

**TOWN OF CHATHAM
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING 2013 Budget
October 24, 2012**

A special meeting of the Town of Chatham Town Board was held on October 24, 2012 at the town hall at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the 2013 preliminary budget.

PRESENT: Supervisor DeGroot, Councilman Henry Swartz, Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Jean Rohde, Councilman Bob Balcom (arrived at 7:00 p.m.), Recreation Director Shari Franks, Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert, Comptroller Earl Kelsey, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Debby Cesternino, Jeff Lick and reporters.

Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led the pledge to the flag.

Recreation Director Shari Franks was on hand to discuss plans for replacing the main building/pavilion at Crellin Park. The pavilion section of the structure is generally used during the warmer months for summer programming. The enclosed section of the building houses restrooms, office space and a small kitchen. There is no heat or insulation in the building making it unsuitable for use during cold weather. Community organizations and residents are able to rent the pavilion for small gatherings at a nominal fee. However, the leaking roof and general disrepair of the facilities impacts its rental potential.

-The original pavilion was built with funds from an EPF grant and with volunteer labor in the 70's. Minor repairs have been done throughout the years but little else.

-Councilman Swartz spoke to Shari about the cost of just replacing the pavilion as it stands. Shari feels that by doing so the park is limited to just summer activities and does not reach out to the general population. A community center was at the top of the list when the master plan for the park was drawn up. In order to meet the needs of all age groups the structure needs to be able to be used 12 months out of the year.

-Councilman Lull does not think that the Town should be in the party business and that the structure at this point should be just enough to accommodate the summer program.

-If the Board doesn't want to Bond at the end of 5 years: A 1.2 million dollar 5 year BAN for highway equipment upgrades and replacement would mean a payment of app. \$250,000.00/year payment. A \$300,000.00 5 year BAN for the park building construction/upgrade would mean a payment of app. \$60,000.00/year payment.

-If the Town takes a BAN they're not required to pay anything but interest for 5 years. After that time the amount borrowed would have to be bonded.

-As a cost cutting measure Councilmen would like to take a look at salaries. Councilman Balcom said they can't look at salaries for collective bargaining but they can look at the PB ZBA, TB, attorney and engineers.

-The 2013 preliminary budget will be in the clerk's office by Friday.

-A special budget meeting will be held on November 8th at 8 a.m..

Motion was made by Councilman Swartz, seconded by Councilman Rohde to adjourn at 8:10 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by
Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk