

Speaker 1: All right. Almost.

James Schmitt: We're probably ready to start going, right?

Speaker 1: Yeah, it's going. It has to go through a couple of layers. It's almost there.

James Schmitt: Okay.

Speaker 1: Okay. Let's see. Okay. You guys are live.

Coleen Snow: Okay.

James Schmitt: Okay. We're all here. So we're ready to get going. Thanks, everyone, for being here for our April 18th six o'clock board meeting. It's our first time doing a Zoom meeting, so hopefully we can get through this pretty seamlessly. All right? And clerk, could you please read the roll call?

Speaker 4: Councilman Phil DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: I'm here.

Speaker 4: Jim McCarthy.

James McCarthy: Here.

Speaker 4: Bill Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Here.

Speaker 4: Colleen Snow.

Coleen Snow: Here.

Speaker 4: James Schmitt.

James Schmitt: Here. Please, stand and follow me in the pledge of allegiance. 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.

James Schmitt: Hope you can all see my American flag back there, above my right shoulder. All right. Moving along. We've got approval of the minutes. March 4th, who was that? Can I get [inaudible 00:01:25]?

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: Discussion. All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you. Approval of the minutes, March 11th.

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Am I coming through clear or is there a delay for me for any of you?

Bill Johnson: You're fine.

James McCarthy: Perfect.

Coleen Snow: No, you're good.

Phil DeRosa: It's okay with me.

James Schmitt: Excellent, excellent. Thank you very much. All right. So we have the non-consent agenda coming up. So one of the things we did to give people an opportunity to voice their opinion on the agenda in the meeting tonight is we allowed people up until 12 o'clock today to email us in questions regarding agenda items only. So I think, before we do the non-consent agenda, I would like to just read through the three questions we've gotten for change in the agenda and we'll read the names of the people into the minutes, as well, and we'll give them an answer before we vote as a board and go through the non-consent agenda. All right?

Phil DeRosa: Great.

James Schmitt: So the first question we had comes from Kevin Gardiner, Tracy Road. And Mr. Gardiner had a question ... I know we had some emails back and forth as a board today. He had a question regarding resolution 85 and resolution 90. I guess I'll read the entire paragraph.

James Schmitt: "There is a serious problem with water in Pawling and this affects the town's water district number two, as well as the current and future village water users. One proposed statute addressed the current water shortages for the village to purchase a large piece of land, which is adjacent to Lakeside Park. This partial solution is being estimated to cost over \$3 million, according to the presentation made by Chazen companies. This \$3 million expense may or may not solve the problem and further extensive steps may be required. Has the village government approached any of the town board members about drilling new wells on town property like Lakeside Park, Murrow Park, Dutcher Golf Course. Instead of purchasing new land, is there any objection the town board would have to allowing existing town property to be used for new wells? Does any town board member have an explanation of why we would need to purchase new property to drill wells while the Town of Pawling already owns hundreds of acres?"

James Schmitt: This is a great question. So what we'll do, just so there's no confusion, is I'll give my full response and then I'll go around and I'll just call on everyone as I see you

on my screen. So I know we're different on everyone's screen. This way we won't have overlapping conversations and, if anyone wants to address stuff, I'll call on each one of you individually for an answer. Okay?

Bill Johnson: That's fine.

James Schmitt: Great. So Mr. Gardiner, for starters, this question, as we stated early, this really should be directed at the village. It doesn't have anything to do with the town board district or the water resolution that's on the agenda tonight. But however, I can provide some answer to discretion. One, yes, we did communicate with the village in the past regarding this water situation. When they came to us, they asked if they could drill test wells at Lakeside Park. And to my knowledge, they were drilling in multiple locations; Lakeside and other spots around the village. I believe there are people, the Chazen group company that you referenced here, also has a map that can be provided to you, again, through the village and the mayor's office, which shows where they're potentially going to drill test wells and then where they actually did drill test wells.

James Schmitt: As far as the dollar amount, the \$3 million and whatever it may fix, I don't know. Myself and the board aren't involved in that. That's all village water district stuff. It has nothing to do with us, so we're not privy to those conversations. But they did drill test holes at Lakeside Park. I know Councilman Johnson and myself spoke to them and we went back and even tested an existing well in the back of Lakeside near the barns for them, as well. So there was some studies done in Lakeside Park, which is, again, just town-property already.

James Schmitt: So I understand your question. The answer is, yes, we did communicate with the village. We did give them that avenue and allow them to test at Lakeside, but as far as what it yielded and what they yielded at the property they're looking to purchase and what the other test wells yielded around the village locations, that's not something that we have answers to or something that we were involved with. So that would be my answer to your email regarding that question. I will call on Councilman Johnson first, as he works with most of our water districts, and then we'll go right around the board.

