

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 7, 2013
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Supervisor DeGrootd
Councilman Maria Lull
Councilman Bob Balcom
Judges Jason Shaw and James Borgia-Forster
Court Clerks Sandy LeClair & Joan Goold

Village Mayor Tom Curran
Councilman Jean Rohde

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor DeGrootd called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the pledge to the flag.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the needs of the town court and recreation department and how they might come together to meet those needs. The Town Court rents space (\$1,500.00/month) in the Tracy Memorial in the Village of Chatham. There are numerous safety and security concerns which need to be addressed immediately. The Rec. Dept. is in need of a building due to the demolition of the pavilion at Crellin Park this past summer.

- Supervisor DeGrootd met with the Tracy Memorial Foundation board and they have agreed to make repairs in the short term. The question is how does the Town proceed with long term repairs.
- The initial thought was to join the court and the recreation department in a new location at the park. After some thought this won't work for many reasons.
- Tom Curran is trying to keep Village taxes down . They have cut as low as they can go without cutting services. He likes having the Town court in the Tracy. Maybe the Tracy could serve as the Town Hall. It's centrally located and a logical spot for a town hall. With the consolidation of the school district maybe the Middle School on Woodbridge Ave. would make a great place for a town hall, just a thought.
- Maria Lull asked if there had been any talk about the Tracy Board selling the building. No, there has not, maybe they would be interested.
- Jason Shaw speaks for everyone at the court when he voiced his concerns about the security and safety issues they deal with daily. The court room and office space at the Tracy is adequate for their needs. It is a beautiful, historic building however, it does present some problems which will need to be addressed in the long term. The rent is

expected to increase 30% presenting additional concerns. What does the Town and the Village plan to do?

- NYS OCA has published a list of things which should be incorporated into a building plan for new construction of a court. This list is extensive and can be very costly. It's conceivable a new court building could run over 1 million dollars.
- Supervisor DeGroot said that when the current town hall was purchased 10 years ago there was thought of adding on to accommodate the court and at that time it was going to be costly. (\$750,000.00?)
- Jason Shaw is in favor of preserving the Tracy. The biggest expense is putting in an elevator. OCA told Jason they would provide an architect to do the layout service or the frame work at no cost. He would like to see the Tracy give the building to the Town. The Town needs the Village and the Village needs the Town. No one want to see a historic building sit empty.
- Bob Balcom added that Judy Grunberg has an old barn which may serve a rec. center.
- Maria Lull suggested that Tom and Jesse meet with the Tracy Board and see what their thoughts are on conveying the building. Tom will be in touch with Jesse about the next Foundation meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

Motion was made by Councilman Balcom, seconded by Councilman Rohde to adjourn at 7:10 PM. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel
Town Clerk