

**TOWN OF CHATHAM  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
February 16, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the Town of Chatham Town Board was held on February 16, 2012 at the town hall.

**PRESENT:** Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Jean Rohde, Councilman Henry Swartz, Councilman Bob Balcom, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea and others

**ABSENT:** Supervisor Jesse DeGroot

Councilman Rohde called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Councilman Swartz led pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Balcom to enter Executive Session at 6:35 PM under public Officers Law § 105, f., for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Zoning Implementation Committee (ZIC). Councilman Swartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Rohde to leave Executive Session at 6:50 PM. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilman Rohde closed the meeting at 6:51PM. Councilman Rohde reopened the meeting at 7:00PM.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Charter Communications, regarding the Broadcast TV Surcharge.
- B. NYS Police, regarding numerous residential burglaries in the area. They are encouraging residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.
- C. Tim Stever, Niverville Fire Dept. requesting EMS authorization.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

◆None

**REPORTS**

- A. Highway – report on file. A meeting was held with Congressman Gibson’s office, NYS DOT and Town officials on the White Mills Rd. Bridge project. The land acquisition process is nearly complete. The County will partially wave the tax lien. The bidding process will hopefully begin in the fall of 2012.
- B. Recreation Department – report on file.
- C. Code Enforcement/Zoning Enforcement – report on file
- D. Dog Control – report on file
- E. EMC – report on file
- F. Justice Court – report on file
- G. Assessor
- H. ZIC
- I. Supervisor

J. Comptroller – report on file

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Town Ethics law;

Given the Town’s Ethics law dates back to 1970 the Town Board will investigate the County’s Ethics Law and Ethics Committee and will bring it back for discussion next month.

B. Niverville Fire Department EMS authorization;

**RES. #52-12** to grant authority to the Niverville Fire Department to provide emergency medical care to the residents of the Town of Chatham. Councilman Rohde offered RES. #52-12 and moved its adoption to grant authority to the Niverville Fire Department to provide emergency medical care to residents of the Town of Chatham, as defined by Article 30 of NYS Public Health Law, Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes; Lull, Rohde, Swartz, Balcom  
Nays; None Resolution adopted

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Town Communications Committee; Councilman Balcom asked for more direction on how to proceed. Is the Board talking about internal or external communications. He would like to discuss this at a workshop meeting.

B. ZIC vacancy;

**RES. #53-12** to appoint a member to fill the vacant position on the Zoning Implementation Committee. Councilman Rohde offered RES.#53-12 and moved its adoption to appoint Robert Johnson to fill the vacant position on the Zoning Implementation Committee. Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes; Lull, Rohde, Swartz  
Nays; Balcom Resolution adopted

- ◆ Councilman Balcom would like to have seen an applicant who had knowledge of the Comprehensive Plan and the process.
- ◆ Councilman Swartz stated that Mr. Johnson had been the only applicant to apply after having advertised the vacancy three times.
- ◆ Councilman Lull supported the appointment of Mr. Johnson stating that he will bring a fresh perspective to the committee and is enthusiastic and willing to learn.

**C. CAC;** The Town already has a CAC on the books but it’s in-need of updating to comply with state code. Attorney Rappleyea will forward a draft of the update.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RES. #54-12** to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2012 regular town board meeting. Councilman Swartz offered RES. #54-12 and moved its adoption to accept the January 19, 2012 Town Board minutes. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion. Councilman Balcom made a motion to amend the minutes to read as spoken. There was no second.

**VOTE:** Ayes; Lull, Rohde, Swartz  
Nays; Balcom Resolution adopted

**RES. #55-12** to authorize the Town Clerk to attend the NYSTCA conference in Saratoga Springs. Councilman Swartz offered RES. #55-12 and moved its adoption, **WHEREAS**, the Chatham Town Board authorizes Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk, to attend the NYS Town Clerks Association conference in Saratoga Springs, April 22 through April 25, 2012. Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes; Lull, Rohde, Swartz, Balcom  
Nays; None Resolution adopted

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- ◆ The Community Awareness meeting organized by Don Hegeman, Deidre Henderson and Melissa Pollack held at the Tri-Village to discuss the recent rash of burglaries was a great success. More than 150 residents turned out to hear Trooper Scott Brown and other law enforcement personnel speak on public safety and what they can do to prevent becoming a target.
  
- ◆ Don Hegeman would like to see a budget summary. The budget is difficult to understand in its current form. He requested that the document reflect allocations, disbursements, past disbursements and the like. A “Budget for Dummies” perhaps.
  
- ◆ Deidre Henderson agreed with Mr. Hegeman. Town residents need a budget which is easily understood without explanation. There must be software available for this.
  
- ◆ Deidre Henderson stated that the reason there was only one applicant for the vacant ZIC position is that; people feel the committee is a waste of time and they haven’t accomplished a thing, the town attorney has not done things in a timely manner, the current committee was poorly selected, the committee should be comprised of residents who had worked on the Comprehensive Plan.
  
- ◆ Councilman Swartz strongly disagreed with Ms. Henderson statements regarding the ZIC.

Motion was made by Councilman Swartz, seconded by Councilman Lull to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel  
Town Clerk