Bill Johnson: Okay. So my first comment, and I clarified this with Kevin, the agenda item tonight refers to Pawling Water District One, which is the district that receives its water from the village. Part of us needing to pass that is to help the village obtain funding for future water sources. I spoke personally with Trustee Peters, telling him that we have a well in existence already up at Lakeside Park. The board, and I think, Colleen, it was before you were there ...

James Schmitt: Colleen's screen froze. So I just texted her. She's dialing back in. So just keep going and [crosstalk 00:06:51]

Bill Johnson: Okay. So we tested the well. The board authorized. We had Hyatt's Well Service come up and test it. The well is a good well, yields 12 gallons a minute. Not enough water for a water district, but certainly enough water for us to use, which was part of the reason that we tested it. And then, as the supervisor stated, they did drill test holes. I think I could probably speak for the whole

board saying, absolutely, we would have no issue with them building a water facility on any of our properties. As a matter of fact, after getting your email today, Kevin, and discussing with the supervisor, the town also owns a parcel of land on Dutcher Avenue that might even work better. So I will be having a discussion tomorrow again with Trustee Peters to see if that would also be of any interest to them.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman Johnson. Councilman McCarthy, would you like to go next or weigh in on this?

James McCarthy: No. I thank both of you for your comments. I think you both summed it up. I mean, we did do the test at Lakeside and this is mostly, like you said, a village issue, but I can't imagine any of us being upset if they could find water on town property, that we would be happy to work with them.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa, can you hear me?

Phil DeRosa: Yes, yes. I can hear you. The only comment I would like to make is that I was at a meeting when the engineer was making those proposals and those estimates. And I'm not sure how much of that costs of the \$3 million before the actual property. A lot of it was for the mechanical that they have to set up and I think the treatment facility and stuff. So that'd be a question for the village. But again, like Councilman Johnson said, I know we contacted them and spoke to them and we'd definitely be willing to do something if they wanted to do something with us, but that question should be really directed to the village.

James Schmitt: Councilwoman Snow, do we have you back yet?

James McCarthy: I don't think she's there.

James Schmitt: I'm just going to shoot her a quick text to see if we can get her in here.

Phil DeRosa: See, if you had a flip-top phone, it would work.

James Schmitt: This is true. This is true. Okay. So while we're waiting for Colleen to get on, we can go to the next question, since we've answered that one. The next question we had was from Drew Montgomery, 13 Quaker Hill Road. His question for the board ... So he had a long paragraph and he summed it up with, "My question is, how do you justify charging a fee for somebody to have a B&B in their home?" He had a long paragraph prior to that. And I believe his question was referencing the fee waiver request for Celeste Bevilacqua, who operates an Airbnb out of the home, which is on the agenda tonight.

James Schmitt: So his question was basically about, why is the town charging a fee for someone to rent space out of their home? He thanks the town for conducting these meetings and allowing access to watch and participate during this pandemic. "My question is about the town levying a fee to somebody who wants to rent a room in their home as a B&B. Renting rooms in one's home has been done probably for centuries as a way for the homeowners to help pay bills and for the traveler to find places to stay at a reasonable rate, especially where there are

few to no hotels. It is in the [inaudible 00:10:35] of the website Airbnb that now makes it easy to do and prevalent nationwide and has prompted localities to try and get a piece of the pie. In charging for a permit, what service does the town provide to the homeowner? Are you listing available B&Bs? Are you inspecting to make sure they are properly set up? Is it costing the town, in any way, any money to have these Airbnbs?"

James Schmitt: So Mr. Montgomery, that's a great question and thank you for getting ahold of us. The short answer to your question, quickly, is yes, a town is providing a service because these Airbnbs and these small rentals ... Hey, Colleen. You're back. Oh, it's still connecting to her audio, though. so we actually can't see her. We can see her, but we can't hear her.

Coleen Snow: Okay. Can you hear me yet?

James Schmitt: Yes, we can hear you now.

Coleen Snow: Finally. Hold on. Let me get everybody. Sorry about that.

James Schmitt: That's okay. So we already went around the board and answered Kevin Gardener's question regarding the water district and is there anything that you wanted to weigh in on that? But everyone else has already spoken about the village participation and the utilized Lakeside Park to do testing and we tested one of our existing wells on that property for them.

Coleen Snow: Right.

James Schmitt: But obviously, ultimately, it's a village function and the question really should be steered towards the mayor and as far as where else they drilled holes and what they yielded at those test holes.

Coleen Snow: Okay, I have nothing more. I would agree with that. And I remember being at a village board meeting that that was discussed and I think somebody asked that question. And it might've been Chazen that responded that they had tried already to dig at Lakeside.

James Schmitt: Right. So we just read Drew Montgomery's question, Councilwoman, into the record, as well. Drew Montgomery has a question regarding, how does the town justify charging a fee for someone to have an Airbnb in their home? And his question, what service does the town actually provide as to justify charging this? So I was just about to speak for the first time on this. And the short answer is yes, we do provide a service and it is we inspect for fire safety, proper points of egress. We also work with the counties to make sure units that are being used as far as homes, extra rooms, have the proper septic system in place, which is ... we are only the second agency in that. The lead agency on septic systems and sanitary sewers is, obviously, the county. So we do work hand in hand with them on this and on this whole procedure.

James Schmitt: The short-term rentals that this all falls under is something that we talked about for about a year. I'm sure all of you are well-versed in this. We formed a

committee with residents and board members to come up with this. We held a public hearing on this on October 9th and we passed this resolution on February 12th to put this local law into effect, but the answer is, Drew, that the justification for the small charge for operating it in Pawling is that we have to cover our building department expenses, inspections. And a lot of these homes, when we first started regulating these, we found were in violation and some of them were honest violations. People didn't realize that they had not the proper forms of egress and not the proper fire stuff in place for this going on.

James Schmitt: So we do provide a service in the health and safety of everyone when you're renting that out, as well as putting the restrictions in place that we monitor and force, through our code enforcement, for protecting the neighborhoods. So renting out one room is one thing, but what happens when you have ... This all was enacted because we had a few homes that weren't renting out a room, they were renting out entire homes for large parties and they were actually advertising as party homes, weekend party homes in the country. So the town was getting called and local first responders were getting calls to go to these parties and break them up because of noise violations and stuff like that. So it did fall into the lap of the town and their employees.

James Schmitt: And I think it's a great service that we provide because we allow these Airbnbs to continue. We support them. We think it's wonderful, but we do have strict rules and regulations in place now that us and our code enforcement and our building department will enforce to make sure that, if someone is renting their home out, wonderful, but you're very conscious of your neighborhood and everything going on around you. So we've got to protect our neighbors and everyone, as well. So that's my short answer. And I'll go in the same order again. I'll call on Councilman Johnson first and then I'll go right around.

Bill Johnson: The first thing I would say is it wasn't really a short answer, but I agree with everything that you said and I have nothing I can add to that. It's really for the health and wellbeing of all the residents that don't have these rentals, but live next door to those party houses. So this certainly regulates that.

James Schmitt: Thanks. Councilman McCarthy.

James McCarthy: I would agree, the same. I mean, you boys summed it up pretty well.

James Schmitt: Thank you. Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Yeah. The only thing I'd like to add, and like areas over here in Whaley Lake on these small private roads, a lot of the issues and complaints we had gotten was about parking, too, to make sure that the sites had parking for even just one bedroom. That's how close some of the Whaley Lake neighborhoods are. So there was a bunch of reasons. And the buildings, the rentals have to be inspected once a year for, like you said James, with the safety and building codes adherence to keep our people that come to our town safe, and the homeowners, in short.

James Schmitt: Thank you Councilman DeRosa, that was a great answer. Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: And again, I remember you all talking about this before I was on the board. So I know this has been discussed prior to just the beginning of my term. And I agree with James and everything that's been said at this point. I do remember people coming to the meetings and complaining about people sometimes just being out and about on the street at some of the parties that were going on.

James Schmitt: Sure. Thank you all for that. So this third and final question we had today is from ... I hope I pronounce this right and, if I don't, my apologies ... Kate Krusko at Tracey Road. So Kate writes in that ... Her question regarding tonight's agenda concerns resolution 88, the decision before the board to fill a vacant full-time position in the building and grounds department.

James Schmitt: "Given the scaled-back operations of our local governments and the uncertainty of several coronavirus-impacted revenue streams; recreation, summer camp fees, golf course memberships, green fees, sales tax from state county, et cetera, I believe the necessary prudent question is will the board hold off on filling this vacancy until we know when our parks and golf courses will be able to open ..." Sorry, I just want to highlight certain parts so I know I answered the proper parts. "... golf courses will be able to open and fully functioning? After sharing this thought with several town residents, we agree that the wise decision is to postpone filling this open position while our town, county, and state governments can assess the financial imbalance we face this year. At this time, we must be as fiscally conservative as possible. The property tax fare of Pawling cannot absorb the potential consequence of making this hire now. That is a tax increase needed to cover the shortfalls in the revenue side of the [inaudible 00:18:00], due to the impacts of the coronavirus. Thank you for your consideration, Kate Krusko."

James Schmitt: Kate, this is a wonderful question and I'm happy to answer this and go around to the board, as well. A couple of things I just want to touch on. These are obviously very, very trying times and completely uncharted waters not only for Pawling, but just globally. This is an issue that no one has ever dealt with before and we're all working awfully hard to try and make sense of it. As far as the budget, I have already had contacts with our bookkeeper and our board and we recognized the potential shortfalls in projected revenue streams and it is something that we've already started to wrap our hands around as much as possible because we recognize that this could be a potential issue, considering how far out this could go. So we'll plan for the worst and then we'll hope for the best.

James Schmitt: So the parks and golf courses, I just want to touch on it quickly, so the park is open. It's open every day and I actually went through there today and checked it out myself and to see some of the folks walking around. Believe it or not, the parks are arguably getting more used now than they've ever gotten in this month because so many people are home. And when they get a nice afternoon, they're out there utilizing it. The golf course was open for a short term and then it was closed down. The county came in and they said, "Hey, you guys are going to have to shut that down for now."

James Schmitt: We do have the green light to reopen and we're reopening on the 15th, which is next week, which is also right in line with our annual average for opening. In the past, we've opened on the 19th, the 12th. This year's going to be a formal opening on the 15th. So we're going to be open right in line with all the years that we've always been open, thankfully, which is great, so we can get some of those projected revenues rolling and to give people in the community the ability to get outdoors, as well, and utilize the golf course. We have strict social distancing rules that are going to be in place. We're going to have them posted there and ways for payment to limit transactions between people and that stuff.

James Schmitt: But as far as this groundskeeper, a couple things to consider, Kate, is, one, this isn't actually a new hire, per se. This is a position that's always existed here. This groundskeeper job has always been here. It's just been vacant for this past year because the employee went to a different department within the town and has now come back. It's been funded in this year's budget, so it is a position that is already funded. It's not additional monies that we're talking about to get this working again and it's actually a staff-neutral position, I'll say, because we had another person in the buildings and grounds department who is not being replaced. He was recently left. So by Trevor coming back over, we still have the same number of employees that we had prior to that because we lost an employee before he came over.

James Schmitt: So those are all things to consider, one again. And he was with buildings and grounds a year and a half ago, so the workload that we were talking about is still very high. All the grass is still being maintained and all the winter cleanups being done, the golf courses getting ready to go, and the buildings and grounds crews are working constantly and they're working in the teen center and other buildings. So there is no shortage of work because of the shutdown. These guys are still going full steam ahead and there is no additional funds going to it because this is a position that was funded already because it existed already. So I hope that answers your question as good as I can and I'm going to go around to the board. I'll start with Councilman Johnson first.

Bill Johnson: Was that me, James?

James Schmitt: Yes, sir. Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: My dog was barking. So the one thing I'd add is, yeah, the grass has not stopped growing. So that's a department that you really can't cut back on. Taking into consideration areas where we can cut, we're doing that with recreation where we're actually postponing a resolution to make a part-time employee full time. So it is something that we do consider, but the buildings still need repair, the grass still needs mowing.

James Schmitt: Right.

Bill Johnson: And I'm certainly in favor of that.

James Schmitt: Thank you. Councilman McCarthy.

James McCarthy: Yeah. I mean, one thing, too, Trevor is spending most of his time at Lakeside in the parks and not as much on the golf course. The other thing, like you said, James, it was budgeted, but ... Let's see. We waited until April to accept him. So the first three months, he was not part of that. So we will save money in the budget since he wasn't on there. So we saved a quarter of his salary by not having him come until now.

James Schmitt: You're absolutely correct.

James McCarthy: I think it's a good idea to have him come back.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman McCarthy. Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Yes. I agree with what people said. The only thing I'd like to add is, on the golf course, if we open on the 15th, I'm sure it'll be on limited and some changes there that we're going to make. I know we need to get that open and people out there, but we have to be safe for our residents and the employees. That's for sure.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman DeRosa. Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Yeah. Again, I don't really know Trevor, but I think certainly it makes sense. It sounds like it's from one position to the other. And understanding budgets, it's been budgeted for, so it's not an added position. I guess the only question I have just because, again, I'm just coming into this this year is, when there is a position open, does it get posted within the town for any employee to go after if they'd like to?

James Schmitt: Yes. All the job openings are always posted and [inaudible 00:23:51] before, as well. Yep, absolutely.

Coleen Snow: Great, thank you.

James Schmitt: Yeah. Just again, just want to really reiterate that, obviously, we're not adding a new position. This is a position that's always existed in Pawling and we are going to be down another staff member leaving that department. So it's still not additional staff. You're still at the same number you were at prior to Trevor being here. And like I said, and I can understand your initial reaction, but the workload doesn't change for buildings and grounds. They're ...they're cutting the grass, they're painting the buildings, they're getting everything ready and we're working as a board with our bookkeeper on these potential budget issues that we see that could be an issue, but obviously we're hoping for the best. We're hoping that summer camp does go on and all the projects and everything do go on and the events with the Lakeside Park and the golf course is opening on time.

