



Schuyler Town Newsletter

TOWN OF SCHUYLER, HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK

JANUARY 2024

Vote

Special Election January 9, 2024
8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Schuyler Town Hall

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO LEASE CERTAIN TOWN PROPERTY TO BORALEX US DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR PROJECT TO BE PUT TO A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF SCHUYLER

This will be a 35-year lease of approximately 30 acres of 135 acres at the Bowie Road Town Park with overall revenue projected to be approximately \$3 million with a \$50,000.00 contribution toward parks.

*This will **not** impact the operation of picnic pavilion at Bowie Road or any town park facilities.*

Boralex has been present within the Town of Schuyler over the last two years and have contracted with numerous property owners. Currently the projected solar project borders the town park, which prompted the inquiry into this town park property.

Please see page 5 for further details and guidelines for voting.



Don't forget to submit birthdays at birthdays@townofschuyler.org or drop off form at Town Office.
See page 2 for details and entry form

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in Schuyler!!

On December 2nd the Schuyler Historical Society hosted a holiday program. See page 3 for additional details and pictures.





December Birthday of the Month

Congratulations to Theresa Mishlanie, whose Birthday is December 31st!



Schuyler Birthday Form

Birthday Person: _____

Birthdate: _____

Submitted By: _____

Phone/E-Mail Address: _____

Please drop off at Schuyler Town Office or e-mail to Birthdays@townofschuyler.org by the 15th of the month.

Submitted November Birthdays - Happy Birthday Everyone!

Emily Pavlus	December 7	Victor Costanza	December 9
Mary Jo Sanger	December 11	Concetta Pavlus	December 14
Alex Fisher	December 15	Donna Ryan	December 15
Mary Jane Costanza	December 27	Sal Barbero	December 29
Mike Amacher	December 30	Rebecca Dingman	December 31
Dominick Clemente	December 31		



Resident Request - Handy Person Wanted



Recently a resident inquired as to whether a program could be instituted, primarily for older citizens of the town. The suggestion was to have a sign-up sheet for teens or even retired adults who would be willing to help residents (possibly for a fee on the owner's part) with general chores around their home, such as mowing lawns, shoveling snow, painting, etc. The list would be maintained at the Town Office and would include the name, phone number, and days available to help.

If you are in need of such services or are willing to assist, please see Deputy Town Clerk Alvina Bord on Thursdays.



A Town of Schuyler Historical Society Hosted Holiday Event



Schuyler children Colton, Parker, Viviana, and Aiden enjoyed telling Santa and Mrs. Claus their Christmas wish lists at the Town of Schuyler Historical Society's Holiday Program on December 2, 2023.

Just before Santa's visit, children, parents and Society members learned the history of the Schuyler Volunteer Fire Company from Chief Walter Reska and Captain Scott Lange.

Congratulations to Lisa Lange, raffle winner of the gorgeous red metal poinsettia, handmade by member Rick Proulx.



Chief Walter Reska



Captain Scott Lange



Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be held one day only on the following date at

**Deerfield Elementary School:
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024**

To be eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2024, a child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2024 and must reside in the Whitesboro Central School District. You must bring: proof of age (birth certificate); and proof of residency: including *three (3)* of the following: National Grid, telephone bill, current NYS driver's license, oil/propane delivery bill, cable/internet bill, insurance bill, and/or paystub. Immunization records must be presented at the time of registration.

If you have a child who will be eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2024, or know of someone who has a child who will be eligible, please call Deerfield School at 315-266-3412 for a registration packet to be mailed out to you in January.



Newly Elected Officials Sworn In

At the December 13th Town Board Meeting, Hon. George Luther swore in the newly elected town officials.

Shown from left to right are:

Councilman Eric Kane, Highway Superintendent Philip Johnson, Town Supervisor Anthony Lucenti, Councilman Joseph Juliano, and Town Clerk Barbara Boulia..



GUIDELINES FOR VOTING AT JANUARY 9, 2024 SPECIAL ELECTION

(Guidelines established by Attorneys Costello, Cooney & Fearon)

TOWN OF SCHUYLER SPECIAL ELECTION INFORMATION REGARDING THE LEASE OF PROPERTY FOR SOLAR PROJECT

There will be a special election to determine whether the Town of Schuyler should lease certain Town property to Boralex US Development for the development of a solar project. More specifically, the Town property is located along Bowie Road and is more formally known as a portion of Tax Map No. 099.1-1-81.

This special election will take place on January 9, 2024. Voting will be open at the Town of Schuyler Town Hall, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, New York 13502 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Who is eligible to vote at this special election? Individuals who are:

- * 18 or over on January 9, 2024
- * A U.S. citizen on January 9, 2024
- * A resident of the Town of Schuyler for at least 30 days preceding January 9, 2024
- * Active voter registration list from Herkimer County Board of Elections will be available as will blank affidavits of residency

The Town previously adopted a resolution setting for the language of the proposition, which will be in substantially the following form:

“Shall the resolution adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler, County of Herkimer, on October 11, 2023, being a resolution to authorize the Town of Schuyler’s leasing of certain property within the Town of Schuyler located along Bowie Road (more formally known as a portion of Tax Map No. 099.1-1-81), pursuant to the terms agreed upon between Boralex US Development, LLC and the Town of Schuyler, be approved, thereby allowing for Boralex US Development, LLC, to lease said property from the Town of Schuyler for development of a solar project?”

For additional information or any questions you may have regarding this special election, please contact the Town of Schuyler Town Clerk.

Election results will be announced that evening at approximately 9:30 P.M. on Schuyler’s Facebook page ("Town of Schuyler") as well as Town of Schuyler webpage at www.townofschuyler.org.

Every vote counts!!





Schuyler Town Park

Boralex Diamond Project



Help determine if the Town of Schuyler should lease 30 acres of unused parkland to Boralex US Development for solar energy development.

- An inflationary rate of 1.5% is built into lease payments and the lease will have a decommissioning clause
- The Town Park on Bowie Road includes 30 acres of unused parkland and would be 22% of the 135-acre park
- The lease is \$3 million dollars over 35 years with an upfront contribution of \$50,000 by Boralex
- The Bowie Road picnic facility will not be affected and all snowmobile trails will remain open

Project benefits for residents include:

- \$3 million over 35 years
- An annual cost savings of \$16,000 in current mowing expenses
- An opportunity to renegotiate the current county PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) rate to obtain more monetary compensation for Town of Schuyler residents
- A \$50,000 upfront contribution to the town park fund
- A stream of revenue to further develop the Bob VanDusen Park, including a paved walking trail and new ball fields

January 9, 2024

SPECIAL ELECTION

Boralex Diamond Project

Schuyler Municipal Hall, 2090 Route 5

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Help determine if the Town of Schuyler should lease 30 acres of unused parkland to Boralex US Development.

Every Vote Counts!

A better park for a better future.

Town Board Meeting - December 13, 2023

**** Town Board Minutes Being Provided as Courtesy - Not Officially Approved ****

Council Members Present:

Supervisor Anthony J. Lucenti, Councilmen Rodney Dodge, Joe Juliano, Eric Kane, and Councilwoman Bette Szesny.

Supervisor Lucenti called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the people in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Swearing in of Elected Officials:

Judge George Luther swore in the elected officials of the Town of Schuyler, for the year 2024.

Minutes of November 8, 2023:

Motion by Szesny, second by Dodge to approve the minutes of November 8, 2023; all in favor.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Juliano, second by Dodge to approve the bills for the previous month to be paid as presented; all in favor.

Assessor Report by George Haskell:

Assessor George Haskell said they are working on the Town and County Tax bills, which should be going out shortly.

Codes Enforcement Officer Report by Philip Green:

Supervisor Lucenti said Phil was unable to attend the meeting.

Supervisor's Report:

Special Election on January 9th, 2024

Motion by Juliano, second by Szesny authorizing a Special Election on January 9th, 2024 regarding the leasing of 30 acres of the Town Park on Bowie Road for a Solar Farm; all in favor. It will be done by paper ballot and will be certified, by the Town Clerk.

Hiring of Peters & Associates for Accounting and Payroll Services

Supervisor Lucenti said he wanted to thank Jeffrey Hanretty for all the years of service. He said he and Barb interviewed three firms and have reached a decision to hire Peters & Associates. He said they hired them at a \$3,600.00 increase.

Motion by Dodge, second by Juliano to hire Peters & Associates for accounting and payroll services; all in favor.



Town Board Meeting - December 13, 2023 Cont'd.

Supervisor's Report cont'd.:

Resolution Mirabito Holdings

Supervisor Lucenti said he needs a motion to approve Mirabito Holdings project for two storage tanks, which the Planning Board approved, for Herkimer County IDA.

Motion by Dodge, second by Juliano, to approve the Mirabito Holdings project for two 30,000 gallon bulk propane tanks located in the Schuyler Business Park; all in favor.

Resolution I.D.A Business Park Reallotment Project

Supervisor Lucenti said the Herkimer County IDA needs a resolution regarding modification of the entrance of the IDA Business Park. He said they will have a traffic light and also landscaping.

Motion by Szesny, second by Dodge approving the Business Park Reallotment Project and authorizing the modification of the entrance of the Herkimer County IDA Park; all in favor.

Resolution NYS Retirement System

Town Clerk Barbara Boulia said she needs a resolution so it can be filed with New York State for elected and appointed officials. She said employers are required to pass a resolution for all paid elected and appointed officials.

