

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
Joint Recreation and Court Committee
December 19, 2013 at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Supervisor DeGroot, Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Councilman Jean Rohde, Rec. Director Shari Franks, Village, Justices Jason Shaw and James Borgia-Forster, Court Clerk Sandy LeClair, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel,
Also present: Kate Johns and Earl Kelsey

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM and the Councilmen led the pledge to the flag.

DISCUSSION

- As per Councilman Balcom the Tracy Memorial has 5,500 sq. ft. of usable space, the Town Hall has only 3,141 sq. ft. .
- Jason Shaw learned that the Tracy Foundation is not the owner of the Tracy. The Foundation is charged with using money from their endowment to repair and maintain the building, regardless of who the owner is.
- What does the Village want to do with the building? Jason doesn't think they're interested in ownership.
- Jason Shaw would like a code analysis with keeping the historic nature of the building in mind. Historic buildings don't necessarily have to meet certain building codes.
- Jason Shaw feels that the Tracy is plenty big enough to house the Village and Town offices and hopes the Town will seriously consider the Tracy Memorial. He would like to get some real numbers on what it would cost to bring the Tracy up to code. He feels that it would cost taxpayers more to build a new building than it would to renovate the Tracy.
- Jason Shaw feels that OCA is eager to help and he'll give them a call and get someone up here to take a look at the space.
- There was special legislation in 1920 to create the Foundation for the sole purpose of funding the operations of the municipal building.
- Councilman Balcom; option #1 is to add on to the Town Hall. We would need app. 2,000 sq. feet at app. \$300.00/sq. feet = \$600,000.00 for a new building.
- Supervisor DeGroot asked about parking for the Tracy. There is currently a lack of parking in the Village so this will also need to be looked at.
- Jason Shaw said the Town should take care of the security issues now and take the money out of the monthly rent the Town pays to the Tracy Foundation.
- Shari Franks and Supervisor DeGroot met with Ted from Barton and Loguidice about ideas for the park building.
- Councilman Lull would like to wait to meet again until after they had heard from Mayor Curran.

Motion was made by Councilman Rohde seconded by Councilman Balcom to adjourn at 6:50 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk