

James Schmitt: So good evening everybody. Welcome to the Wednesday, June 10, 2020 town board meeting. In accordance with Executive Order 202.1, this meeting is not open to the public. We will be streaming it to Facebook Live starting at 6PM on the town hall Facebook page. You can also hear the meeting via podcast afterwards.

James Schmitt: Will you please all stand and follow me in the Pledge of Allegiance? I'm sorry, do the roll call first. I'm sorry about that. [crosstalk 00:00:54]

Cathy Giordano: Supervisor Schmitt.

James Schmitt: Here.

Cathy Giordano: Councilwoman McCarthy. I mean, Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Here.

Cathy Giordano: Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: I'm here. I'm in the cloud.

Cathy Giordano: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Here.

Cathy Giordano: And Councilman McCarthy is absent.

James Schmitt: Please stand and follow me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Group: 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: Thank you very much and thank you everyone for being here tonight. Jessica Dickinson, our amazing rec director, thank you so much for being on with us tonight as well. I know everyone's excited to hear some stuff from you and some updates.

James Schmitt: So before we do that though, let's just get some approval. We have a couple of emails, so I'm going to read them as we get towards the resolution. Is that all right with the board?

Phil DeRosa: Yeah, fine with me.

Coleen Snow: Sure.

James Schmitt: Okay, great. So let's just do approval of the minutes, and we'll do them all one at a time. So approval of minutes. I'll make a motion for May 6th.

Coleen Snow: Second.

James Schmitt: Can I get a roll call vote? Councilman Johnson?

Bill Johnson: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa?

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilwoman Snow?

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Supervisor Schmitt, aye. And Councilman McCarthy is absent. I will make a motion to approve the minute for May the 13th, can I get a second?

Phil DeRosa: Second.

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: Okay. And a roll call vote, Councilwoman Snow?

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: Supervisor, aye, and Councilman McCarthy is absent. Approval of minutes for May 27th, I will make that motion as well. Can I get a second?

Phil DeRosa: I'll second it.

James Schmitt: Roll call vote. Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: I abstain, I was absent.

James Schmitt: Oh, you were absent to that one. Okay. Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: Supervisor Schmitt, aye, and Council McCarthy is absent. Excellent. Moving on to our recreational update, again, Jessica Dickinson, thank you so much for being here. I know this has been trying times. We've all been dealing with stuff being shut down, not being open, what are they going to allow to open? We get updates, we have conference calls twice a week with the county and the health department, to try and be in front of all the updates as they come out. And I know the community would love to hear from you and hear about what we do have to offer them. And then unfortunately what we're not going to be able to offer this year. And at that point, I'd like to give you the floor, and get some great news from you. Thanks.

Jessica Dickins...: Great. Thanks for having me. It's always nice to be able to deliver some messaging firsthand. I miss being with you all, I miss being with our community in person. I've seen a lot of this community come out to the beach lately, so that is really uplifting and fantastic, and before I go any further, I really want to thank Wendell, his buildings and grounds crew. He goes above and beyond doing anything and everything that we need from [crosstalk 00:04:20], over 100 park signs to fencing off areas that are off limits to really anything.

Jessica Dickins...: So they've been working so hard. So I really, really appreciate that. As well as my recreation staff. We Zoom multiple times a week, we are learning new ways of working together, and we're trying to deliver the very best virtual programming. We just had a fantastic virtual fishing derby. Hopefully we get to do a really fishing derby again soon, but I think the virtual fishing derby was able to take us out of our comfort zone and provide a really creative way to keep using the park, go fishing, get the kids and the youth involved, and special thanks to our Pawling Rotary Club and the Pawling Fishing Game Club for being partners in that as well with the prizes that they offered for the winners of the derby, and the worms. I know it was a feat to get fresh bait these days, and the rotary came through with a win. So that was fantastic.

Jessica Dickins...: We've been having virtual yoga. That's still going on, and I think the trend right now is really just getting outside. Virtual programming, I know if I'm feeling it, you all are feeling it. We want to be outside, we want to be active, we want to be in the space that give us the most sanity and sense of normalcy. So that's why we really busted our bottoms to get the speech open when Cuomo said, "Hey, beaches can open," so surprise on that. That was a nice surprise because we were able to do that for the community.

Jessica Dickins...: But as far as some other things, like traditional camp experiences, this year we will not be providing the traditional camp experience for Pawling kids due to

many, many months of soul searching and guidance searching and regulation searching, and surveying parents, communicating with the community and seeing what would be the best fit for us here this year. Unfortunately that's not the kind of traditional camp setting, but we do plan to offer a curbside camp model. We're going to prepare some make-and-take kits and some fun activities for everybody to sign up for and enjoy as the summer goes on, and so that people have something to look forward to. Every day for eight weeks, we are going to have staff at the park prepared to engage your family in some way.

Jessica Dickins...: So that is the upside to some bad news, I guess, because we all really want camp. We're amped for camp, and I hope that we can still infiltrate the positive vibe with everybody curbside. So that will make a big difference. The beach has been going really, really well. We've had AM and PM memberships split in half between morning beach goers, afternoon beach goers. In July, due to popular demand, we're going to keep the beach open much later. I was discussing this just earlier. But the beach will probably be open until about 7 or 7:30, because currently, we have it open until 5:30, and as you can tell, it's just after 6:00 and it's still boiling hot. And we expect that trend to continue, and we really want to keep serving you and making sure you can stay cool in this COVID heat.

Jessica Dickins...: So that's really high on our agenda. Our lifeguards and waterfront staff have been amazing with the updates and regulations and hygiene protocol that we are implementing on every hour and a half every 90 minutes, we make sure to do a clean sweep of all of the high-touch surfaces, the bathrooms, this and that, everything is making sure to be fresh in service so that we can maintain a really safe and hygienic atmosphere.

Jessica Dickins...: And really just moving on with the summer, serving everyone in our parks, making sure that people are keeping a safe physical distance. I'd have to say that I'm in the park multiple times a week. We will be back more full time starting June 30th based on the town's reopening model. Just like town hall, our park office will be open on a more regular basis, but we may have you call in and make a reservation, or an appointment, so that we can just better regulate the traffic coming into the facility. So stay tuned for those details.

Jessica Dickins...: And then to really just end things as far as reopening in phases, and the dog park and the playground and the courts, we anticipate opening a majority of those things in phase three, which is just a little phase away, and we're basing a lot of those decisions on the New York state guidelines, which I got all printed out here, all 28 pages. Which has taken the New York guidelines and the CDC guidelines and all the agencies that have worked together, and kind of compiled it for recreation purposes, because as we all know, in conversations when they say "recreation activities can resume in phase four," we all know that that looks very different, and there's no one thing that recreation fits into.

Jessica Dickins...: So based on that, we're making sure to pinpoint certain recreation activities, and opening those safely. So I've posted updates, I've sent an email blast, I posted on our social media pages where you can find those guidelines that we

are going to base most of our information on so that it's clear, because I know a lot of people, "When can I rent the pavilion? When can we use the court? When can we do certain things?" And we're still in the process of making those decisions, but I anticipate that phase three will be a really nice phase, because we're looking to open the dog park, open the playground, open the courts, and just because those places are open, it doesn't mean free rein. They will be open with restrictions.

Jessica Dickins...: For example, we still need to social distance. We still need to minimize how many people are gathering at a time. But it will be really nice, because you will feel a lot more free in the park and not as restricted. And I know the dog park will be a really nice place to continue to take your pet. It's been a few months, but we were really proud of having that space for your pups, so it will overall be a nice way to resume passive programming, and making sure the playground is being used appropriately, and the dog park, the basketball courts, just as long as no formal sports leagues and large groups are joining or gathering in those spaces, we can resume opening.

Jessica Dickins...: So if anybody has any questions, I'm really happy to answer them now while we're face to face. Otherwise I have that link to the guidance as well. So you can see what we're using to determine a lot of our opening.

Coleen Snow: Jess, I had a couple, if it's okay.

Jessica Dickins...: Absolutely.

Coleen Snow: So are you still using, for now, just until the end of June, that round-off number of 30 people swimming, or has that increased since things have been lifted a little bit?

Jessica Dickins...: That was only 30 daily passes at a time, when we were deciding how to do our memberships versus daily passes. I will tell you that currently, we are accepting 80 memberships for the June AM time and the June PM time so that people can get a really nice slice of time at the lake, as opposed to 90-minute blocks.

Jessica Dickins...: But you do have to have a lake membership, which can be found online at PawlingRec.com. Right now we are currently sold out of the PM memberships for the afternoon, and we have probably only four or five slots in the AM membership.

Jessica Dickins...: For July, we anticipate increasing that, potentially doubling that number, because we could open the lake based off of 50 percent of our capacity. Our capacity is over 200 folks in the water at a time. Actually, it's probably over 300, if I'm remembering that correctly. So we can offer over 100 passes at a time, and that also doesn't mean that everybody who has a pass is using the beach at the same time.

Jessica Dickins...: So what we're doing is trying to offer as many memberships we can, and we were really cautious at first and wanted to do things right by everyone and make sure that our new flow and our new dynamic was implemented properly and that our staff could handle that, because it was really serious, and we didn't want to make anyone's experience a negative one. So we did curb that at 80 passes for each time slot for the time being.

Jessica Dickins...: And I think it's working really nicely as we have gone into June and have had a lot of good experience. And if anything of course needs to change, we'll change it. And we'll be flexible so that we can keep our operation running really smoothly. But you can anticipate in July more memberships being available, extended hours, and we will probably open up another side to the beach to allow for more social distancing so that we can have not just one lifeguard managing that swim area, but two, so it will double the amount of our beach, which will be really nice so people can feel comfortable and spaced out.

Coleen Snow: Okay, great. And there was one other question one of the kids were asking is, will there be a chance the basketball courts will open? And I said I'd bring it up tonight for you as a question.

Jessica Dickins...: Yeah. And sometimes I notice that kids are playing basketball at Lakeside or at Murrow. Murrow is a hot spot for basketball. And most of the time it's not really a problem. I'm not going to say that they're open, but if they're there with members of their household and it's very limited numbers, that's never really a problem and we don't look at it as such, because quite honestly, I'd rather have kids playing basketball and being outdoors than some other activities. So thank you for everyone being outdoors and using your time wisely.

Jessica Dickins...: But to answer that question, we'll probably do a more full opening in phase three. So about two weeks from now, we'll just reopen everything.

Coleen Snow: Great. Thanks Jess.

Jessica Dickins...: You got it.

James Schmitt: Great. Those were great questions Coleen too, thanks. Those were good to bring up and have Jessica clarify that for everybody. Councilman Johnson, do you have anything for Jessica?

Bill Johnson: Yep. Jess, are you doing kayak and boat rentals?

Jessica Dickins...: That's a great question. Right now we're allowing people to bring their own kayak, paddleboard, or canoe type non-motorized vehicle, or boat. And they can do that if they have a membership. They're free to hang out in the water, Green Mountain Lake is fantastic for that opportunity, and you can really just get out there and enjoy being alone. So please, look into getting that beach pass if you do have a boat.

Jessica Dickins...: We currently are not issuing boats, the kayaks, paddleboards, we're not loaning our own equipment at this time, just because it's a really high-touch shared surface, and we want to make sure the staff is being very attentive to the water itself, and we make sure we're keeping hygiene as the main priority.

Jessica Dickins...: Will that change as the summer goes further? I won't say no. We'll just see how things shape up and how they happen, and if July memberships really go well and we can make sure from a budget standpoint too, we're being a little cautious with extra lifeguards and extra personnel and all the extra help. But if we can swing something, we will, if the need arises.

Bill Johnson: Okay. And what hours? Because a lot of people want to fish and do stuff, so what hours could they bring their own kayak or boat?

Jessica Dickins...: That's a good question. So any hours that our beach is open, so currently it's 10AM to 5:30PM. In July you can expect that to be 10AM to about 7 or 7:30. So it's a good bulk of the day.

Bill Johnson: And at this point in time, there's no boats or kayaks allowed in Murrow.

Jessica Dickins...: That's correct. And there are no boats or kayaks allowed if there is not a lifeguard on duty. I know that boating is not technically swimming, but to launch them, you'll need to do that from the waterfront, the beach area, and if that's not staffed or guarded, then that wouldn't be allowed.

Bill Johnson: Okay. Because we actually had a kayak user and a rowboat with an electric motor over at Murrow that the constables had told them that they can't do it without the lifeguard there.

Jessica Dickins...: Yeah. And we don't think that lifeguards will be at Murrow Park this summer. Summers from now, that may change, if we can make that happen as well, because Murrow is shaping up to be very beautiful, and it once was, and we're taking a lot of pride and care into that facility, much more than it has been in the past, so we've got our eye on it. It's a beautiful piece of land.

Bill Johnson: Thank you.

Jessica Dickins...: Yeah, and it still could shape up into a beautiful beach.

Bill Johnson: [crosstalk 00:18:34]

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa, do you have anything for Jessica?

Phil DeRosa: I did have a lot of questions in the beginning, but she did a great job in answering most of them. The one question I do have. The occupancy on the beach that you have, and I know you may not remember the exact occupancy, does that include the shorefront and the water? That's number's combined?

Because I know not everybody that sits on the beach is in the water all the time, but I was just wondering, is it a combined number?

Jessica Dickins...: Yes. So that number, and I can later publish that, but I don't have that document right in front of me. But that does include that whole waterfront area. So as you know, the beach, the sandy part, is relatively small. That's why we did start with the 80 people. Because that was a comfortable number for us to start, especially with all those new procedures.

Jessica Dickins...: As we grow and offer more memberships, you're going to see that sandy part of the beach become more populated, which is also why it's important to us to open maybe that second side of the beach and expand with one more lifeguard so that people can space out.

Jessica Dickins...: But yes, the total capacity that we can currently have with our lake permit is 50 percent. So we can operate the rest of the summer with 50 percent of what would normally be our capacity.

Phil DeRosa: Yeah, as long as we could bring in some more help so you could open up that other half of the beach so that we could keep that six-foot distance, I would think. Thank you.

Jessica Dickins...: Great question, and I'm glad I answered your questions preemptively.

James Schmitt: Great job as always, Jess. It's always wonderful to hear from you and you're doing a wonderful job over there with that department, and you're doing the best that you can with the current situation. So we're very proud of you and we're happy to have you here a part of the team call.

Jessica Dickins...: Thank you. And we all are, we're all doing our best. So I thank everyone for being so supportive, and every department, this is so hard. It's so hard without lots of answers to lots of questions. And the public too, being patient with us and being supportive as they walk through the park with their masks, and if they can't social distance, I'm not telling you you have to wear one outdoors. But everybody's been wonderful and positive, so thank you for that.

James Schmitt: Excellent. Well, if that's all you have Jess, then I want to thank you for coming on. I don't want to keep you from your kiddies over there now you're at home. So thanks for the update. I hope the community got all the answers and questions that they were looking for, and we look forward to hopefully getting some more stuff going on in the park this summer as we move further away from this virus.

Jessica Dickins...: Absolutely, and make sure to check the website. We're constantly updating that, and our Facebook page as well. We're always happy to answers questions as you think of them.

James Schmitt: Great. Thanks a lot, Jess.

Coleen Snow: Thanks Jess.

Jessica Dickins...: You got it. Thanks guys.

Coleen Snow: Bye.

Phil DeRosa: Thank you.

James Schmitt: All right. Another great update from our recreational department. They work awfully hard over there, and with everything in the world going through stuff and dealing with this virus, boy, did it throw a wrench into their plans for the year. We came out with such an amazing year last year, one of the best ones we've ever had, and we had high aspirations for this year, and we'll make the most of it. So we'll be in good shape moving forward. I know we've got the right people in charge in that department for sure.

James Schmitt: All right. As we move on to the resolutions, before I get into those, we do have a few emails sent in from some residents, which I'll be happy to read into the minutes, and we'll go around the horn here with all of the board members, and everyone will have a chance to answer, and we'll try and get some questions answered for these folks as well.

James Schmitt: I'm going to start with the first email. The first email is from Kevin Gardner on Tracey Road. And it is, "Pawling Town Board, my question for this evening is about the full-time assessor position. As pointed out on social media this week, one option available to you is to outsource the assessor role to Dutchess County and eliminate this position entirely. The county would charge the town a nominal amount per parcel and the town would continue to have a board of assessment that would meet annually with Pawling taxpayers who are challenging their current assessment. This would have a \$60,000 a year plus salary, plus the cost for luxury health insurance, as well as retirement contributions and other perks that are available to the current full-time assessor.

James Schmitt: "Furthermore, the town of Pawling, just a few years ago, had a part-time assessor that was shared with two other towns, and a part-time assistant who was Bernadette, originally hired for just 17 hours per week. The town board has made this function too expensive, in Kevin's opinion, non-objective, as our assessor sits in the town hall where she can be influenced by other town employees to favor one taxpayer over another. Would you consider eliminating the full-time assessor position at this time?"

James Schmitt: I'm just going to answer this quickly and then I'm going to go around to all the board members and give them a chance to speak as well. For starters, one of the first things I got to mention is, I don't understand the non-objective or the

comment that is, she can be influenced by other town employees to favor one taxpayer over another.

James Schmitt: That's just an inappropriate comment. I almost wish it wasn't in there, because it's a great question from Kevin otherwise. But to assume that Bernadette would ever be influenced other than doing her job is wrong. She does a great job for that department, she does a great job with all our residents, and we're awfully lucky to have her in there, because assessors, they're tough to come across, and Bernadette's history has shown that she's learned a lot and she's grown a lot in that department, and I personally believe she's doing an amazing job there.

James Schmitt: But a few quick things for Kevin. So Kevin, for starters, no other town in Dutchess County contracts their assessors to the county, and the reason that no one else does that is quite frankly because Dutchess County does not offer that service. So you're just slightly misinformed, unfortunately on that issue. It does sound great, I am all for outsourcing as much as we possibly can to save our taxpayers money, but that service is not available through the county. And we did check in with the county today just to confirm it, and it was confirmed that not only is it not offered, but it's not something they're considering offering moving forward, because they are looking at some serious cuts from their financial burdens they receive from the COVID-19.

James Schmitt: I can tell you this. If that service does arise at some point in time, I'm sure we wouldn't be the only town who would be interested in it. Every town would love to have that ability, if they could. Another part of it is the salary and the healthcare that you mentioned. So I don't believe our assessor even takes the healthcare. So the luxury healthcare benefits you mentioned are currently not taken by our assessor.

James Schmitt: I would also like to point out that since I've been in office, now we're into our third year, in 2017 that department was budgeted at \$82,700. In 2018, it was budgeted at \$84,700. 2019, it was \$109,000. And that's when we had the part-time assessor that you mentioned, which is true, we had a shared service agreement. When he was there, we had Chris available to our residents on a Monday and a Friday, and we had a part-time assistant in there, which was Bernadette.

James Schmitt: We are currently only at \$80,200 for that department, and we also have full-time assessor coverage. We look on a daily basis to save money here, but the second most important thing for us is to look to increase services to our community. And we now currently have five days a week of a full-time assessor in the building, doing the entire department by herself, and we have five-day week covered.

James Schmitt: So we've cut the overall cost of that department, Kevin, from \$109,000 that it was previously down to \$80,200, and while doing that, we've went from two day a week assessor coverage to five day a week. So it's a huge win in my opinion, \$29,000 of savings, and increased the coverage to five days a week. It's

a good win for our community and makes the assessor available on a daily basis. I know she's very busy in there, she works well with all the residents, and I've heard nothing but positive feedback.

James Schmitt: So I hope that answers your question, Kevin. Thank you very much for emailing in. It is a great question. And about outsourcing, just at last month's meeting, I don't know if you were paying attention the last time we had the meeting, and we outsourced the billing department. And that was something we were really happy to do, it was something we'd been working on for a while, and we outsourced it, and for those very reasons. We were saving on retirement, we were saving on healthcare, and we had a real trained professional overseeing inspections, and we did the same thing with our attorneys. We went away from the full-time attorney position and outsourced that as well.

James Schmitt: So this board is not afraid to outsource when necessary. And we're always looking, but we appreciate your question. I hope these answers help you, and if you have any more questions, feel free to email the board. We'd be happy to hear from you. And I'll go around the board now as they come up on my screen, so Coleen, you would be first.

Coleen Snow: I guess a lot of the decision about the assessor was done before I joined the board, so I know one of my first... no, I'm sorry. I think I wasn't on the board yet when you had made the resolution for Bernadette. So I can't speak much on how everything came to be, but what I would like to address is a little bit that comes up with this and maybe some other questions is the issue around trust. And I too, James, I was struck by, there seems to be at least somebody, that maybe there are more, that thinks that favors are given if you work in town hall and you like somebody or you don't.

Coleen Snow: So I guess my only thought that I'd like to put out there, if there is in fact an issue more about trust with this board, those might be some specific questions, and then we'd be able to have a conversation about, what do you need to see from the board so that community members can trust us? So those are my comments on that first question.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Coleen. Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: I have no comments, other than, I echo your information.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman. Councilman DeRosa?

Phil DeRosa: Yeah, just a couple of quick comments. One, I echo 99 percent of your explanation. The only part, the one percent, is we didn't really outside the whole billing department. We brought in Gary to review the bill department, and Kelly still works with the town. So I just wanted to make that clear, when you said so, it kind of made like we outsourced the whole billing department.

Phil DeRosa: The second thing about Bernadette, runs that office but with standards, and schooling and training. And to think that just because someone is a friend, she would treat someone differently. She has standards. And to make those kind of comments, other than that, it was a great question. But to make those comments at the end, I think was unfair to the employees that we trust, and I have trust in, in our department that tries to service our residents so well.

James Schmitt: Thank you Councilman DeRosa. All right, so moving on, we have another comment email from John F. Haunch, Pawling. John didn't give us his address, it just says John F. Haunch, Pawling.

James Schmitt: Okay. So he had a previous question. In the past, we were taking questions through agenda items only. This week, we opened it up too and said, we'll take questions on agenda items and if folks had a comment, they could also leave it in the thread below our meeting on Facebook, they can comment there, or they can write in comments if they'd like us to just read them into the minutes, and we're going to do our best to answer all these for everybody as well.

James Schmitt: So I'll just read John's email right now. "Given the uncertain times before our community, I am concerned with the proposal mentioned in the last town board meeting to add positions, enforcement of rules at Lakeside Park. This is no time to be adding an expense, and certainly no time for additional employees. Given the likely fiscal problems of all government entities will face in the immediate future, it appears far more appropriate for the board to be examining what positions to cut rather than which positions to add.

James Schmitt: "In particular, is there a need for a part-time assistant for the town clerk? Is there a need to add a part-time assistant for the tax collector, a position which itself is part-time, when the job is seasonal, and I understand it to be assumed by the county in the middle of the year? Does the town need a full-time assessor when it has operated with a part-time assessor that is shared with two other towns just a year ago with a part-time assistant? Has the board considered whether Dutchess County can absorb the role of assessment, eliminating the need for assessor entirely? Does the town supervisor absolutely need a legislative assistant? Could that role be reduced to a part-time or replaced with a temp?

James Schmitt: "Is this not the time to be completely eliminating the extremely expensive health benefits for part-time elected officials? Does Pawling and Pawling Village really need three judges? Two of those judges get luxury healthcare benefits, paid 100 percent, but only work two days a month. It's now time to eliminate all bonuses for elected officials, including the \$4,700 bonus for non-extended healthcare. Isn't it time to also eliminate the \$4,000 bonus enjoyed by the town supervisor for attending one steward committee meeting a month? Thank you for your consideration of my questions."

James Schmitt: So I will answer John, and then I will be happy to go around to all the board members as well. So John, I see you have questions about the assessor. I hope

that you're listening and you were able to understand the breakdown for the assessor's office and what we do there. I think we covered that one already. I'm just going to highlight some of these as I go.

James Schmitt: I think the next one you asked about was... let me just see here in your email. The assessment, the county... oh, legislative assistant. The answer to that, John, is yes, we absolutely need our legislative assistant, and I believe that all of my board members will echo those same things. One thing I can tell you, John, is just working through this pandemic, we have conference calls multiple times a week and meetings, and I've been getting into town hall pretty much every single day, and even a few days on the weekends. We've been forced to work as limited staff, and those are rules that came down from the governor. But I can tell you this, our legislative assistant has been in the office every single day.

James Schmitt: And I get calls from residents, and concerns seven days a week, and I reach out to our legislative assistant seven days a week. Jessica is one of the hardest working people in that building, and I think she works incredibly, incredibly hard for this community and for this board. So that's a position that I don't think could be looked at.

James Schmitt: As far as the healthcare benefits, John, I know in the past, I don't know how involved you were in the past year, we eliminated the lifetime healthcare package in the past. And we also raised contributions to 30 percent on elected officials on this town board. So these are folks who are taking it are now paying, I think it works out to almost your entire paycheck, or even maybe a little more. So the contribution is the highest of any town around. I don't know of any towns off the top of my head that are paying more than 30 percent contribution to their healthcare.

James Schmitt: As far as the town and village needing three judges, John, there's something you and I can definitely agree on. I've been very vocal since I've come into office that the town and village need more shared services. I have said it over and over and over again, I've reached out to the village and the mayor, we went through a year-long process of trying to find a building inspector. I know at one point in time, they were looking for a building inspector. I spoke with them, I said, "Hey, let's merging the two building departments, and let's share a building inspector." Unfortunately I can't make the village do that.

James Schmitt: I'll tell you this. I am absolutely in favor of more shared services within this town. I know there is definitely too many overlapping layers. Multiple highway departments, there's no reason why we shouldn't be looking at those. And building departments, and if the judges are something that could happen too, John, I agree with you. This is something we should all be looking at, and it's something I've been saying since day one, and I'd be happy to talk to you more in the future about that. I think there's a lot of savings that could be had, and I at least look forward to putting a pencil to the paper and putting the numbers down, and seeing if there's savings there and what they would be. I think it's always good to do the study. It's always good to have the numbers in front of

you before you make a decision. So I do support your opinion in the shared services with the village.

James Schmitt: The next question you had was the bonuses. I think that number is wrong, John. I don't know exactly off the top of my head, but I know it's not \$4,700. So I'm not going to comment on the buyout for not taking healthcare. For one, the buyout's a great thing for the town, because it saves you a lot of money when people take the buyout rather than taking the healthcare package, but the number is not what you have here. But I will look to confirm it, and I'll make sure I get that back to you before the next town board meeting, or I have your email here. I'll email you the actual number, but I know it's not the number you have here.

James Schmitt: And as far as the \$4,000 stipend that I get, as previous supervisors got for being part of the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission. It's a bit more than one meeting a month, John. And the reason I say that is, I don't know if you've driven up 22 lately, but we are completing a 15 million dollar sewage treatment plan. It's a huge, huge infrastructure project that the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission is running, and I'm happy to be a part of it. I've learned a lot more lately about Pawling Sewer and everything that goes on with it in that process, so \$4,000 is what they pay us for the year for being involved, and we have a lot of meetings and a lot that goes on behind the scenes. It's much more than just the one meeting a month that you reference here.

James Schmitt: Like I said, that plant doesn't build itself, and the paperwork that goes along with it, and the approvals. It's a tough job. But I'm happy to do it, I actually really enjoy it, considering my professional background is in large infrastructure and construction. This is right up my alley being involved in a project like that. So it's a lot more fun than some of the other projects I'm involved in within the town.

James Schmitt: But John, I want to thank you for your email. A lot of great comments in there. I hope I was able to answer them for you. And I'm going to go around to the board as well now, and if any of them needs me to repeat any of the one questions, just let me know, I'll be happy to read it back to you. Starting with Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: I think just the only parts, I think James, you answered the question thoroughly. Is just to echo in regards to having Jessica go down to part-time. I'm able to come into the town with a new set of eyes, if you will, and especially during this time with the pandemic, there has just needed to be a lot of work, a lot of communication, a lot of her giving the board information as well from the conference calls, putting things on the website.

Coleen Snow: So I would agree that that cannot be, at this time, a part-time position. And those are my comments for that.

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

Bill Johnson: I just would like to, one, echo your comments, and two, not just Jessica, but Cathy and Cheryl, and Bernadette. All these people are working in extreme conditions, and they're all performing 110 percent. They're available to the community via email. They can call in. We all try and make ourselves available. And it'd certainly be a lot easier when we can all get back into walking in, saying hello, and sharing a cup of coffee, but I'm afraid that's a couple months away. But in the meantime, we're very fortunate to have the people that we do have.

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

Phil DeRosa: Excuse me. Yeah, just to echo the comments about the employees of the town, and Jessica and stuff. There's no way that Jessica can do the work that she does, even in the time that she puts in there now. She does so much stuff and keeps us onboard.

Phil DeRosa: And like Bill said, along with Cathy and the rest of the people that are in that office. So I echo those comments. On the extra help and stuff like that that they talked about for the park and stuff, the idea there behind that plan was to relieve some of that responsibility from the constables, so we can have maybe an unarmed presence up there at the park and the waterfront, and the constable's responsibilities are mostly in the court anymore, since the transfer station that we have the attendants and stuff, and these people would actually cost us less than the constables would be to help Jessica control the park, especially to this virus stuff. So I just wanted to make that clear.

Phil DeRosa: And as far as the buyout, as being someone that's taken the buyout, and I've purchased my own, I'm on Medicaid and I have a union supplement because I retired from my union for my health insurance, the number for the buyout is actually \$4,000. But by the time they take taxes out of it and stuff when you get it, it's actually below \$3,500, and it doesn't even cover the cost of my insurance that I have through Medicaid and my union supplement. So if I could just be clear on that.

Phil DeRosa: And that buyout hasn't been raised in I couldn't tell you how many years. It was lowered I think since I've been on the board, and the insurance goes up for all the other benefits every year. And that's one reason why we can't give raises to the regular employees, because our benefits keep going up. So just to make that buyout clear. That's all, thank you.

James Schmitt: Thank you Councilman DeRosa. John, I hope we were able to answer your question, and as we said earlier to Kevin and to other folks as well, feel free to reach back out if you need any further clarification, or if there's any other questions you have, we look forward to hearing from you and working with you moving forward as well.

James Schmitt: So we have a third question. This one was submitted in the past and then re-submitted again. This is from K. Krusko. I apologize if I mispronounce your

name. I think it's K. Krusko, who's also a resident of Tracey Road. And he writes into the board, "Dear sirs, madam. Due to the budget shots caused by COVID-19 and the damage and expense caused by looting in neighboring areas, what measures are being taken to streamline operating costs and rely on town staff?"

James Schmitt: "I had a related question for the meeting last month, but since there was no agenda item that aligned with my question, there was no response to it. The previous question follows below." His previous question was, "Please help me understand, the town employs eight part-time constables whose responsibilities at the transfer station were eliminated by the hiring of transfer station attendants three years ago. So now the town is seeking to keep the eight full-time constables whose current duty has been in the park security while adding four more or less new hires as part of security attendance. Is this correct?"

James Schmitt: "If correct, please explain why the part-time constables with reduced schedules now need to be augmented with new hires. Further, in time of the pandemic, when many have lost jobs and livelihoods, how can adding to the fiscal burden of the town be a good thing? In my opinion, this is not a good thing, and I urge no new hiring. Thank you for your attention to addressing this question."

James Schmitt: So Mr. Cresco, I don't know if you were in the meeting last month. But that was taken way out of context and out of proportion and I believe we addressed it. The town was never looking to add additional people, not without making a reduction in another area. And the reason why we started a discussion, and these are great questions, by the way, because the whole reason I think Councilman Johnson brought it up in discussion last month or two meetings ago now, was just to start the idea and get feedback from the community and get talking [inaudible 00:44:27].

James Schmitt: And our main goal in starting that conversation was, how do we get better coverage in the park? We're going to need better coverage with all this COVID-19 and social distancing that the governor's office is telling us we're going to be responsible for enforcing. And then while discussing that, we thought, "This is an opportunity to have enforcement that one, is not armed with firearms inside the park," and this is enforcement that could have a lesser dollar per hour cost to the community, and be focused only on the park, and as Councilman DeRosa, the council would be focused more on court issues and stuff, which is where their training and skills are really needed.

James Schmitt: So it was never an idea of adding additional staff and just continuing it. So I understand your concern with that, and I would have the same concern. But it was misrepresented, and if it was misspoke on our end, I apologize. I don't believe it was. But we have made no decisions just so you know on that matter at all, and before we do make a decision with new hires and whatnot of that caliber, we would absolutely have a full discussion with the community and the board and have it well-documented.

James Schmitt: But please know all these decisions we make, it's always with the two things I mentioned earlier. We make these decisions with thinking that, number one, is it going to fiscally be a positive impact on the community? And two, is it going to be increasing the service to the community? Those are the two real mitigating factors. How do we save money and how do we increase service? And those are the two things we look at, at least since I've been here.

James Schmitt: I want to address a couple other quick things for you, M. Krusko. I know with the looting in neighboring areas, all I can tell you is, we have constant contact with the sheriff's department and state police. I have it almost on a daily basis. When I get complaints of four-wheelers, ATVs, quads and road rage stuff. So I'm always in contact with both of our law enforcement agencies around here. And we work with them really, really well. In the past, we had a peaceful protest in the village, and we worked with the sheriff's department to make sure they were going to be there, and just to make sure it went off well and people were protected. And I think our sheriff did a great job having their presence there. And the state police were there as well.

James Schmitt: This Saturday, we're going to have another small peaceful protest that our seniors in high school are putting together, our Interact Club and our high school seniors. And we have worked with our local law enforcement agencies as well to have a heavy presence there, to make sure that everyone is allowed to express their First Amendment right and to march from Lakeside down to the gazebo. So we are taking the looting and all that stuff very seriously, and I've been working with the authorities, and like I said, the proper presence will be there to make sure everyone is given their time, which is wonderful.

James Schmitt: As far as streamlining operating costs, just some quick math here. After tonight's resolutions, Mr. Cresco, this board has made, after tonight's resolutions, we'll be \$421,978 in adjustments. And those are all preemptive adjustments. We're taking those because we take this COVID situation so serious. We do have constant phone calls with our county and our state representatives, and we do understand the potential financial burdens, which is why you see in the last few agendas drastic budget cuts, and to the tune of \$421,978. And you'll continue to see those moving forward from us until things level out, until we think we're in a really good place, and that's what we're doing, and that's what everyone puts us here to do.

James Schmitt: So I'm confident that we're making all the right decisions, and I just want to thank you, M. Krusko for your email, and I hope I was able to answer all your questions. If there's any additional questions, feel free to please reach out to myself and the board, and we'll be happy to answer for you moving forward, all right? I will go around starting with Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: James, I think you answered the question thoroughly. So I have nothing more to add, except I would just mention, in regards with the peaceful protest, I had stopped by last weekend, and I think the students, some of them were also college students too that have graduated from here, did a really remarkable job.

And I applaud them for that. And good for them too, that they're planning that again for this Saturday, and I'm glad that a few of us are going to be able to join them in that.

James Schmitt: Absolutely. It's nice to see everyone working together in getting something accomplished, and we are doing everything we can to make sure everyone's protected. We understand that there's a few bad apples that make a protest turn into a riot, and we're doing our best to make sure that never happens here. So thank you for that, Coleen.

Coleen Snow: You're welcome.

James Schmitt: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: All set, James, thank you.

James Schmitt: Thank you. Councilman DeRosa?

Phil DeRosa: Yeah, you've said everything. And I think I answered that gentleman's question before with the constables.

James Schmitt: That's true.

Phil DeRosa: Thank you.

James Schmitt: All right, thank you. So our last email, it's a little bit longer, and it's from one of my favorite residents, Helen Grasso. Helen, I haven't seen you in a while, so I hope you're doing well. I do appreciate all the good debates you and I have. We don't always agree on everything, but it's always a good healthy debate back and forth. So you come to every town board meeting so prepared, I'm not shocked that to answer you, I got two or three pages of stuff here to try and answer you back, because you have a lot of questions for us.

James Schmitt: So Helen writes in, "Dear town supervisor and town board, I have a question about Resolution 2020101, recently added to the agenda. My understanding is that the manager of the golf course, Sean Cunningham, is a full-time employee, and as such, receives full-time healthcare coverage of \$12,514 in 2019, and other benefits related to that status. Why is it that you will now pay overtime to a full-time employee who doesn't work full-time in the off season?"

James Schmitt: "Last July, I asked questions from Jessica Peterson," who is our legislative ad, in case anyone is wondering. "Who explained that he works 35 hours a week during the golf season, mid-March through November, so now you can expect he might be working 60 hours a week instead. Can you please explain what the flex time obligation is during the other three months, during the off season? What are his activities at the time and expected hours logged in the off season? What are the savings of \$7,000 you refer to in the resolution? If there is an

easement of the COVID-19 requirements from New York state and another employee will be working at the golf course, will this excess stipend then no longer be in effect? What is the amount of flex time that was accumulated in 2019, 2020 off season that presumably has been accounted for in your projection that you need to add more funds by early June? What happens to roll-over flex time that is not used in past years?

James Schmitt: "I would like very much to see a standalone budget for the golf course, revenues versus expenses, that accounts for the total cost for 2018, 2019, and expected for 2020. The town bookkeeper before..." Oh, that's misread. Before Jessica Peterson. Jessica wasn't the bookkeeper. Andrew Foreman was. "The town bookkeeper before Christine was not able to supply this information as requested in years past." So I hope I corrected some of those corrects for you there.

James Schmitt: All right, so Helen. We have a bunch of questions here. I'm going to do my best. Thanks a lot for writing in to us. I'm going to do my best to answer some of these for you. One, what happens to rollover flex time that is not used in past years? That's lost. So rollover flex time not used is lost. The \$7,000 of savings you refer to in the resolution. These \$7,000 of savings is because there's no other employees that are working in the building, which was budgeted for in the budget. That's why this is a savings, because we're not actually putting these other people in it. We're not putting them in strictly because of the restrictions due to COVID-19, and the amount of people in the building at a time, so Sean is now covering multiple tasks that would normally be handled by other people, and he's putting in long, long hours. So the savings is simply because we are paying him now to do all these extra duties and is still coming in less than what we would have originally budgeted for had we had the full staff in there.

James Schmitt: If there's an easement on the requirements happens, we will absolutely revisit this. We hope that does happen, I hope that the government lets us get completely back to work and get all of our staff in here and allows us to be functioning at our full capability like we would hope. If that happens, Helen, we will absolutely revisit this and it'll be right here during a board discussion again. Oh, and earlier, you said, I spoke to Jess Peterson last year. He explained he works 35 hours a week. I went back, I did pull that email from July 5th, 2019, and actually, what Jess said was, "The clubhouse manager is compensated with flex time due to the necessity that he works over the 35 hours a week." So it's not a 35-hour week. Flex time was extenuated because he was working over the 35 hours a week.

James Schmitt: You had another question here. Flex time obligation. Sean has 448 hours to make up his flex time requirements for the off season. He is at the golf course for an average of 47 hours per week during the season. With COVID, he has been at the golf course even more. All of Sean's hours are accounted for on his time sheets. We meet regularly with Sean, especially trying to get that place open. So we do have that information available if you would like.

James Schmitt: And then let me see. There was one more, I believe. The standalone budget, that's something that of course, if you'd like to work on that later and you're with us, Helen, I don't see any reason why as we get through this pandemic and get out of here, I'm sorry that you didn't get it from the previous bookkeeper. I can tell you our new bookkeeper is amazing. She's a really hardworking individual, and she does a great job in that department. So if this is something that we could pull together for you moving forward, we'll do our best to get it to you.

James Schmitt: So currently, Helen, currently Sean has accumulated 385 hours of flex time at this point, and that's through working all the extra hours at the course during this season, prepping the golf course and the clubhouse operations, membership work, updating the website payment systems, and various tasks in the off season. I'm excited to say that we have an online tee time booking coming very shortly, which is a project Sean has been working really hard on. I know people are going to love having that online ability made available to them, just another thing that Sean does for us.

James Schmitt: And it's no shocker to me that the golf course is in its second or third best consecutive years it's had in a long, long time, and those are all the years that Sean has been in charge, and it's another department that we've worked hard on in the last few years, and we're awful lucky to have him in there, and he's doing a wonderful job. So Helen, I hope I answered all of your questions. I'll go around to the board as well. If they need any of them repeated, I'm happy to repeat them. I know there's a bunch there, so it's hard to keep track of them all, but hopefully that helps you out Helen, and again, thanks a lot for the email. I hope you're doing well and I look forward to seeing you back in town hall and some of the board meetings. With that, Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: James, no other comments. I think you answered that beautifully, so thank you.

James Schmitt: Thank you. Councilman Johnson?

Bill Johnson: Yes, I would like to say that without Sean, the golf course would not be what the golf course is. Not only does he do that, if there's a penny under any rock, he finds it. He has also, on his own time, built benches that you'll see throughout the golf course and up at the park. The online scheduling allows people to actually pay ahead of time, which I think going forward may even save man hours, or perhaps not getting someone that comes in that goes golfing. This way, everyone pays, the tee times are a fabulous thing. And it's kudos to Sean, so the poor guy was working too much, and certainly, it's not even overtime at the rate that you're paying him. Certainly entitled to it and deserves it.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Yes. Being at the golf course this year, almost every weekday, I see Sean and the effort that he's put in there a lot. And you have to remember that because of

this virus stuff, and the amount of hours that he's putting in there. 10 hours a day and stuff. If we don't keep that golf course open and funding, the maintenance of that golf course, that's where the gold is, is in keeping the greens in good shape, and keeping the fairways in good shape.

Phil DeRosa: And we have to have money, and Sean is helping us to produce that money. So hopefully in another couple of weeks, a month or so, we could get some more employees back in there if they want to come back, because their court gives so much unemployment now, they may not want to come back. But just to help relieve him.

Phil DeRosa: But he's done an excellent job up there, and like Bill said, and you said, James, he's really helped us turn that golf course around the last three weeks, and Helen is right. I've been trying to get that same kind of document last year, the year before. So we got to actually see every single cost at every single revenue, where we stand with the golf course. I think that residents are going to be very surprised when we do get that. Thank you.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman DeRosa. All right. So those are the questions we had for this week. Again, I hope we were able to answer all of your questions. Thank you so much for being involved and sending those questions in to us, and we look forward to trying to answer as much as we can for everybody. I know we're working awfully hard with these budget adjustments and all the things we are doing. But it's all positivity and pushing forward and doing what's best for Pawling on a daily basis here, so again, I encourage anyone to feel free to email us in, let me know when you have some concerns, and we'll be happy to answer them to the best of our abilities.

James Schmitt: Okay, so we're going to move on to the resolutions. We'll do them one at a time. And bear with me one second here. So I'll make a motion for Resolution 99, which is the payment of bills for the town of Pawling. Can I get a second?

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: I'll do a roll call vote. Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: Supervisor Schmitt, aye. And Councilman McCarthy is absent. Resolution 100, appointment of motor vehicle operator. I apologize if I mispronounce your name. Mark Kisbaugh Mark is filling a vacancy. I don't want people to think we're adding additional employees. That is not what we're doing. We have a vacancy within the highway department, and I know they've been doing a good job interviewing and trying to get the proper help in there. Those guys are out there working really, really hard. On Ravine Road, we're getting ready to pave that road, and we budgeted for a lot of blacktop this year.

James Schmitt: We've made it a real issue for myself and our highway superintendent Jay Dickinson, to try to get as many roads done as we can, and they did a wonderful job last year. Some roads they did completely over. Other roads they did repairs on, and that is a department that is running on a skeleton crew. They could use all the help they could get. Unfortunately we're not in a point to add additional, but we are happy to fill the vacancy that they currently have, and that's what Resolution 100 is for, and I am happy to make that motion. If I can get a second.

Coleen Snow: Second.

Phil DeRosa: Second.

Bill Johnson: Second.

James Schmitt: Second, and Councilwoman Snow, I'll do a roll call vote. Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilwoman Snow?

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: And Councilman McCarthy is absent. Thank you very much. Resolution 2020101. This is the golf course stipend that was mentioned in one of the earlier emails from Helen Grasso. I don't think we need to go into a discussion on it. We addressed why we're paying this and where it's coming from. There is savings while doing this, so it's not just a stipend. This is funds that were budgeted for other positions, which due to the COVID-19 crisis, all the positions are not allowed to be in the building at the same time. This is to cover the golf course manager for all the work that he's doing covering those additional duties while there. And I'm happy to make this motion as well for Resolution 101 if I could get a second.

Phil DeRosa: I'll second.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa seconds. Roll call vote, Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: And Councilman McCarthy is absent. Thank you.

James Schmitt: Moving on. Okay. Resolution 2020102. This is budget amendments. Again, something we spoke about earlier in the meeting. Every month, we've had budget amendments on here, and we're going to continue to have as many as we can, and to prepare this town for any financial shortfalls that could potentially be upon us due to the COVID-19 crisis. Like I said earlier, after this resolution passes, we will be at \$421,978 in budget amendments. It's been through hard work through our bookkeeping department and myself and this board, and all of our department heads, honestly, for working with us and finding ways to save moving forward. So I'm happy to make this motion as well for Resolution 102, budget amendments. Could I have a second please?

Coleen Snow: Second for discussion James, if I could.

James Schmitt: Sure, go ahead.

Coleen Snow: Just going forward, possibly being able to have Christine, our bookkeeper, come to a meeting so she can better explain a lot of the monies and where it's going. So that would be something we would consider.

James Schmitt: That is a great question, Coleen. I know we spoke just briefly earlier today about it. We were actually hoping to have Christine on this meeting, and what we didn't realize is that the computer in her office is not Zoom ready, with camera and audio and whatnot. So we thought it was going to be easy, and Christine and I were working on stuff and she was typing up what she was going to work on and what I was going to work on, only to get to the end and realize we didn't have the ability to get her onto the Zoom meeting, because she doesn't have the computer set up at home with the camera as well, and she still uses an older computer she's had for a while, and it works well for her. She's never needed to video conference before. And believe it or not, she doesn't have the camera set up. There is no camera set up on her computer within town hall.

James Schmitt: But we have reached out to Sullivan Data, and Christine and I have been working on that with our IT people, because we do want to make her available

via these Zoom meetings to go into an in-depth conversation and real description if people really want to get into the meat and potatoes of the savings. So we're working hard to try and get that done, to have her here in the future. But I appreciate that, it's a great question you brought up, and hopefully that answers your question as well.

Coleen Snow: Yes, thank you.

James Schmitt: We'll go with a roll call vote. Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa?

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: Supervisor Schmitt, aye, and Councilman McCarthy is absent. The end of our resolutions. We're going to move right along into discussion amongst the board. I'm going to start with Councilman Johnson. Do you have anything for the board and for the community?

Bill Johnson: The only thing I could tell you is we got our water quality reports back on Water District 1 and 2. Everything is in order. So we're in good shape there.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman Johnson. Councilman DeRosa?

Phil DeRosa: Yeah. I have a couple of things. My first question is, did we get an answer from the Senator? On the last meeting, he was going to call your office on the funds of the grant money that was for the Whaley Lake dam, if that's going to be affected by the virus situation. Did we get an answer from him yet?

James Schmitt: So he was going to look into that more for us, but as of the last meeting, he didn't feel that any of our funding was going to be compromised due to COVID, because it was all capital-related stuff. He didn't think any of it was going to be affected.

Phil DeRosa: Yeah, I understand that, but I specifically asked them about the dam monies, the million-dollar grant, and he wasn't as sure about that part. The other part was, he said the capital parts were going to be kept. But he said he was going to follow up with an answer, and I was just wondering if he had called you, because I know you speak to him. I don't speak to him. That was my first answer on the dam question.

James Schmitt: No, we haven't had any discussion with him about that recently. He will be in town on Saturday with us at the peaceful protest march. So I know he's been very busy with the COVID thing in different communities and whatnot.

Phil DeRosa: Well I won't be there. If you could ask him about that specifically.

James Schmitt: Of course.

Phil DeRosa: I appreciate it. Second, on the lake, last week or two weeks ago, I got some calls from residents concerning the boat safety on Whaley Lake now that the lake is up to a good level, getting more, and the weather's warmer, we're getting more residents out there, and people were complaining that people were skiing without the life preservers, and they saw kids in boats without life preservers.

Phil DeRosa: So I reached out to Sheriff Anderson, as we all always do for help. And he jumped on it right away and had a detective call me about two hours later, and hour and a half later, and we set up a visit. They came out on Saturday, we got the marina open, and they did a tour, and they're going to be doing more tours, and they were educating the public with the pathways and stuff. So that was good.

Phil DeRosa: I also was down at the dam today to check the water level. The water level to me on the lake looks great. And I've been living here at the lake for 60 years, so the important thing I feel is what the water level's going to be in August when we get the heat of the summer and stuff.

Phil DeRosa: But the water is over the spillway, still the wooden spillway that we put in, by an inch and three quarters. And then the draw-down chamber, the wheel board, there's no water going over the top of the wheel board. The water is about a half an inch, or three quarters of an inch below the wheel board. So that's where we are with the dam right now, and the maintenance department was down there cutting back the swales and this and that this week. So it looks pretty good.

Phil DeRosa: I was talking to Kelly downstairs in our building department, and the virus has experienced some of the people with building permits with delays and building permits, and we're concerned about the expiration dates, and some of them that ran out, and if we could maybe extend those dates and stuff. And then I followed up with a conversation with Gary Beck, our new head of the building department gentleman, and he feels that maybe they could handle it case by case. So I just wanted to bring it up to the town board to see if they wanted them to handle it case by case, or set a policy where after maybe June 1, 2020, the building permits that were issued after that would be added a six-month time period, and any building permit that was issued the year before that expired after March 1st during the virus situation where contractors couldn't get out to their houses to fix it, maybe gains six months.