Motion by Szesny, second by Dodge to pass a resolution regarding the paid elected and appointed officials; all in favor.

Reduce Planning Board from 2 Secretaries to 1 Secretary

Supervisor Lucenti said the Planning Board has two secretaries; he suggested to only have one. It was decided to have one secretary, Jeffery Dingman.

Organizational Meeting January 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

Christmas Bonuses

Motion by Kane, second by Juliano, authorizing a Christmas Bonus to all full-time help and two part-timers, in the amount of \$75.00; all in favor.

Office Building Holiday Party

Supervisor Lucenti said he would like the Town Board to pay for the Town's Office Workers party on December 22, 2023. He said Court revenues have increased.

End of Year Transfers

Supervisor Lucenti said he has given out the transfers in order to bring the budget in line.
Motion by Szesny, second by Juliano, to proceed with the transfers; all in favor.

Town Board Meeting - December 13, 2023 Cont'd.

End of Year Meeting - December 27, 2023

Supervisor Lucenti said we will have the end of the year meeting on December 27, 2023 to do the Fire Contract and also Glenski Property.

Association of Towns Representative from Town of Schuyler

Supervisor Lucenti said we have to send a representative to the Association of Towns Meeting in February. We have always authorized George Luther to be the representative

Motion by Dodge, second by Juliano, authorizing George Luther to represent the Town of Schuyler; all in favor.

Deputy Supervisor - Will Santa be Coming?

Deputy Supervisor Ron Beach said Santa will be coming around this year.

He said West Schuyler will be on Saturday, December 16th, 2023; East Schuyler will be Sunday, December 17th, 2023.

Highway Superintendent Report by Philip Johnson:

Superintendent of Highways Philip Johnson said it will be another year before we receive the new plow truck. He said they have a new Highway person and he is working out great.

Water Board Report by Bette Szesny:

Councilperson Bette Szesny said they have a meeting next Monday, and they will approve various projects.

Planning Board Report by Jeff Dingman:

Clerk to Supervisor Jeff Dingman aid the Planning Board will be lead agency on the Four Corners Project. He said they will consolidate land into one parcel. Buell Fuel will be a convenience store, similar to the one in Frankfort but without showers.

ZBA Meeting - Ron Beach:

ZBA Chairman Ron Beach said at the year end meeting they will approve minutes of last meetings and close out the year.

Resident Comment:

JoAnn Mammone asked if they needed a resolution for the Planning Board Secretary; she was advised it was not needed.

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Barbara J. Boulia



Planning Board Meeting - December 13, 2023

**** Planning Board Minutes Being Provided as Courtesy - Not Officially Approved ****

Planning Board Members Present:

Chairman Victor Costanza, Vice Chairman David Fusillo, Jean Finster, Michael Ritter, Dale Dodge, James Digristina, and Daniel Tripoli.

Also Present Were:

Town Supervisor Anthony Lucenti, Deputy Supervisor and ZBA Chairman Ron Beach, Alternate Planning Board Member Catherine Nimey, Codes Officer Phil Green, Secretary Jeffery Dingman, Councilmen Rodney Dodge and Joseph Juliano, Herkimer County IDA CEO John Piseck, Herkimer County IDA Attorney Anthony Hallak, Al Zangrilli, Joe DiNardo, Mark Durr, Richard Finster, Anthony J. Klimek, Joe DiNardo, John Dickan, Mike Lavelle, Craig Pauquette, Brian Demma, and Julia Aiello.

Chairman Costanza called the Planning Board meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Schuyler Town Offices, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY 13502 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Hearing - Four Corners Project:

The Four Corners Project public hearing was opened, and attorney Anthony Hallak described the project to purchase two parcels of land currently owned by the Juliano family and Digristina family, consolidate them into one parcel of land, and change zoning to all Planned Development. There is currently 400-foot portion zoned Commercial Highway, and this project seeks only to consolidate the properties and change zoning to Planned Development. This zoning would allow the Planning Board more control over the property.

Several questions were raised

Planning Board Member Dan Tripoli asked if the Mohawk Valley Water Authority had been notified, and was informed that there is no requirement to do so.

Resident Craig Pauquette asked for clarification as to Planned Development, and indicated if this were a residential housing project the town would benefit from taxes. A business park does not benefit the town and no one wants diesel trucks idling across the street from their house.

Resident Jason Aiello had concerns if notifying residents within 500 feet of the project is adequate and if there was a list of who was notified. Secretary Dingman provided Mr. Aiello with a copy of the residents notified which was generated by attorney Hallak's office and included in the application. Mr. Aiello then asked if this doesn't get re-zoned, what would happen, and who would be lead agency for the project for purposes of SEQR?

Resident Tony Klimek asked when did PD get adopted for this property? The last he knew it was RA. What is the current zoning? With a critical housing shortage, we are building warehouses that may be vacant in a few years. It should be a residential development project. Industrial Parks don't benefit the town.

Resident Julia Aiello stated these field need to be used for housing. There are only a few parcels for sale in the town, and she proceeded to list some examples. Ms. Aiello added that this town looks like a construction area when coming into town. Why can't we be like Deerfield or Whitestown? The corner looks like you're driving through a slum. Industrial Parks do not benefit the town – workers take their tax dollars elsewhere. It needs to be residential.

Planning Board Meeting - December 13, 2023

Resident Mike Lavelle asked why there is such a push for this to be consolidated? This should be residential and not box stores or warehouses. Mr. Lavelle feels that letters notifying residents should be sent registered mail, and added if zoning map hasn't been finalized, why are we moving forward now? People should have some say as to what happens in their backyards.

After hearing resident comments, Planning Board member Mike Ritter made a motion to become lead agency, which was seconded by Dale Dodge. James Digristina – aye, Jean Finster – aye, David Fusillo – aye, Victor Costanza – aye, Daniel Tripoli - no.

The Public Hearing was then closed by Chairman Costanza.

Schuyler Business Park Convenience Store:

Al Zangrilli of Zangrilli Engineering presented the Board with preliminary maps for a convenience store which is being slated for the current business park. This store will be similar to the Frankfort ADK store but will be less focused on truckers and will not have showers. There will be a drive-thru with gas, diesel, and electric vehicle charging stations. The Stormwater Prevention Plan has not been completed yet. When asked about completion, it was stated that they are hoping for April 2024. Secretary Dingman reminded the engineer that an application still needs to be submitted along with SEQR and related documents.

Minutes of November 1 2023:

A motion to approve the November 1, 2023 minutes was made by Dale Dodge, and seconded by Jean Finster; all in favor. Michael Ritter – aye, James Digristina – aye, Daniel Tripoli – aye, David Fusillo – aye, Victor Costanza – aye.

Additional Comments:

Herkimer IDA CEO John Piseck appreciates the support of the town and would like to clarify some comments made earlier this evening such as none of projects are tax free – they are in fact paying property taxes, with Pepsi being an example – they are at full assessment and did not take a PILOT. The IDA wants to help communities grow and would like to help with residential housing if the opportunity is available. We are looking to keep younger people here with new businesses, and will be looking at additional grants for sewer and water. A traffic light at the current business park will help slow down traffic for other businesses in the area.

Supervisor Lucenti indicated there is a Special Election that will be held on January 9th from 8 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. with regard to 30 acres of the 135-acre town park on Bowie Road that could be leased to Boralex Solar. The Town currently mows and maintains these 30 acres of land but it is very wet – so much so that ball parks are unable to use it. Boralex approached the Town as this land borders property that Boralex currently has a contract with a landowner. This would generate \$3 million dollars over 35 years, and if NYSERDA funding is granted, Boralex would contribute \$50,000.00 toward the Bob VanDusen Park on Wood Lane, and monies would be used to enhance the park with several improvements including walking trails, new ball fields, and would benefit future generations. If the vote is in favor of leasing the land at the Bowie Road Town Park, the current picnic pavilion, snowmobile trails, road would all remain and not be affected. If NYSERDA funding is approved, Boralex would seek 94-c status at which point the town would have no involvement other than holding a public hearing.

There being no further business to come before the Planning Board, a motion to close the meeting was made by Daniel Tripoli, with a second by Jean Finster; all in favor.

Submitted by Jeffery Dingman



Schuyler Town Newsletter



STANDARD
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Town and Court Clerk's Hours
Monday - Friday 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Mondays - 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Town Clerk: 315-733-7458

Court Clerk: 315-733-1093

Town Highway Department

Philip Johnson, Highway
Superintendent

Highway Garage: 315-733-7617
Cell Phone: 315-240-1485
highway@townofschuyler.org

**West Schuyler
Cemetery
Burial Plots
Available**

For further
information and
current pricing, please
call Earl Haman:

315-733-2920



Town Assessor - George Haskell

Thursday Evenings
5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
or by appointment

315-733-7458 ext. 225

Codes Enforcement Officer

Call Before Starting
ANY Building Project

Philip Green:
315-534-2232 (cell)

East Schuyler Miller Cemetery
Burial Sites Available

Winter Special until May 2024: Second Site Purchase for half-price: \$400
Please contact Harry Robbins, President: 315-269-0861




JOHN A. LAPOLLA
SCHUYLER VFW POST #8728
240 Wood Lane, Schuyler
Michael Collver, Commander


Social Hour at the VFW are held every Friday beginning at 3 P.M.!

Contact Gail Lesniak Moore for Facility Rentals: 315-794-5713