

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the workshop meeting of the town board of the Town of Pawling at 6:00 PM May 4, 2022 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were councilmen McCarthy and DeRosa, councilwomen Snow and Musella Pitt, Nancy Tagliafierro, town attorney and approximately 15 interested citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mike Kelly, resident of Holmes, said he wanted to make a couple of comments about the constables. Mr. Kelly asked why the town was getting rid of the constables for \$23.00 per hour when they will end up hiring someone for \$35.00 per hour. Some felt there was no support from the board, they were never given a straight answer on why the constable department was shutting down. A meeting was held but the board never gave them a decisive answer on what was going to happen with them. He said if the town was going to get rid of them, why and if not, why. There was a lack of communication on everyone's part. The one person who helped him and stuck with him through this was councilwoman Snow. The emails he sent were never answered by anyone, there were no phone calls, there was nothing. Councilwoman Snow supported the constables through her entire term. It is sad that it has to end this way, after 96 years. They are willing to work with the town. If there are things the town wants them to do, the board needs to communicate that. The town is now spending more money, how are the taxpayers going to deal with this. The town is now spending more money on an outside agency when they want to work on road, buildings and infrastructure. He just did not get it, and no one has ever given them an answer. He had big ideas with councilwoman Pitt on the board but since she got here, it just went down the tubes and he did not know the reason. She wanted to meet with everyone, that never happened. She came into court one night, stayed for twenty minutes and walked out. He is saddened that everything happened this way, after eighteen years of doing this and giving back time to the town, he was very disappointed.

Gayle Zelazny, town justice and private resident from Cunningham Lane, said she would like to address resolution 2022106 with regard to suspending the use of constables. She echoed chief Kelly's words in most respects, but she wanted to state that we have had the constables in this town for close to ninety years, since 1935, and previous town boards have worked really hard to keep the constabulary and their ongoing presence here. As she reviewed the comments of councilwoman Pitt on April 6th when she first addressed the town board regarding the options available to the town board regarding the constables, one of the options was an ability and opportunity to rebuild the constable program because we were losing constables. The reasons behind that are water under the bridge, and she was not here to address that, but she was here to question whether councilwoman Pitt's comments, which were that the town has applications that were submitted, they were looked at and did she would take the opportunity to try to rebuild that program. Councilwoman Pitt said the intent was to keep this local and to keep our employees here if we could. Justice Zelazny said from a personal point of view, these guys have had her back for the eight years she has been in office. They are local, they do support our local community and she thought it was a shame if we are going outside and paying people who have no ties to this community. She did understand that these court officers are trained, our constables are trained too, she has never felt unsafe at any time they have been here. Finally, she did think that the notification of firing of constables at the ninth hour by an email was really a slap in the face and she felt at the very least, these men deserved more than that. She really wished this was done differently.

Supervisor Schmitt said to set the record straight, we were down to two constables because an overwhelming amount of the force resigned or retired rather abruptly. One of the biggest concerns he had was to keep everyone safe. One comment the board heard from someone who did resign was that they didn't feel safe anymore. The board was told the constables would cover court until the end of May and at the very next court session, the board found out at 3:31 in the afternoon that there was one constable coming into work that night. Thank goodness the Dutchess County Sheriff's were able to get deputies here to cover court so everyone was safe that evening. There is no way to cover court when there are not enough constables. He said there was a lot of meetings that were held. Some of the biggest concerns for the board was that the constable program was turning into a police department. The constables had radar guns, were going to do road patrols and issue tickets. The board never wanted the constable program issuing tickets in the park. At that point, the board moved forward to strike the word "police" from the handbook. The board was putting things back the way they were prior to all of this stuff so there still would have been constables in the park and court. When they did that was

when the board started getting all of the resignations and retirements. As the board looked into hiring new constables, there wasn't time or staff to cover court so the board looked outside to get a program in place to make sure the courts were covered. He reached out to Mr. Jackson, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Lansing today and made sure they understood that when the board looks to hire for the park position, the board would be reaching out to them.

Councilwoman Pitt said she wanted to lay out the timeline so people could understand how things rolled out. The board received several resignations/retirements, two retirements came in on April 1st and April 2nd. At that point, the board realized they would be short on manpower. New hires have to go through a background check, just as any other employee, one of the trainers informed her that this isn't just a regular hire, there is necessary training that must be done and they must qualify with the township. Mr. Kelly brought in applications and trainer resumes, and all of that was taking place around the same time as exploring the option of the NYS court officers. This was all happening within the same time frame. The board tried to keep this in house. She was a constable and understood the way court works and respects the work the constables do. It was a gut grind to make phone calls to figure out how to staff the court so court did not have to be postponed. The state court officer's association was an option that presented itself. They do make more money per hour. She did call other townships, who were hesitant to have their constables come and cover Pawling because this town happens to pay their constables more money. Part of her job on the town board, and it is her first time being in an administration type position, is to look at the finances and decrease any liability for the town. All of the resignations and retirements came in and the town was short manpower, it was time to come up with plan A and plan B. That plan for the state court officers presented itself at almost the same price point per court night. For 44 court nights, for three state court officers to be here at zero liability to the town is \$18,480.00. The court officers also go through their training per year, they are peace officers. Meetings were held and the board had the intention of bringing it back to the way it was. She questioned the jurisdiction of the constables in the police constable manual, she found it odd and started asking questions. In the CPL, constables can be called a constable or a police constable but when you are called a police constable your constabulary is your primary source of law enforcement in your township. Our township is policed by the New York State police and the Dutchess County Sheriff's office. It is her understanding that never at any point was the scope of employment of the constabulary to be primary law enforcement, they are peace officers.

Mike Kelly said they never did any of the policing. When he called supervisor Schmitt for the meeting, he asked who to bring and the supervisor said bring anyone you want. He wanted to bring all of the constables because they all had questions and concerns. When he texted councilwoman Pitt, she said to bring only one other person. If she saw concerns, she should have called a meeting of everyone and it never happened. It was only Mr. Lansing and himself at the meeting.

Councilwoman Pitt said there was a chief constable and everything flows through that person.

Mike Kelly said when the chief said he had radar guns and could write tickets, the constables never did any of that and never intended to. If there were issues in the policies and procedures, which was signed off by the town attorney two and a half years ago, why wasn't something brought up at that time? He spoke to the chief and told him the constables weren't going to do any of that because they weren't trained for any of that.

Supervisor Schmitt said in the meeting with Joe Olenik, chief constable, it came up that he had radar guns and would do road patrol.

Mike Kelly said the constables never knew about any of that and never did any of that. All road patrols pertained to the park in the evening and other town properties, such as the golf course, Murrow Park and the Whaley Lake Dam.

Councilwoman Pitt said this all started when she asked questions about the jurisdiction of the constables. Then the board passed a resolution to bring it back to where it used to be, and to check on parks.

Mike Kelly said the constables were then limited to Lakeside Park and that was it.

Supervisor Schmitt said that is where the town needed the coverage. Another thing that came up in the meeting with Mr. Kelly and Mr. Olenik was the constables in the village. Mr. Olenik replied that the town encompasses the village and the constables had jurisdiction there. He said when things were brought back last month, the constables would have still had work within the courts, and in the park.

Duewayne Jackson, town constable, resident of Poughkeepsie, said he has been a constable and peace officer for over seventeen years, as peace officer, sargent and now chief. When he came to this town as a constable, the primary duty was the court. In every constable unit he has worked in, the primary duty has always been the court. He has worked in six different jurisdictions. When councilwoman Pitt was running for office, the guys were looking to her to be a liaison for them and have a conversation because of her background. His issue with this whole process is when the board figured out there was an issue, at no point did the supervisor reach out and ask what the issue was. Mr. Jackson said at no point through the entire process did he stop showing up for work. He worked with the sheriffs without any issues. He expressed to supervisor Schmitt that he was not looking to leave the Town of Pawling and the supervisor assured him that the constable program was not going away, although there was an issue, but we would work together and figure it out. He is a chief and he has forty people under him, and if he is firing someone or if the person is not doing what they are supposed to do, he has a meeting with them. That process with the town has not happened and at no point does it seem like the board wants it to happen. That is the issue. There are people here with plenty of experience. It is insulting when you say state court officers are better trained than the constables. The constables have worked for the town for many years and have all of the training. It is insulting when you have individuals who work for you and respect the town, that are one hundred percent behind the town, and when it is needed, it is not given back. There are people who love what they do and love this town and the board is trampling and walking all over the respect, courage and dignity that they have for the town, court and people they serve. They are asking the board to consider that and take that into consideration when making the decision.

Supervisor Schmitt said the night only one constable showed up and the sheriffs had to cover court, the board found out at 3:31 in the afternoon. Why was the town board told at 3:31 in the afternoon that one constable was coming? He and councilman McCarthy have asked for a schedule of the constables for almost five years and he has never received one.

Mr. Jackson said the town board knew that one constable wasn't going to be here, he lived up to his obligation and was here that night. The program can work, there is no reason for a complete shift of the process.

Councilwoman Pitt said when she mentioned training, she was in no way saying that certain people are trained better than the constables. What she is saying is that with the state court officers, the town would not be paying for that training. And the onus goes back to the state with the court officers.

Mr. Jackson said the town is not paying for the training now because most of the individuals are already certified. He said the liability doesn't completely go away.

Angelo Sblendorio, Village of Pawling property owner, resident of Beekman and constable for six years, prior to that twenty eight years as a New York state trooper and twenty five years as an investigator, said the entire work purview was changed one night in the court without any warning. No information was given to the individuals working that night. That's why some people took exception to the safety issue, because they had to rethink the whole thing and make it work. And they did make it work to the credit of the people he works with. The CPL allows two definition of constable and police constable. If you read those definitions, the only difference is one has the word "police" in front of it. They are both peace officers, there is nothing about jurisdiction.

Councilwoman Pitt said she did not want there to be any blurred lines between policing and a constabulary.

Mr. Sblendorio said peace officers have no police powers, but wear a patch that says "police" constable without abusing their duties, there is really no harm in that. He did not agree with writing tickets. He did not mind patrolling the parks and calling competent authority if there is a

crime being committed. Councilwoman Pitt said suddenly everyone started leaving, but no one asked why, no one. The liaison didn't ask why are these people leaving. This could have probably been solved with a conversation between a group of people and an agreement could have been reached. Then the town would have a majority of people here, doing what they loved doing, not for the money but because they were giving back to the community and the town. That's why he decided to do this and he enjoyed what he did and took pride in what he did. He was sorry to see this go after almost ninety years. He was insulted that he was being replaced with someone making \$35.00 per hour.

Supervisor Schmitt said ultimately, most of the constables resigned or retired without coming to him or this board. We had these conversations. Any one of the constables could have come to the board.

Mr. Sblendorio said no one had conversations with them and there was an opportunity for a conversation. The message that was relayed to him was that there would be changes made whether the constables wanted them to be made or not without having a voice heard as to why the constables thought they shouldn't be made.

Supervisor Schmitt asked if the constables left resigned from the constable program because the metal detector was moved thirty five feet without a conversation.

Mr. Sblendorio said that was part of it, but also the jurisdiction was changed. The information he received was that if he showed up to work court when the court officers were present, he would not be allowed to work, so he didn't show up. This could have been fixed with a meeting.

Councilwoman Pitt said on March 16th, there was a meeting, and she was under the impression at that time, that this could be worked out. And from there, more retirements came in. The \$35.00 per hour issue wasn't on the radar until April 6th.

Councilman DeRosa said part of the budget for the constables is over \$8,000.00 for training. So when you weigh the \$22.00 per hour, it weighs itself out. The board did have an executive session with Mike Kelly and Francis Lansing and after that, things started to collapse.

Councilman McCarthy said that meeting was March 16th, and when that meeting ended, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Lansing were going to work together and get back to the board. Ten or twelve days later, Mr. Kelly sent his retirement. The constables did not contact the board and tell them why they were stepping down. This was not something the board wanted to do.

Mr. Sblendorio said a meeting was requested between a group of the town board and a group of constables and it never happened. The majority of the constables were not allowed to attend that meeting. This whole thing is sad.

Councilwoman Pitt felt the representatives would bring the information back to the other constables.

Councilwoman Snow said as a town board, they need to take some of the responsibility. She is having a hard time talking about Joe Olenik when he is not here. She was going to go back a couple of years because it was her first year on the board, during Covid at Lakeside Park. Back then a motion was made by two board members to get rid of the constables. She remembered being in that meeting, she was blindsided as a board member then and she really wanted information as to why we would just do that. Going into her third year and feeling right now that there has been something, and she can't put her hands on what it is about not having the constables. She agreed as a town board there should have been more communication. She understood there were meetings. She would have liked personally to have had a meeting with the full board with all of the constables. We are hearing what transpired at different meetings and it is really hard to take it all in when you are not sitting down with the group. She is a social worker, she is used to this, and just being able to hear from everyone gives all of us the information together. She is not sure how we went from, and her emails reflect this, staffing the court room, which had to be done, her opinion was that the board was staffing it until they could get a program together. There was talk about rebuilding the constables. She is confused as to why we have a resolution that we are suspending them. She did not agree with that.

Mr. Sblendorio asked supervisor Schmitt as a business owner, if he had a group of employees and all of a sudden seven of them quit without an explanation, wouldn't he want to know why?

Supervisor Schmitt said he would hire seven new employees because those seven people would leave you again in a heartbeat.

Justice Zelazny said she did call supervisor Schmitt to tell him that she had heard they were going to be short staffed and she applauded him for reaching out and getting coverage that night. But sitting in the audience listening to all of this, she echoed what Councilwoman Snow is saying, she thought there was more conversation here tonight then there has been since this all started and it is way out of control. She respectfully disagreed with supervisor Schmitt, that it can't be saved and you would just fire them in a heartbeat, and you can't play this game. Everyone is guilty of playing a game, there is so much if you listen objectively, there are a lot of grudges, a lot of bad feelings, a lot of bad energy. Her question is what does the board mean by "suspend" the resolution. If the board is trying to figure out how to staff the court going forward working with the constables, then she is in favor of that. But if what the board is saying is they are just looking for these two constables, who have remained the most loyal in the supervisor's eyes, to staff a park program, she did not think that is what these two constables signed up for, but she can't speak for them. She did sincerely hope that the board would rethink rebuilding the program, even considering the people who have left and resigned. She did not think it did anyone any good to carry the grudges and the inability to work with former chiefs and what they may or may not have been saying they would do if they are no longer here, and have given no indication that they want to come back.

Councilwoman Pitt said the budget for the constables is \$31,080.00 and stressed that the plan for the state court officers came only after resignations started coming in. She said there are no games being played, no agendas. When she started asking questions about the manual and people started resigning, it just snowballed and the board had to come up with a quick plan.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board reviewed the resolutions and agreed they would be acted upon at next week's meeting.

The board took the following actions:

Resolution 2022098

Approval of KM8000TEDX 4 Ton Hot Box Trailer Mounted Blacktop Reclaimer Purchase

Whereas, the highway superintendent has requested to purchase a KM80000TEDX 4 Ton Hot Box Trailer Mounted Blacktop Reclaimer to improve the highway department's ability to improve local roads, and

Whereas, the purchase of such equipment is supported by fund balance, and

Whereas, the highway superintendent requests approval to order KM80000TEDX 4 Ton Hot Box Trailer Mounted Blacktop Reclaimer on NCPA Contract # 05-25 for \$40,049.75, therefore, be it

Resolved, the town board hereby approves the purchase of KM80000TEDX 4 Ton Hot Box Trailer Mounted Blacktop Reclaimer on NCPA Contract # 05-25 for \$40,049.75.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilman DeRosa

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – "AYE"

Councilman DeRosa – "AYE"

Councilman McCarthy – "AYE"

Councilwoman Snow - "AYE"

Supervisor Schmitt – "AYE"

Resolution 2022099
Appointment – Media Assistant

Whereas, the Town of Pawling has sought a media assistant to stream all town board, planning board and zoning board of appeals meetings, and

Whereas, the position was advertised on multiple sites, and

Whereas, after interviewing interested candidates the town board would like to fill the position with Maria Sierra, therefore, be it

Resolved, the town board hereby appoints Maria Sierra to be the media assistant at a yearly salary of \$3,000 effective May 4th, 2022.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilwoman Snow

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

Resolution 2022100
Approval of Use of ARPA Funds for Town Hall Improvements

Whereas, the Town of Pawling received a partial payment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the federal government, and

Whereas, ARPA funds may be used on facility improvements for increased repair and maintenance needs, and

Whereas, town hall is in dire need of several repairs for the health, safety and welfare of employees and residents, and

Whereas, the following repairs and associated costs are:

Asbestos Removal	\$57,000
Air Monitoring	\$5,000
Boiler Replacement	\$15,000
Drywall per Fire Code	\$7,000
Drainage	\$13,000
<u>Door & Window Replacement</u>	<u>\$7,000</u>
Total Funds Needed	\$104,000, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the town board hereby approves the use of \$104,000 of ARPA funds on the facility improvements of town hall for the health, safety and welfare of employees and residents.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilman DeRosa

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

Resolution 2022101
Proclaiming May as Mental Health Month

Whereas, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health, and

Whereas, mental illnesses affect almost every family in America, and

Whereas, people with mental illnesses recover if given the necessary services and supports in their communities, and

Whereas, people with mental illnesses make important contributions to our families and our communities, and

Whereas, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year, and

Whereas, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness, and

Whereas, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help, and

Whereas, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness, and

Whereas, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses, and

Whereas, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses, therefore, be it

Resolved, the town board of the Town of Pawling does hereby proclaim the month of May 2022 as MENTAL HEALTH MONTH, and be it further

Resolved, that the town board of the Town of Pawling calls citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilman DeRosa

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

Resolution 2022102
Appointment of Recreation Director

Whereas, a vacancy currently exists for the recreation director position, and

Whereas, the Town of Pawling must abide by the civil service rules set forth by Dutchess County human resources and New York State in hiring for this position, and

Whereas the Town of Pawling must make every effort to hire a candidate on the eligible list provided by Dutchess County human resources, and

Whereas, Robyn Priano is eligible for the recreation director position as set forth by the standards listed above, and

Whereas, Robyn Priano has significant experience in the recreation field serving as recreation leader for 5 years before being promoted to assistant recreation director in 2011 at the Town of Pawling, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Town of Pawling hereby appoints Robyn Priano as recreation director at a salary of \$65,000 per year set forth in the 2022 Town of Pawling budget effective May 2nd, 2022.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

Resolution 2022103
Approval of Name Changes of Private Roads

Whereas, new owners of parcel 6958-00-970148 have requested to change to names of two private roads that provide access to said, and

Whereas, the two roads were previously names Mistover Way and Wang Dang Doodle Loop, and

Whereas, the owner requests that Mistover Way be changed to Rounded Crest Way, and

Whereas, the owner requests that Wang Dang Doodle Loops be changed to Horse Around Loop, and

Whereas, the name change will impact the following addresses which all serve parcel 6958-00-970148:

128 Mistover Way
130 Mistover Way
47 Wang Dang Doodle Loop
59 Wang Dang Doodle Loop, and

Whereas, the addresses would become:

128 Rounded Crest Way
130 Rounded Crest Way
47 Horse Around Loop
59 Horse Around Loop, and

Whereas, the renaming of the private roads will not impact any other parcels other than 6958-00-970148, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the town board hereby approves the renaming of the above private roads on parcel # 6958-00-970148 from Mistover Way to Rounded Crest way and from Wang Dang Doodle Loop to Rounded Crest Loop as further detailed above, and be it further

Resolved, that the Town of Pawling records shall be amended to reflect the renaming of the roads.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

Resolution 2022104
Approval of Truck Purchase

Whereas, the highway superintendent has requested to purchase a 2022 Super Duty Ford F-350 Extended Cab Chassis with a Knapheide Service Body, and

Whereas, the funding for this equipment is included in the 2022 Town of Pawling budget, and

Whereas, due to major supply chain issues and urgent need this purchase is not on an official bid, and

Whereas, after researching numerous dealerships in several states for similar trucks it was determined that this purchase is best value, and

Whereas, the highway superintendent requests approval to order said 2022 Super Duty Ford F-350 Extended Cab Chassis Knapheide Service Body for \$70,613.00 respectively therefore, be it

Resolved, that the town board hereby authorizes the highway superintendent to purchase a 2022 Super Duty Ford F-350 Extended Cab Chassis Knapheide Service Body for \$70,613.00.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

Resolution 2022106
Suspending the Use of Constables

Whereas, the duties of the Town of Pawling constabulary have included monitoring of the town park and court security, which requires several constables to be present during all sessions of the Town of Pawling justice court; and

Whereas, recently, a majority of the constables resigned, leaving the town with insufficient constables to ensure court security, and the town board has hired trained New York State court officers to fill this need; and

Whereas, the State Police have been patrolling the town park, leaving the role of the constables in question; and

Whereas, the town board must now review whether there is a necessity for the role of constable in the town, and therefore wishes to suspend the use of its constables to make this determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby suspends the use of constables in the Town of Pawling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby authorizes the supervisor to execute any and all documents necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Councilman DeRosa made a motion to do this resolution next week so there could be further discussion by the board.

Councilwoman Snow said she will not be here next week so she would rather vote on it tonight.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

Supervisor Schmitt said he has the utmost respect for the constable program, for everything they have done in the town for almost ninety years. The board can look into revamping it, as soon as the next budget cycle, and find a way that it is properly staffed where the board knows the court and parks will be covered. There is court coverage now. He thanked the constables for everything they have done.

Councilwoman Pitt asked if it was necessary to say in the resolution that the DCSO also patrols the parks as part of their routine coverage out of Beekman and Amenia.

Supervisor Schmitt said Councilwoman Pitt could add that to the resolution. He said the state police will have patrols also to help the town get through this time.

Councilwoman Pitt said she wanted everyone to realize that the constables aren't in the parks during the winter months, it is seasonal.

Councilman DeRosa asked if he heard supervisor Schmitt correctly, if the board would be suspending this until next year when they look at the budget and not have any discussion about rebuilding the constabulary. There is no contract with the court officers so they can be un-hired if something is put together for the constables. That is his question, is the board not going to talk about this until the next budget cycle?

Supervisor Schmitt said he would like not to revisit it until the next budget cycle but councilman DeRosa could bring it up at any meeting he would like.

Councilman DeRosa said yes, he knew that, after eleven years on the board, he knew exactly what he could do but he wanted to make sure he understood the supervisor correctly.

Supervisor Schmitt said yes, that is what he thought would be the most productive.

Councilman DeRosa said he was not in agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “NAY”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “NAY”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

TOWN BOARD DISCUSSION

JUNE 8, 2022 MEETING CHANGED TO JUNE 1, 2022

Supervisor Schmitt said the June 8th meeting is being changed because of a conflict to June 1st and this will be noticed on the town website and social media.

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy said the suggestions the board sent regarding the handbook have been sent back to them and they are going to make some adjustments and send them back to us so we should have that for the first meeting in June.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said he had a meeting with the highway superintendent and bookkeeper this week to talk about the road replacement plan, it is almost complete. The plan will be published very soon so the public can see it.

Christine Mitchell, bookkeeper said rates are going up. A meeting was held to go over the roads on the list. The prices have gone up 26%. The number is about one point five million to cover this year and next year. These large expenditures are the type of things you traditionally bond. She has talked to the town's fiscal advisors and bond counsel and the extent you can bond for is fifteen years. She felt the town should borrow the money now to avoid rate hikes. She suggested borrowing a million dollars for the paving and building improvements, and equipment and automobiles as soon as possible. She wanted the board to start thinking about this. Financing costs can be built into the five year plan and stay under the tax cap and minimize the tax rate increases.

SNOW

Councilwoman Snow said the Pawling library needs volunteers for the book fair. The Pawling Resource Center needs a number of items, which are on their website.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said he attended the Dutchess County planning board meeting on May 5th and six other meetings are scheduled for the rest of the year. The town received a letter from a resident on Whaley Lake complaining about the geese. He has been in touch with NYS DEC and they have made suggestions and offered to come out and help with the issue. The weir board report will come next week, the lake is receding. He also wanted to discuss the sewer district meeting. He was disappointed only five property owners attended. He felt a list needed to be put together to send to the engineer with things that need to be addressed. He also suggested the residential properties be asked if they want to be in the proposed district and if they can opt in at a later time if they want to. He asked that the proposed costs be estimated without any grant money.

Councilman McCarthy said Mr. Laberge has said he will run the numbers without the grants included.

PITT

Councilwoman Pitt suggested a town cleanup day and she will be looking into this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Kelly, Holmes resident asked if the letters of support from residents of the water district would speed up the process.

Supervisor Schmitt said yes, the more letters from residents, the better.

Mr. Kelly thanked Bob Brill, highway superintendent for the road repairs in Holmes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was made by Supervisor Schmitt at 7:40 PM, seconded by Councilman DeRosa, motion passed unanimously.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:50 PM and adjourned the meeting. No action was taken.

The motion to adjourn was made by supervisor Schmitt at 7:50 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Snow, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk