.

B. Johnson: I think you need to shore line, make sure the shoreline has opened up.

James: Yeah, we'll get out there and get some questions out to the Whaley community and see about where that water is and we'll talk to the people that we've been dealing with out here to see exactly where they feel the ice level is to their docks and-

B. Johnson: But, well, yeah, never mind.

James: And then we'll keep it open for just for discussion Councilman De Rosa, of course, let's just monitor the level of the ice in the Lake out there and if it's something that we can do safely without doing any damage to any property, then of course we'll consider it.

B. Johnson: Yeah, well, right now, it won't be any damage to any property with the level of the lake is now and the condition of the ice that's breaking up and then melting. It's [inaudible 00:44:10], but whatever. I know by the DEC, we're supposed to return the level of the lake around March 1st to let it fill up, that's their recommendation, so that's why.

James: So, maybe you and I will work on this, this next coming week Councilman De Rosa. We'll try and maybe you can set a time to go out there and take a look at a few spots around the lake and just where we can get back to the board with some information. Does that sound good, Councilman De Rosa?

B. Johnson: Yeah. [inaudible 00:44:40]. We'll call up the people that are going to be involved [inaudible 00:44:45] Friday morning.

James: Okay. Thank you, Councilman De Rosa. We have one comment. I think Eric Paulson had asked about the Ag law. Eric we did put in the comments that the

Ag law was posted there and we can find it obviously in our website. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to my office the two of you and we'll get some more information to you, but everything in regards to the Ag law is there. If you have any questions, you can definitely reach out to me via email and we'll make ourselves available to you, Eric. I don't think there's any other questions in-

Jess: There is not.

James: There is not, okay. Very good. So, we'll we'll open with [inaudible 00:45:28] to the floor with respect to agenda and non-agenda items only. Jess, is there anyone watching and waiting for comments to the agenda or non-agenda?

Jess: There is nobody in the Zoom, no more questions in the chat, if, unless you want to wait.

James: We could give it another minute to see if anyone has anything for us and then we'll go ahead with the rest of the meeting and adjourn. How did everyone enjoy that weather today, by the way, it's nice to get a first real taste of spring.

C. Snow: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

James: I hope it stays this way. We had a pretty, we had a heavy snowy winter, a lot of storms, the Highway Department, by the way, I don't know if we give them enough praise, but those folks over there in Highway Department have been working their butts off and all hours of the night, multiple times this year and some big storms too and not these little guys are, they had a lot of big storms this year. So, I really want to say thank you to [inaudible 00:46:22] and and Danny Miller and the rest of their staff there. I know they're the two leading in charge over there and that department really did a great job maintaining our roads this year and also our buildings and grounds crews who work inside the parks and keep all the town buildings open and the parks open for us.

James: It's been a tough winter, so I really hope that we have an early spring this year, because we had a long enough Winter, we're ready for spring, I think we all deserve it.

Jess: We have a question.

James: Sure.

Jess: Steve Goldberg has asked, can you expand on the work Labuds is being asked to do?

James: Yeah. So, I know Councilman McCarthy, honestly, we worked on this in the past, we had a MPR done or Map Planning Report for Route 22 South. And that is to, we're doing exploratory work on running a sewer line from, currently the sewer

line ends at the Castagna Development Project, which is just North of Hannafords and what we're looking to do is potentially run that sewer line all the way down to the Patterson sewer line and that'll enable us to add sewer to that entire corridor on Route 22. And we did an MPR on it, I think, Jim was out a year and a half ago now, two years ago?

J. McCarthy: I think a year and a half.

James: Yeah. And it is one of the things that, one of the projects that, if folks remember earlier in the year when we started off town board meetings, we were also had, not only did we have goals for the year, we had projects for the year that we're all kind of working on and Jim is working on this one with me and we're going continue to work on this project as seeing what it will take to get the sewer line done and the impacts of it and how it will benefit all those businesses down there. Councilman McCarthy, do you have anything else that you feel you'd like to add [inaudible 00:48:07] to just give some information on what it is exactly or is that good enough?

J. McCarthy: I think it's just so we can continue to work with them on his project.

James: Yeah. Steve, what we're looking for Steve is obviously as much grant money as we can, Labuds, obviously not only did they do the MPR with their engineering department, but they are our grant writing company, so if we can keep this project moving forward, it will enable us to expand our sewer district down to that entire corridor on Route 22 South. It's better for the environment obviously to get the sewage out of the ground. We have a beautiful brand new pump station just Northwest of Trinity Pawling and it has hundreds of thousands of gallons of capacity more so than this district would ever need. I think just district was estimated, Jim somewhere around 70,000 gallons a day if I remember. With the current development coming in and development that's there. So, this is just helping us, we're looking to keep moving with this project. Last year we tabled it simply because of COVID, because of budget cuts, this year we want to start off work on this project again and we want to see if we can fully gather the funding for it, what kind of grants are available for it and that's the reason we're looking to expand with Labuds Group to keep this project alive and keep it going.

James: And Steve, any other questions, feel free again, to reach out to me. I'll be happy to get you any information we have on it already and fill you in on where it is we're looking to go with it in the future as well. So, Steve, thank you for your comment and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

De Rosa: Can I just add something to that?

James: Sure. Go ahead Councilman De Rosa.

De Rosa: Yeah. What they did was, they did a draft of the Map Planning Report and just to briefly expand on that, is the numbers that they come up with was \$4 million

to bring the line from the plant all the way down to the Patterson line and the next step that we need to do is to sit down with the village and the town and get together and see how we can come up with part of that money, because the residents down South the Castagna Development cannot pay for that whole \$4 million. It wouldn't be prudent for them for the sewer district. Originally, the Castagna Group was supposed to pay to the \$2 million part that goes from the stoplight on 22 with the old restaurant is up to the sewer plant. So, we need to get the principals at the table to figure out how we're going to do this before we can really go forward and the village has to be, I mean it's a discussion and the Castagna Group.

James: Right. Yeah, I agree. I mean, and some Route 22 North where you're talking about, which I want to say North, I mean, North of the East main street, Quaker Hill Route 22 Intersection, from that intersection up past the Napa Auto Parts and the elementary school and Trinity Pawling, that all has to be sewered as well, not just from the Castagna parts of South, we have to go from East main street North up sewer district for the total project and to sewer all of Route 22 and to move that capacity. But I agree to Phil, we can definitely get everybody in and get this conversation going again. I know working with the sewer commission, they love the idea of adding more capacity, more sewage to the districts and more used to that [inaudible 00:51:40] there and I agree that Castagna project was part of this in the beginning, so we can always have that conversation and see where that goes as well.

James: And ultimately keep looking for funding right? The longer, the more we can stay involved with this with the professionals, who knows if we can find some infrastructure money that you had that may be out there to help relieve some of the payments before we decide to move forward with a project like this as well. But I agree with you Phil, there's a lot of people that [inaudible 00:52:06] to the table and that's one of the reasons Councilman McCarthy and myself are working on this, but we are looking to keep it alive and get everybody in there working with us as well.

James: Does any other board members have anything in regards to that topic? Jess, do we have any other comments coming through?

Jess: There are no more questions, just a lot of excitement about the award.

James: [inaudible 00:52:33], hope they was as excited as we are. hopefully, Christi and Jim and Crew have already been made aware of it. We will be reaching out to him shortly. I thought about dialing a lot, do you want me to try and dial them up right now, guys? You can get them on the phone and get them on the meeting.

C. Snow: Sure.

James: Let's see if they're available, let's see if we can get them to pick up, give me one second.

C. Snow: I feel like live with Kelly and who's with the [inaudible 00:52:59], let's dial.

James: Let's see, we're phoning a friend, right? Let's see if we can get an answer. So, it's ringing, hopefully I'm not upsetting their supper.

De Rosa: Maybe they have caller ID and they don't want to answer.

James: I know. They are like, "Why is he calling me?" Well, it's a great effort, we're trying to get them on the horn, but it seems, no we got the voicemail, so we'll try it back later on. So, yeah, Christine, we tried to get you, to give you the live update in the news, but we will reach out to her. We're excited for the award and everyone else's as well and it's really wonderful, it's a great thing moving forward. So, everybody thanks for a great town board meeting tonight, it's good to see everybody again. Be back here after, I been away for a little bit, then went through some health stuff and I'm really excited to get back to work and we're lucky to have a great team here. So, it's good to see you all, I'm looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow afternoon as well and the rest of the week, with that, I'll make a motion to adjourn and can I have a second?

C. Snow: Second.

De Rosa: Second.

James: All in favor?

J. McCarthy: Aye.

C. Snow: Aye.

James: All right, have a great night.

C. Snow: Good night. [crosstalk 00:54:23].