James Schmitt: So we're hoping to hit our projected revenues. Maybe some of this social distancing and quarantine that everyone's had to do will actually have people out utilizing these things even more. So who knows? Hope for the best that we'll get even more use than we've had in the past. So Kate, I hope that answers your question, as well.

Phil DeRosa: I'd just like to add that Trevor was an excellent employee.

James Schmitt: Certainly. Okay. So moving along to the non-consent agenda now. We'll roll through one at a time and vote one at a time. Is the board okay with that?

Coleen Snow: Sure.

James McCarthy: Yep.

Bill Johnson: Yeah.

James Schmitt: Resolution 84, payment of the bill for the Town of Pawling. I'll make a motion for that.

Bill Johnson: Second.

James McCarthy: Second.

Phil DeRosa: Second.

James Schmitt: Any discussion on the payment of bills? All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you. Resolution 85, billing for Pawling Water District Number Two. I'll make a motion for that.

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: Discussion? All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Resolution 86, delay of temporary appointment of Laurie Covell. Honestly, Laurie was going to be promoted and working within the recreational department. This is something that we're delaying simply because we don't know potentially what's coming down the road with that stuff. So honestly, before we add, we're going to hold off on this and that's the reason for that. And honestly, if things project forward and it looks like camps will not be moving forward, then we'll revisit this at that point in time. I'll make a motion for that.

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Excuse me. Resolution 87, fee waive request for Celeste Bevilacqua. This is one of the Airbnbs that we spoke about that we had a question mailed in about, which I think triggered that question in the first place. This is for a property up in Pawling that was an Airbnb. They were actually very instrumental, as well. Not

only were they the first people to come forward with the Airbnbs when we started cracking down to check on safety issues and potential issues with the county and the town, but they actually worked with us on creating these local laws on short-term rentals and working within the community to get ahold of other people who were operating these. And this is a fee waiver request from them. I'll read through it really quick.

James Schmitt: "Celeste Bevilacqua has applied to operate a short-term rental in the town of Pawling under provisions of local law, whereas all short-term rental owners must pay a fee to operate in the Town of Pawling, whereas under the previous zoning code 215-3, Mrs. Bevilacqua paid the appropriate fee already to operate in the Town of Pawling for the year prior. Therefore, we resolve that the Town of Pawling hereby waives a short-term rental fee for the fiscal year of 2020." And that's why I wanted to read that in because this fee was paid already and that's why we're waiving it at this point in time. So I will make a motion for that.

Bill Johnson: And I'll second it.

James Schmitt: [inaudible 00:27:47]

Bill Johnson: I'd like to ...

Phil DeRosa: [crosstalk 00:27:49] Oh. Go ahead, Billy.

Bill Johnson: Okay. I would like to say that Celeste is a model Airbnb. They have complied fully, come forward, extremely helpful, got involved with the committees in the formation of these laws. So she's an excellent resident and a great Airbnb and a good friend. So I'm certainly happy to vote in favor of this.

James Schmitt: Excellent. Councilman DeRosa, you [crosstalk 00:28:18]

Phil DeRosa: Yes. I'd just like to add one question. Part of the regulations on the Airbnbs is that they have to be inspected very year and they have to pay a renewal fee. So if they paid the fee, I agree with them not having to pay the initial fee of setting up an Airbnb under our new code when they did it on the last code. But if it was over a year old, the approval, they should go by the renewal and just pay the renewal fee because they're going to need an inspection and everything also by our building inspector. That's my only comment. I agree that they've helped and they have a great place and everything, but they should have to pay a renewal fee if it's over a year, just like anybody else would have to do.

James Schmitt: Excellent. Thank you. Anything else from the board?

Bill Johnson: Nope.

Coleen Snow: Nope.

James Schmitt: All in favor?

Bill Johnson: I.

Coleen Snow: I.

Phil DeRosa: I'm against it if they don't have to pay a renewal fee.

Bill Johnson: I think the motion, if I'm correct, is to waive the application fee.

James Schmitt: Correct.

Phil DeRosa: Well, if that's the case, then I agree, but ...

James McCarthy: I believe it is the application fee, Phil.

James Schmitt: "The application fee to operate the Airbnb in the Town of Pawling." They already paid the application fee.

Phil DeRosa: Yeah, but if they paid the fee, let's say, January of last year, then they would have to pay a renewal fee this year.

Bill Johnson: Well, that'll happen normally through the building department.

James Schmitt: Yeah. The building department should generate that. Sorry for jumping in, Councilman Johnson. [crosstalk 00:30:12]

Phil DeRosa: Okay, just so we're all clear. That's all. Then I agree.

James Schmitt: All right. So all in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you very much. Resolution 88, groundskeeper appointment, buildings and grounds. This is something also we just spoke about and I'll read [inaudible 00:30:32]. Part of the resolution, the town board approves the appointment of Trevor Wendover to groundskeeper. This is something that we obviously just spoke about as a position that was open, but is a position that was funded. It was already here. It's always been here. This isn't a creation of a new position or an addition of anything. And I would be happy to make this motion for Trevor for resolution 88.

Bill Johnson: Second.

Phil DeRosa: Second.

James Schmitt: Any discussion? All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you, all. Resolution 89, authorizing town [inaudible 00:31:09] to be advertised for property and general liability insurance brokerage coverage. This is an RFP that is going out and I want to thank Councilman McCarthy and Councilwoman Snow, who've taken the reins on this. This is something we talked about last year and we did some work on it. And this year, with everything that

was coming up, it got very busy and I thank both of you for working with our town attorneys in preparing this document and getting this out there for us. I am happy to make a motion for resolution 89. Can I get a second?

Coleen Snow: Second.

James Schmitt: Any discussion for the board? All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you very much. Resolution 90, inter-municipal cooperation agreement for water system. This is a long one. Councilman Johnson, do you want to give a quick, brief breakdown of these [crosstalk 00:32:06]?

Bill Johnson: Let's [crosstalk 00:32:07]. Why don't we move it? Let's move the resolution, second it for discussion.

James Schmitt: All right. So I'll make the motion for resolution 90.

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: Discussion?

Bill Johnson: Okay. So this has been probably a year and a half's ongoing process. In an effort to streamline the village water operation, we needed to have them be in control of the billing and the operation of that section of the town's water district. So what happened, when we went to do this a year and a half ago, we were told we needed to install these backflow valves, which has since been done. That took forever because, bear in mind, you're making appointments with individual homeowners, getting into their houses. That has finally been completed. Looking at the billing that people have been paying was actually probably closer to 40% or 50% than what people were paying in the village for the same amount of water.

Bill Johnson: And what has happened is these people who were in the town really weren't paying anything towards the generation or the maintenance of the water. They were simply paying for their water at a drastically reduced rate. So in an effort to not harm people and hit them with a huge increase, we instituted a three-year program where, this year, the billing remains the same. Next year, it will go up half of the projected increase to eventually then, the final year, make their billing the same as if they were a resident of the village. And it just streamlines it. It really speaks toward shared services and it also needed to be done in an effort for the village to be able to streamline and obtain funding and grants for the creation of an additional water source.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman Johnson. That was a great breakdown of this resolution. Anything else from the board? Okay, all in favor of resolution 90?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you, all.

Phil DeRosa: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: I'm trying to hesitate for the last votes to give everybody a chance so we don't overstep each other.

James Schmitt: Very much. Okay. So we're done with the non-consent agenda. We're moving along do discussion amongst the board. And I'll just call on ... As you guys are all different on my screen, so I think I'll start with Councilman McCarthy first to see if you have anything for the board and for the audience.

James McCarthy: The only thing I have, I did talk to Jay the other day. He did get the test radios from NYCOMCO that Jay and I and Phil met with, the representative. And he said, as of yesterday, he has not been able to find a dead zone anywhere in the Town of Pawling, which is completely amazing.

James Schmitt: That's amazing. My cell phone finds dead zones between here ...

James McCarthy: I know.

James Schmitt: ... and [inaudible 00:35:16].

James McCarthy: They've been able to use portables, they've been able to use two radios in the two trucks. The only place he has not tried yet is the quarter ... I guess it'd be west of Murrow Park, that old 55 quarter there. And that's what he was going to try to do today or tomorrow, but he was very surprised, even homes, how well they worked. So we should get a proposal from them, hopefully, before next meeting. And then the only other thing is that I know there's still some concerns about the transfer station and people not having permits. The attendants are handing out application forms to the people that do not have stickers. And I know I talked to Cathy today and I think she said she's done four or five already over the mail, so that's working. So hopefully, that'll be addressed and everybody will have a sticker soon. That's all I have.

James Schmitt: Thanks, Councilman McCarthy. Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Well, this is in regards to safety and security at the park. We've had a lot of ongoing discussions, as people have seen on the news. You go towards New York City, they've had to close parks. New Jersey just closed all their parks. Connecticut. We really don't want to have to close our park, but people are refusing to social distance. Parents and kids are going to ball fields. Look, I understand everybody wants to go play. You want to go have a catch with your kid? That's fine, but you can't go with the whole baseball team. So in speaking with Chief Constable Kelly, he's having scheduling issues getting people to be there in the hours when the park is the most crowded. With doing a little bit of research, Jess was able to get us a civil service title for ... Somebody want to jump in? It was parkland ...

Phil DeRosa: Attendants, I think.