Phil DeRosa: So that's a discussion, and I don't expect an answer from the board members now, but let's think about it and see if you want to handle it formally, or just let them handle it downstairs.

Phil DeRosa: Also, to close out, I want to thank the town and the village merchants that support all the town and the organizations in the town and the village and stuff, for what they do for the residents of Pawling, and for the people for Pawling. And I want to single out the quick stop Henry, because a couple of weeks ago, I wasn't there when it arrived, [inaudible 01:10:28] but Henry contributed lunch to the people up at the town hall, and it's very much appreciated by me and the people up there, and I just want to thank all the residents, in particular Henry, for stepping up. Thank you.

James Schmitt: Thank you, Councilman DeRosa. And that's a great topic you brought up there about extending building permits for residents in [inaudible 01:10:59] due to COVID-19. It makes a lot of sense. People have been stopped, projects have been stopped, companies are closing up shop. Some companies weren't able to make it through this financial crisis. And it would be a shame if we were to end up charging these folks to extend their permit, and we will look at this, and we will definitely discuss it more publicly, but I think any building permits that were issued prior to that, we'll have to look at.

James Schmitt: It probably will be have to be somewhat on a case by case basis, or we'll block them into timelines, maybe, as to when they were issued, but like I said, it's a discussion for another day. But I think it's going to be a great discussion, and I thank you for bringing that up. That is a wonderful topic that I believe we will have to address. So thank you, Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Yeah. One day we'll get together with Gary and Kelly downstairs and sit down and maybe hash something out.

James Schmitt: You got it. Thank you. Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Thank you. Just a couple of things, just usual updates of the polling resource center. They're still working hard, and again, passing along from Terry and her staff, very appreciative that the minute items are posted on social media, they get them and more. So thanking the community for the continuous support for the polling resource center.

Coleen Snow: I think just a reminder, and James, you might be talking about that after, is the farmer's market. It starts this Saturday in the village, so I think a lot of people are excited for that. And lastly, although for our students, whether it be at TP, Mizzentop, Pawling, the Little Nursery School, Sunshine School, they certainly haven't had their moving up days as well as graduations the way one would think. But since we won't see the community via Zoom until after all the graduations, I will just say that for our seniors at Pawling, they are going to do a

virtual graduation at the drive-in, which should be fun. They're going to show the students the movie Grease and serve pizza afterwards.

Coleen Snow: So we feel as parents, but also the students, that was really nice that the district could do that. So on that note, just wishing whether they're students from TP, Pawling, Mizzentop, just congratulations to the classes of 2020, and we really applaud you for all you've been doing, and all this class is going to do. I have confidence this class is going to do a lot. So congratulations to all.

James Schmitt: Thank you for that, Councilwoman Snow. Lord knows these graduating seniors and everyone, they've dealt with more than we've anticipated in this year, and it's definitely been a good life lesson for them forever. They'll be the class that graduated during the COVID-19 crisis.

James Schmitt: I just have a few quick things as well. I mentioned it earlier. So our Interact Club and our high school senior graduating class is organizing a peaceful march this Saturday. It's going to start at 1:00 at Lakeside Park, and they're going to walk into the village to the gazebo. I know the farmer's market's going on, but it's stretched out at one. We're not going to leave Lakeside until one, so hopefully by the time we filter into the village, it won't be too much of a distraction. The farmer's market will already be wrapping up. But it's nice to see the young people get together and organize something, and another thing that our graduating class is doing.

James Schmitt: So definitely that's something that they thought they were going to be organizing as a group, but it's nice to see them pull it together, and we're sure to have our constables in, and I've made contact with the sheriff's department as well already, to make sure that we have proper authorities around us, and it'll be a nice event organized by a bunch of the young people from Pawling, and they'll be well protected, and they'll have the ability to express their rights.

James Schmitt: I wanted to mention quickly that we had our reopening yesterday for restaurants and a bunch of other businesses in Pawling. So I made sure I got out and said hello to Ben in Tap House and Sean over at O'Connors, and I know Fresh Huts opened up. I know that you can't tell, but I haven't gotten a haircut yet, so Sean knows I'm about to come in and see him soon, because this is the longest my hair has ever been in my entire life. So I'll be visiting that business in the very near future as well. But congratulations to all those who have reopened, and it was nice to see some friends and neighbors out there, and everyone just having a pop and having a conversation and then sitting next to somebody. It's nice to see. It's nice to have some form of normalcy coming back, and this morning, I was on the K104. But this morning, I got a hold of the wood man on K104 in the morning, and I had him give us a shout out as well, and he was talking about other places that are opening, where can you get food?

James Schmitt: And I said, hey, come give Pawling a chance. We've got a bunch of good places here and they're open and ready to go. So wood man and Bill Beale, a great friend of mine, gave us a nice shout out on the K104 radio show this morning. So

who knows? Maybe we'll get some more traffic into Pawling now because of that.

James Schmitt: So it's nice to see them opening up. [crosstalk 01:16:07] farmer's market this Saturday. That's going to be great, I can't wait to get that one opened and see that happening there. I know there was dialogue back and forth, Lakeside Park and the village, they were able to make it work. They also, unfortunately, have really strict social distancing guidelines. It's one of the things that I can't seem to understand that anybody can walk into Hannaford's and Acme and ShopRite, and get anything they want, but we have to have these crazy regulations on our farmer's market. You would hope that this time of year and with everything going on, you would encourage more outdoor shopping and more farmer's market stuff.

James Schmitt: Unfortunately our government has made it harder on our farmer's market, but we're lucky to have a nice village and plenty of room, and we have Diana Tomasetti, who has made her property available, Hudson Valley Plastics, and they've been so great a family to this town, to just open up to us whenever we need them, and I know the farmer's market needed that space, and it wasn't even a long conversation. They said if you need it, it's yours, and it's great to see that we have that ability, and those are the kind of business owners that Pawling is really, really blessed to have. We all get together and we work for the common goal, and it'll be nice to see that open and see some more folks out and about. We've all been locked up for a few months now.

James Schmitt: But it'll be good to see that farmer's market up and going, and the other stuff happening around town as well. That's all I had as well for the board. So if there's nothing else for anyone to add, I'm going to make a motion for adjournment.

Coleen Snow: Second.

James Schmitt: Seconded by Coleen. We'll do a roll call.

Phil DeRosa: [inaudible 01:17:40]

James Schmitt: Councilman Johnson.

Bill Johnson: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilwoman Snow.

Coleen Snow: Aye.

James Schmitt: Councilman DeRosa.

Phil DeRosa: Aye.

James Schmitt: And Supervisor Schmitt, aye. Councilman McCarthy is absent. Thank you all. Thanks for a great meeting. Anyone watching in from Pawling, thanks for watching in and checking out our meeting tonight. And we hope to be able to continue to bring them to you this way even as we open more, to give everybody the ability to watch them at home. Thanks and have a great night, everyone.

Coleen Snow: Have a good night.

Phil DeRosa: Good night.