



Schuttrange Municipal Council Session of the Municipal Council of 26/02/2020

Present:

The mayor, Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger)
the aldermen, Claude MARSON (LSAP) and Serge THEIN (Schëtter Bierger),
the councillors, Gilles ALTMANN (CSV), Alie ALTMEISCH-BROEKMAN (Schëtter Bierger),
Vic BACK (Schëtter Bierger), Serge EICHER (DP), Nora FORGIARINI (Déi Gréng), Jean-
Pierre KAUFFMANN (DP), Liliane RIES-LEYDER (DP), Nicolas WELSCH (DP)

The Town Clerk, Alain DOHN

The mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) welcomed the attending councillors, the press and the residents to this second session of 2020.

The mayor then proceeded by reporting on the following topics/dates:

- 29/01/2020 Last meeting of the Municipal Council
- 30/01/2020 Meeting of the Council of Aldermen with the Transport Commission to discuss the sharp increase in traffic and parking problems – in order to develop suitable solutions, first an analysis of the utilisation of existing parking facilities in the municipality should be carried out with the transport planners.
- 02-07/02/2020 Ski holidays for primary school children made possible by the municipality were a great experience for the participating children and Mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) expressed special thanks to the accompanying teaching staff.
- 04/02/2020 Meeting with the president of SIAS (Syndicat intercommunal à vocation multiple [Intermunicipal association with multiple vocations]) on reconstructing the recycling centre the municipality workshop and on constructing the new CGDIS (Luxembourg fire and rescue services) operations centre. An analysis has confirmed that, in principle, all functions can be implemented on the site on the basis of the data submitted by SIAS, CGDIS and the Technical Service, so that planning may start with Schuttrange Municipality as principal, with SIAS bearing the cost of building the recycling centre and Niederanven Municipality taking care of part of the fire station.
- 05/02/2020 Meeting of the Councils of Aldermen of the four SIAS partner municipalities.
- 06/02/2020 Meeting with the Building Committee. Its proposals and comments have been integrated in the new building regulations that have been sent to the Municipal Council. After a working session on 4 March, the building regulations are set to be approved on 11 March during an extraordinary meeting, after which they will be sent to the Ministry of the Interior, which will have 30 days to respond. The objective is that the building regulations, the zoning plan and the PAP “Quartier existant” will all come into force at the same time.

- 10/02/2020 Coordination meeting with the City of Luxembourg on closer cooperation between the municipalities, inter alia in respect of expanding the bicycle rental system (see below).
- 11/02/2020 Meeting of the Steering Committee of the communal integration plan that has been implemented in coordination with Niederanven Municipality. A final version of the plan will soon be submitted to the Municipal Council.
- 13/02/2020 A meeting organised by SIAS and EBL (independent environmental consultation organisation) for the protection of pollinating insects was a great success.
- 24/02/2020 Regular exchanges with the Entente des Parc d'activités Syrdall, inter alia, for signposting the cycle and pedestrian path between Schuttrange and Niederanven, which can begin to be implemented once permission has been granted for removing the hedges.
- 27/02/2020 Official presentation of the Requirements Specification for the town planning competition for redesigning the town centre, to which every inhabitant of the municipality was invited. The suggestions of the participants in the workshops and of the Municipal Council have been incorporated in the Requirements Specification, which is now set to be approved definitively at the extraordinary meeting of 11 March 2020, so that the competition can begin.
- 29/02/2020 Traditional bonfires to say farewell to Winter.
- 04/03/2020 Working session on the building regulations.
- 06/03/2020 Cabaret, organised by the Culture Committee.
- 07/03/2020 Tree planting campaign in the Parc d'activités Syrdall.
- 11/03/2020 Extraordinary meeting of the Municipal Council on the building regulations and the Requirements Specification for the town planning competition.
- 17/03/2020 Award ceremony for deserving students.
- 25/03/2020 Next meeting of the Municipal Council.

