

## Central County News

### SCHODACK

## Town Board Meeting Revolved Around Community



Officer Ben Burnham, Chief Hourigan, and Burnham's wife, Erin, at his swearing-in ceremony. Photo by Denise Wright.

by Denise Wright

After the public hearing on Wednesday, May 26 for the Greendale Solar Farm on County Route 32, the Board claimed the lead agency status for the environmental review of the project. It approved Local Law #2 of 2021, which adopted an amendment for the Route 9 Business Park, which was previously owned by Donald Hart & Hartland Associates Inc. The final resolution of the evening was the swearing-in of Ben Burnham as a full-time police officer for the Town effective June 1. Burnham is a SUNYA graduate and has served nine years with the Albany Police Department. He has also served with Mohawk Ambulance, and Supervisor Harris noted Burnham's training with DWI cases, field training and scene management. Harris went on to say that his public service and work ethic made Burnham an excellent choice for the Schodack force.

Supervisor Harris gave a COVID-19 regulation update to the Board. He described the "long hard road." Appointments are required for department visits and masks are required for anyone not vaccinated within the building or at meetings. Harris said he

had fielded several questions about the Department of Motor Vehicles reopening their satellite office in Schodack. He reported that he talked with Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola and is developing a plan. According to Harris, Schodack would be the first satellite office to reopen, but Rensselaer county must coordinate an effective safety plan and staffing before the reopening can move forward.

The Rensselaer Land Trust received approval to handle trash removal and disposal for the approximately seven miles of the Albany Hudson Electric Trail. The Rensselaer Land Trust maintenance steward was authorized to utilize the transfer station to dispose of refuse the volunteers find on the trail. The Board will monitor the volume level and feel keeping the route clean is "part of being good neighbors."

Harris did review a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) about the Route 9 Corridor and Route 9 & 20 with the Board. He hopes to increase water and sewer infrastructure along this route to increase business opportunities along this route and hopefully stabilize residential taxes.

The Battisti Water district was a

topic of conversation. The Board is presently working on completing paperwork for the next grant cycle, which begins in July. They are currently getting letters from residents to add to the grant to demonstrate a need. The approximately 53 houses and families have been experiencing low pressure, and American Water is resolving it. The Town will be sending letters to residents about the process. The Supervisor has been working with residents and American Water to resolve issues swiftly. Harris assured the Board that "we are on top of it."

The Board also recognized Administrative Assistant Dawne Kelly for all of her hard work in supervising the roof project at the Town Hall. The Board appreciated her efforts and commended her for going beyond expectations. Kelly thanked them and reported that everything looked good, even after the last rainstorm.

A final presentation came from two Girl Scouts from Troop 1143, Emily Hilt and Lucy Lyons. For their Bronze award projects, they proposed to the Town adding a wheelchair swing at the Town Park. One of the young ladies has a disabled sister, which was the inspiration for this project. The Board members loved the idea because it would allow more accessibility for residents to use the park. They will be looking into using some of their park funding money to assist with this project. They commended the young ladies for their thoughtful aspirations.

### GRAFTON

## Buying A New Truck

by Doug La Rocque

At their monthly workshop/special meeting, the Grafton Town Board approved a resolution that has been discussed for at least two months: whether to replace a truck in the Highway Department fleet. On Monday, May 24, they decided unanimously to do so.

The International CV515 (truck and chassis) is being purchased from Delurey Sales and Service in Hoosick Falls for approximately \$60,000 with about \$20,000 needed for associated equipment. Highway Department Superintendent Jarod Bouchard has searched several other dealers, and this was the best price. The town did not need to put out a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) because the purchase was done under NYS bid. The exact delivery date is not yet known.

### BRUNSWICK

## Garden Day At The Library

The annual plant themed event is scheduled for Saturday, June 5 at the Brunswick Community Library on Brunswick Road (NYS Rt. 2) from 9 am to 1 pm.

The day will feature a plant sale along with a book and bake sale, gift items and a raffle.

Should you be hungry there is also a Pig Pit Chicken Meal Fundraiser, which includes chicken, two sides and soda. Pre-order at \$15 and tickets can be picked up at the library. Meal pick up time is 11 am to 1 pm.

### GRAFTON

## Run For The Roses

The yearly 5K, Nature Walk and Fun Run, is back on schedule this summer. The race to benefit the library is held at the Grafton Lakes State Park each year, where this year's event will also take place.

The race date is Sunday, August 8. *The Eastwick Press* will have more details in coming weeks.

*All Natural*

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