Bill Johnson: Parkland attendants. They don't carry weapons, so the training is minimal. The pay would be less and you could specifically hire these people and your job is to work these set hours. If they're there, you would not need the constables in the park unless we were having a major event; a triathlon, a carnival, community day, something like that going on. So there are monies there. I'm sure we would have to add to it a little bit, but this is something we've talked about for a lot of years, whether it be having more of an adult presence at the front gate, at the waterfront. Sometimes people can try to override or overspeak a youngster or a teenager, so I'd be all in favor of trying to create this position and look towards that.

Bill Johnson: I also think, James, it may not be a bad idea to have a conversation with Sheriff Anderson for limited coverages also. What's entailed with a couple of drive throughs or have them be able to be on call if someone has to call them in to come in. I don't think we need to go to full-time coverage because I think it would be prohibitive in terms of dollars and cents, but I think this could be a good answer for the park. They would actually work for Jess and Wendel and they know where the need is.

James Schmitt: Right. Thank you, Councilman Johnson. Councilwoman Snow?

Coleen Snow: Sure. So I guess, certainly during this time, I think many of you are aware of how our resource center has been really the center of town right now. So I just feel that I really want to just thank Terry for all her work and everything she's been doing there. It's been a lot of work and just the staff that have been there and the community. I mean, I know she texts me usually every day to let me know kind of how they're doing and what they need, but the community support around the resource center has really, really been heartwarming and I do want to thank the community for that very much.

Coleen Snow: I think I want to add, too, that in this time when people are getting sick, while, of course, under HIPAA, we don't get told nor do we need to know who is sick in our community, but I do really want to just reach out to them, too, that we wish them a full recovery. We're here to support them. Again, on our town website, there are numbers. I think this is impacting a lot of people emotionally. So please, reach out to those numbers that Dutchess County has put out if you need to talk to somebody, but again, I think just ... and I'm sure the board would go along with me as far as just saying we wish everybody, really, a full, healthy recovery. And if you need help, please reach out to us. So those are my comments for tonight.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilwoman Snow. Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Yes. First of all, I want to thank the board. I left town for my grandson's birth right after the last meeting last month, around the 12th, 13th. And the job that the board has done to keep the public informed and to keep me informed of what was going on through email and stuff and the work you guys did with communicating and trying to keep our employees safe and stuff, I think you did an excellent job and comments need to be made. I also would want to thank our employees and closing off the building and doing the moves that you made

that's helped kept our employees safe and their families, which are very important to all of us on the board. So I want to thank the whole board and I want to thank all of our employees in the different departments and our first responders and all of our healthcare professionals that are dealing with this, first of all. Thank you all.

Phil DeRosa: Second, on Billy's comments on the park attendants, yes, this is something that we talked about for years, going way back to when Mike Montemarano was on the board. And I think it's an excellent idea that gives Jessica and Wendel the opportunity to schedule somebody. And it's not in competition with the constables, but it's just giving us a presence there on the beaches and stuff when the park is being used. And they could be part-time people, three or four part-time people so we're not paying benefits and the cost would be a lot less than the constables. So I go along with that.

Phil DeRosa: And I was down visiting the dam and just a brief update. I measured the water was an inch going over the six by six. So everything looks good. I just want to comment that, if you remember last year at this time, the springtime when it was at our fullest, I believe it was the end of May when we had our highest point on the lake. The water level was seven and a half inches above the concrete spillway. So right now, we're seven inches above the concrete spillway. So any more water we get in there, the lake will be actually higher than it was last summer. And we still have a long way to go. So that's very good signs. So that's all I have. Thank you.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman DeRosa. Thank you for that and congratulations on your new grandson.

Phil DeRosa: Yeah. Seven pounds. He's going to be a linebacker.

James Schmitt: Excellent.

Phil DeRosa: And they're all healthy. I'm glad to say they're all healthy.

James Schmitt: [crosstalk 00:43:14]

Bill Johnson: Congratulations.

James Schmitt: Good for you. So, yeah. I just wanted to piggyback off a few of the things that the board said. So one is, obviously, social distancing. Right? Folks, it's so important and it's hard not to think that some of the results we're seeing aren't from social distancing. So at the park, I know this past weekend we had a lot of people on the ball fields and we've had people out there playing basketball together. We want you in the parks. The parks are open. Other communities have closed their parks. That's the last thing we want to do. We want to give you somewhere to go. We want to give you something to do. We're opening the golf course. We're just trying to put real safety measures in place and we don't have enough constables or enough sheriffs, or this new position that we're talking about now that'll be an ongoing discussion, to possibly cover the 400 and plus acres of parkland that we have here.