The mayor, Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) also reported on the numerous responses prompted by the problems with dogs that were discussed at the meeting of the Municipal Council of 29 January 2020. The company "Dogwalker" and other professional dog walkers had emphasised that they had to abide by specific regulations, for example that there was a limit on the number of dogs walking loose respectively on the number of dogs that could be walked at a single time and that they would do the walking at places that were not very crowded, in order to avoid trouble. He suggested asking the handler when someone is found with a larger number of unleashed dogs. In the fight against dog excrement, a guideline is under preparation, which should raise awareness and encourage consideration and also inform about the risks of dog excrement to farm animals.

According to press reports on possible partial demolition of the prison in Schrassig after commissioning the penitentiary facility in Sassenheim Municipality, the ministry confirmed, upon being asked about it by mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger), that the long-term aim is to reconstruct the prison in Schrassig after analysing the structural fabric, but that it will not be completely demolished.

Another positive aspect is that EUR 18.5 million worth of trade tax became payable within Schuttrange Municipality, of which normally 35 % or EUR 6.5 million would

benefit the municipality itself. However, because of the cap introduced in the new law, the municipality will merely be left with the average for the country multiplied by the number of inhabitants, so that a mere EUR 2.7 million will remain of the EUR 18.5 million. It should be borne in mind that the municipality provides over 4,000 jobs, incurs considerable costs in view of the industrial estate, is currently implementing a mobility concept and has to maintain the roads, etc. Like other municipalities, Schuttrange Municipalities is of the opinion that the current distribution of trade tax ought to be thought through once more and it intends to discuss this situation with the minister of the Interior. Finally, mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) put it to us that Schuttrange Municipality might actually be happy about such equalisation, if it should itself be in a less comfortable financial situation.

In closing, mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) informed about the notification that was received on the reorganisation of the RGTR (general road traffic system). As already reported at the last meeting, it was confirmed that bus route 323 would run directly from the industrial estate via the motorway and that, as an alternative, route 324 would run via Niederaanven to Kirchberg. After extension of the route, the line from Neuhaeusgen would ply the route Munsbach, Neuhaeusgen, Sandweiler, Findel at relative short intervals. For the main part, it meets the requirements of the municipality and good changing possibilities to train and bus have been firmly promised. Schuttrange Municipality will coordinate transportation for the information event planned for 30 March in Hesperingen.

Alderman Claude MARSON (LSAP) added:

- Report on a meeting of the City of Luxembourg held on 10 February 2020 about possible expansion of the bicycle rental system:
The City of Luxembourg is willing to expand its bicycle network to neighbouring municipalities, on the terms and conditions of its prevailing 10-year agreement with a private company. However, there are some organisational problems, such as the long distance to the nearest station from the intended, though manned, collection station and the redistribution of bicycles by the company responsible for the operation and transportation of the rental bicycles. After resolving such problems for the interested municipalities, Schuttrange Municipality would be able to go along with extending the network of bicycle paths to Niederaanven.
- Report from a meeting held on 12 February 2020 on the official candidacy of Schuttrange Municipality for obtaining certification as “Fairtrade community”:
After many years of activities for fair trade, an application for obtaining certification was made. On 12 February 2020, a local committee was set up for meeting one of the certification criteria, with Pierre Kalmes, Patrick Schlim, Danielle Wolff, all from the climate team, Nathalie Hellers as school representative as well as Caroline Marx and Anouk Greis as representatives of the Maison Relais and aldermen Claude MARSON (LSAP) and Daniel Flies from Schuttrange Municipality for taking care of the administration. As shown by Valérie Murat, responsible for the Fairtrade communities, in her presentation, the objective of a fairer organisation of international trade is that fair prices must be paid for products, child labour must be prevented, the production process must be on correct working and trading conditions with appropriate remuneration, small farmers and businesses must be supported and poverty must

be eradicated. A Fairtrade community is expected to sensitise and motivate the hospitality industry, retail trade and all other points of sale, and to offer products emanating from fair trade. Schuttrange Municipality has already taken some first measures in this regard.

In conclusion, alderman Claude MARSON (LSAP) briefly reported on a meeting held by the climate team on 25 February 2020, where the emphasis was on the action plan (see below).

Councillor Serge THEIN (Schëtter Bierger) added:

- 196th committee meeting of the Intercommunal Syndicate on IT Management (SIGI) on 11 February 2020:

In addition to staffing matters discussed in a closed-door session, the five-year financial plan (PPF) was discussed, with emphasis on the data centre, staff progression or the prevailing 44 products of the GESCOM (commercial activities management) programme, as well as GESCOM PLUS and digitisation of the payroll. Discussions ensued, because directors had not presented reports of the SIGI committee to the Board of Directors. The SIGI contributions per inhabitant will increase moderately progressively from EUR 27.70 (2020) to EUR 31.60 (2023). Functional difficulties in the messaging service SMS-to-Citizen, offered by the municipal syndicate SIGI, which were mentioned by Schuttrange Municipality, must be reported to representatives of the municipality.

Councillor Nora FORGIARINI (Déi Gréng) further added:

- Report on the meeting of the SIAS committee of 6 February 2020, including, inter alia, the following items/information:

According to information from the SIAS president, the budget for 2020 was unreservedly approved by the Ministry of the Interior. For the “Woody undergrowth removal” and “Orchards” (Bongerten) projects, the first tranches of 2019 funds have been received. After selection from eight received applications, the top position at the Biological Station has gone to Mr Nick Heiter from Oberanven. On 5 March 2020, the board committee analysed the applications for the post of “Animateur de l’eau” (water coordinator), advertised after approval from the ministry. During the transition stage, Schuttrange Municipality will take care of those activities, with costs to be settled later. Because the costs of the measures in conjunction with the “Animateur de l’eau” will be defrayed by the State for up to 75 % only, for the remainder of the costs an extraordinary loan must be approved at the next meeting of the SIAS board, if the staffing costs of the position must be fully borne. Within the framework of approving the new SIAS statutes, the municipalities of Hesperingen, Lenningen, Biwer have acceded as full members, even without a convention. The membership applications of the municipalities of Betzdorf, Biwer, Bous, Dalheim, Flaxweiler, Frisange, Grevenmacher, Hesperingen, Junglinster, Lenningen, Manternach, Mondorf, Remisch, Schengen, Stadtbredimus, Waldbredimus, Weiler-la-Tour and Wormeldange have been approved unanimously. Inter alia, the event of the ‘Day of the Tree’ on 29 February 2020 in Flaxweiler was remembered. In a closed-door session, Mr Jean-Paul Roeder from Sandweiler Municipality was designated a member of the SIAS board committee, following the resignation of Mrs Massard-Stitz.

- Report on the meeting of the administrative board of CIGR (Centre d'Initiative et de

Gestion Régional [Initiative and Regional Administration Centre]) of 3 February 2020, including, inter alia, the following items/information:

During the audit of renovation work it came to light that the building project was started wrongly and without suitable planning, which resulted in the need for a structural analysis at the expense of the building company and it led to additional costs for repair work. Although it was established that the CIGR had not acted wrongly, errors occurred, which must be avoided in future. For example, for renovations, 70 % must be added to the EUR 500 per square meter to be calculated for new constructions.

As already reported in the media, the criminal proceedings instigated against the general coordinator of the CIGR have been dismissed. The administrative investigation, during the course of which several CIGR staff have been heard, is still under way. The CIGR has stated that it has full confidence in the judicial authorities and it is awaiting the conclusions of the investigating magistrate. The Ministry of the Interior has ordered a financial audit to investigate the use of public funds and to look into the decision-making structures of all CIGRs in the country. Although Contern Municipality has signed the convention with the CIGR, it will withdraw on 1 September 2020, whilst honouring the notice period.

The agenda items were then dealt with as follows:

1 Climate Pact

1.1 Presentation of the “Climate Pact” action programme

On the basis of a climate pact audit conducted in 2019, Environmental and Energy Officer Daniel Flies of the municipality made a presentation on the climate pact activities of Schuttrange Municipality during the past several years, which was broken down into six themes. As far as the total amount is concerned, Schuttrange reached almost 65 %, after 60 % during the audit of 2015. Whilst sheer passivity after an audit leads to erosion of found values, the measures that have been taken have merely impacted improvement to an immaterial extent, according to Daniel Flies.

In terms of the Climate Pact action plan 2020, Daniel Flies refers to the model adopted by the Municipal Council in 2015 with the targets for 2020 (compared to 2013): Deriving 15 % of the electricity in the municipality respectively 5 % of the heat generated or consumed here from renewable energy, reduction of overall energy consumption by 2 % of the electricity and by 8 % of the heat. Reduction in CO₂ emissions by 14 % in 2020 (compared to 2013). The basis for orientation consisted of the national targets respectively measurability indicators (inter alia imports, exports, energy and products), with the consequence that the selected performance indicators were not sufficiently meaningful and measurable and could not be sufficiently well influenced by indicators at the local level. In this respect, the new targets for 2030 should be measurable at the local level and better controllable by the municipal administration. Indicators such as the per capita water consumption controllable via municipal taxes, the energy/CO₂ consumption of municipal buildings, the energy-saving share of public lighting, the consumption of the municipal vehicle fleet, etc., could be perhaps be used as indicators.

For a “Golden status” Climate pact (implementation of 75 % of the possible measures) transition from a one-cycle to a multi-year basis would be necessary. In terms of procedure, a proposal of new targets should be presented in April-May 2020 for discussion with the Municipal Council and the climate team, followed by measures that will then be discussed in workshops with municipal staff, the climate team, committees, associations, lobby groups, companies, etc., the results of which must then be incorporated into a modified proposal that should be approved early 2021 and should be implemented respectively monitored by the climate team. It must be taken into consideration that the current climate pact will expire at the end of 2020, which should, however, be replaced by a Climate Pact 2.0 during the stage from 2021 to 2030. In order to allow for further developments to be incorporated at an early stage, information from the ministry is being awaited, which will involve the municipalities once their details have become clear.

Councillor Nicolas WELSCH (DP) expressed his disappointment at the lack of measuring success and that no proof of the efficiency of all efforts made with regard to CO₂ emissions is possible. Mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) confirmed the enormous difficulties in obtaining data from energy suppliers, also because support from the State is lacking. Since then, there has been a definite rethinking in terms of climate protection. Daniel Flies remarked that measuring electricity consumption could indeed be conceivable, although currently only one of the electricity suppliers provides data to the municipality, however not for heat or CO₂ consumption. Alderman Claude MARSON (LSAP) pointed out that data from different electricity suppliers, even if available, would not necessarily be coherent and meaningful. Perhaps one had been somewhat naïve in 2015, but in any case, CO₂ emissions could be measured at national level but not at local level, so that other qualitative measurement criteria must be defined.

Following this, Marc Thiel from the SIAS Biological Station presented the following projects that are currently under way in Schuttrange Municipality:

Biodiversity programmes by concluding biodiversity agreements with 11 participating farmers for ecologically valuable agricultural land (around 100 hectares, mainly meadows, year-round grazing land and pure pasture land) with advice and support from SIAS when lodging the application, a biodiversity enhancement programme in conjunction with the Service Technique of the municipality for greenery, verges and brooks. – SIAS would also like to make such an agreement with private owners of greenery, it would like to see proposals for attaching specially made nesting boxes for endangered species of birds to public buildings, and it would like to consider the possibility of arranging for a walnut tree to be planted upon the birth of a child.

The new, larger projects in 2020 comprise the woody undergrowth cutting in 15 hectares of previously species-rich meadows over a period of five years with a budget of EUR 500 million, the creation of a biotope network with richly structured trees and hedges and in continuation of the “Orchards” project, the planting of 8,000 fruit trees with a budget of EUR 2.5 million. Of the total budget for SIAS services of EUR 88,000, EUR 64,000 is financed from state subsidies, so that a share of EUR 24,000 remains to be financed by Schuttrange Municipality. State

subsidies are available for municipalities that buy land and dedicate it exclusively to nature conservation. In closing, Marc Thiel informed about the change in statutes of SIAS.

Mayor, Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) thanked Daniel Flies and Marc Thiel for their presentations.

2 Infrastructure

2.1 Approval of a purchase agreement for the acquisition of a property in Schuttrange, rue du Village

The preliminary purchase agreement approved at the Municipal Council meeting of 23 October 2019 in respect of two plots measuring 18.75 ares in total at 12, Rue du Village, for a total price of EUR 1,050,000, has been definitively signed on 21 February 2020. The owner may remain in the house for six months, whilst the period can be extended by convention, when needed.

> Approval was unanimous.

2.2 Approval of a cost estimate for pre-financing the costs of agricultural consultation within the framework of implementing regional measures for the protection of source preservation areas in the municipalities of Contern, Hesperingen and Schuttrange, in SEBES, the City of Luxembourg and in the municipality of Weiler-la-Tour

On 24 April 2019, the Municipal Council resolved to advance the costs associated with implementing the source preservation area and to pass the remaining costs proportionally on to all actors, after the State will have settled the subsidies with SIAS. A sufficient amount has been set aside in the budget. Of the estimated costs for the agricultural consultation programme of EUR 213,306, EUR 132,220 will be paid by the Ministry of Agriculture respectively of the remaining EUR 81,086 to be advanced, EUR 60,874 will be defrayed by the Water Fund, so that, ultimately, an amount of EUR 20,412 will have to be borne by the municipalities. When asked by councillor Nicolas WELSCH (DP), who welcomes the cooperation between the municipalities, alderman Claude MARSON (LSAP) explained that the programme of measures to be drawn up as stipulated in the Water Act, involves voluntary actions that go beyond the mandatory measures prescribed in the Protection Zones Ordinance of 2018. In order to protect drinking water and improve its quality, it will be necessary, inter alia, to bring about step by step sensitisation for conversion to sustainable, ecological agricultural management and economic aspects must be considered. Mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) confirmed that all water sources are strictly controlled for nitrate and pesticide pollution, as is the drinking water at particular places. By means of mixing in the mixing plant, for example with water from de SEBES source, it is ensured that the supplied drinking water will be below the threshold values. As proposed by the representatives of the DP Group, the suggestion should be pursued that the drinking water in the pipe should also be checked for pesticides, with the findings to be published as proof that the values are not exceeded.

> Approval was unanimous.

2.3 Approval of a cost estimate for work on the sewers in the Rue Principale in Munsbach

Various kinds of infrastructure work are planned in the Munsbach High Street: infrastructure work to be carried out within the framework of the PAP “Plan d'Aménagement Particulier” (Special Development Plan) “Um Klapp” (including for diverting pipes and a surface water channel), building a new rainwater reservoir by SIDEEST (Syndicat intercommunal de dépollution des eaux [Intercommunal organisation for controlling water pollution]) and renewing two sewers of the municipality, including linking to the new rainwater reservoir. Building the rainwater reservoir will be pre-financed by SIDEEST and the work on the sewers will be settled afterwards with the municipality. The cost to the municipality is EUR 163,240.

> Approval was unanimous.

2.4 Approval of a cost estimate for additional equipment in the Cultural Centre

The cost estimate for 300 chairs with sustainability certificate, tables for the music room, seven bar stools, 35 stage elements for heavy-duty shelves amounts to EUR 70,000 in total.

> Approval was unanimous.

3 Fire and Rescue Corps

3.1 Approval of a convention on the provision of buildings for housing a fire and rescue centre, in conjunction with creating the new CGDIS

In terms of the background of the transfer of municipal services to CGDIS, alderman Clause MARSON (LSAP) explained that since CGDIS was established on 1 July 2018, the municipality has advanced the costs, for subsequent settlement. On the basis of taking stock of all areas in the building that meet the standards, the convention for maintenance costs and a functionality fee were calculated, which are based on the value of the building, with depreciation over 25 years. For the first half of 2018, EUR 16,156 were estimated and for the years from 2019 to 2029, EUR 32,312 per year; for the following 10 years from 2030 onwards, an amount of EUR 23,034 has been estimated. In case of reconstruction of both of the buildings of the Fire and Rescue Service in Schuttrange and Niederanven, the convention will be amended. The agreement adjusted on the basis of the standard convention of CGDIS has already been approved by the Administrative Board of CGDIS and must, after approval by Schuttrange Municipality, still be approved by the Ministry.

In answer to a question by Jean-Pierre KAUFFMANN (DP), alderman Clause MARSON (LSAP) confirmed that the kitchen may always be used by the “Amicale” of the CIS (Centre d'incendie et de secours [Fire and rescue centre]) Niederanven-Schuttrange, because the Asbl (Association sans but lucratif [Association without lucrative purpose]) has also contributed money from its own resources. In view of the continued good cooperation, the Municipality is also willing to help out with repairs and remediation of faults, which can be settled with CGDIS. Until further notice, Schuttrange Municipality will continue to make two

staff available on stand-by duty during working hours, for the municipalities of Niederanven and Schuttrange. In the event of large-scale operations, other staff members can of course also be called upon, if they volunteer their services in CGDIS.

> Approval was unanimous.

3.2 Approval of a convention on the transfer of tangible assets in connection with the creation of the new CGDIS

As laid down in the preceding point on using the buildings for CGDIS, stock was taken of the material taken over from CGDIS, which was recorded in a log. The stock consists mainly of vehicles, with one exception, and of equipment; object with a value of less than EUR 2,500 were not recorded, because they will pass automatically to the ownership of CGDIS.

> Approval was unanimous.

Before the following item on the agenda was discussed, councillor Alie ALTMEISCH-BROEKMAN (Schëtter Bierger) left the meeting.

4 Right of First Refusal

4.1 Decision on exercising a right of first refusal in respect of a plot of land in Uebersyren, "Auf dem Rohtert" district

The right of first refusal is in respect of a plot of land next to the sewage treatment plant, measuring 73.91 ares, with a purchase price of EUR 15,000/are, meaning EUR 1,108,000 in total.

Within the framework of expanding the sewage treatment plant in Uebersyren, SIDEST is attempting to acquire all the surrounding plots.

Because of its location in a "Aménagement différé" area, the municipality possesses a right of first refusal, which the aldermen propose to waive in favour of purchasing by SIDEST.

> The Municipal Council unanimously waived its right of exercising the right of first refusal on the plot of land in Uebersyren, "Auf dem Rohtert" district.

5 Social Matters

5.1 Approval of the convention of 2020, regulating the cooperation with the "CIGR – Centre d'Initiative et de Gestion Régional Syrdall a.s.b.l."

In addition to the version approved in 2019, the convention of 2020 contains an additional service "Femme de ménage" (charwoman) for people over the age of 60, in view of existing needs. Schuttrange Municipality will only have to bear the costs of services actually rendered within the municipality. Contrary to the convention with "Aarbechtshëllef a.s.b.l." (Work aid), the model with the CIGR requires membership of the A.s.b.l. In respect of the documents demanded by the DP Group, mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) explained that for privacy reasons, disclosure to individual municipal members, in their capacity of mem-

bers of the administrative board, of minutes of CIGR Administrative Board meetings is not possible, which, however, must be analysed in further detail. The annual accounts for 2018 would be made available, as would the listing of work carried out by CIGR teams. He dismissed fear that the withdrawal of Contern would lead to additional costs for Schuttrange Municipality, because no obligations beyond those stipulated in the convention at hand can be imposed without approval by the Municipal Council. However, one will remain alert until the results of the audit by the Ministry of the Interior will be available (see above). In conclusion, mayor Jean-Paul JOST (Schëtter Bierger) emphasised that the municipal foreman is highly satisfied with the support of the Environment/Forestry Service of the CIGR.

> Approval was unanimous.

Before the following item on the agenda was discussed, Vic BACK (Schëtter Bierger) left the meeting.

6 Staffing Matters

6.1 Approval of shortening the probation period of a municipal employee

The request of a municipal Career D employee, who was employed in January 2019, to have his probation period reduced by one year was approved, in view of substantiation of comparability of his previous and current activities within the Municipality.

7 There were no written questions of councillors.