James Schmitt: We're blessed to have that many acres of parkland and trails. So please use it, but use it responsibly. If everyone follows the rules and we all work together, this will be over faster than we can blink an eye and that's what we want to get to. The last thing we want to do is have to send constables out to break up a little T-ball game or a soccer game or a basketball game. So please, don't put us in that position. Utilize that stuff, go out there with your kids, but just be respectful and be mindful of others around you and maintain proper social distancing.

James Schmitt: Another thing I want to touch on is something in the town, but really in the community as a whole. Littering seems to have gotten out of control. I don't know why it is, but I see more stuff on the sides of roadways, and I think maybe because I'm looking now. And the reason I'm looking is because I go to the grocery store a few times a week now to just do minimal shopping, get in and out of there as quickly as I can, where in the past my wife and I would spend a lot of time shopping and get stuff for two weeks. We try to go in with limited exposure, get stuff and get out of there.

James Schmitt: And it's great that people are using gloves and masks. It's not great that you're throwing them on the ground of Hannaford's parking lot. And if you go to Hannaford's and you go to Acme and I've seen them and then I've come out and I've already disposed of mine properly and I don't have another set of gloves to pick up your stuff that's on the ground because, obviously, me just grabbing your glove, then your glove was rendered useless, obviously, because now another person is touching it. Please, be mindful of it. I noticed, even just coming out of Hannaford's at the stop sign facing M&T Bank, there was gloves and masks on the ground there.

James Schmitt: I'm hoping that the wind blew them out of someone's cart and someone didn't actually pull out of the parking lot and toss their glove out because that's not the community that Pawling is. We rally together all the time. We build each other up. We support small businesses. Small businesses support us. We support each other's events in the school, in the village, in the town. Please, be mindful of these local businesses, especially these folks in the service industry in the grocery stores who are already exposed to this 10 times worse than us by handling packages and packing out shelves on a daily basis. And they're doing it to give us the supplies that we need to go on with our day-to-day lives and survive through these quarantines and these limited exposures.

James Schmitt: Don't throw your stuff on the ground. There's ample opportunities to leave stuff there and there's garbage disposals. I mean, anything is better than what I'm seeing. Even if you leave it in your shopper cart, which I don't want you to do, but if you're going to leave it somewhere, don't leave it on the blacktop where it blows around and it ends up in the street and in the bushes and into our waterways and other stuff. We've done a great job so far. The community has done really well. Please, be mindful of that and just, moving forward, social distancing and littering ... This is our community. We all live here. We all love it here. We all want to see it continue to grow. Please be mindful of the littering, moving forward.

James Schmitt: Another quick thing Councilman DeRosa touched on briefly, we have put a lot of information out there. We pride ourselves on putting information out there through MyPages, our town board's social media pages, the town's Facebook page, the town's website, and we give it to you as quickly as we get it. I have a conference call once a week with elected officials and people in the county and sometimes we have representatives from the state on the call. And we have those every Monday and Thursday. And what we do is, at the end of those calls, we give a summary of that to the town board to bring them up to speed and then I immediately, or our assistant, Jessica, immediately posts that to our social media. We get it out there for you. So as quickly as we're receiving it, you guys are getting it right away. So we're doing our best to get you everything that's going on and keep you up to date on what the county and the state is saying.

James Schmitt: So Mondays and Thursdays, I know you've all seen it out there. We've got a lot of activity on the website and on the social media. If you want to just know, moving forward, just look for it on the afternoons of those days because that's when we're getting our updates from the higher ups. Again, the parks are open. Get out there. Utilize them. Golf course is opening, it looks like, the 15th. We did have a short opening already, so we'll just call that a soft opening and then we shut down again. So the 15th, we're looking to get back out there and give you all a way to get out, play some golf, jump around in one of the oldest nine-hole municipal courses in the United States of America. And we're happy to have it right here in Pawling and I hope we have amazing weather moving forward so you can all utilize it.

James Schmitt: Other than that, that's all I have, as well, from this board. If anyone else has anything else they'd like to add briefly, feel free. I'll go around the horn real quick again. Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: All set. Stay safe, everybody.

James Schmitt: Councilman McCarthy.

James McCarthy: Same. Stay safe and thanks to our first responders.

James Schmitt: Thank you. Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Same thing, just everybody be safe. And again, please don't hesitate to reach out.

James Schmitt: Excellent. Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Yes. Everybody stay safe and follow the instructions of keep your distance, please.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa, thanks for dialing in. I know you had some trouble with the camera and then the computer stuff, so we appreciate you going the extra mile. I know it's a little more difficult, but thank you for dialing in and participating and we'll see everybody real soon. Can I get a motion to adjourn?

Bill Johnson: [inaudible 00:49:23].

James Schmitt: Second. All in favor?

All: I.

James Schmitt: Thank you.

Phil DeRosa: Thank you. It went great.

James Schmitt: Thank you all. See you all soon.