

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295
CHATHAM, NY 12037

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 18, 2014 7:00PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Henry Swartz, Jr., Councilwoman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Councilwoman Jean Rohde

ABSENT: Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea, Assessor Clerk Julia Horst

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the pledge to the flag.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Charter Communications, re: increasing broadcast TV surcharge by 25 cents.
- B. Senator Kathy Marchione, re: reducing the speed limit on Rock City Road.
- C. John Fanning, re: reducing the speed limit on County Route 32 in North Chatham.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS

- A. **Highway.** Report on file.
- B. **Recreation.** Report on file.
- C. **Justice Court.** Supervisor DeGroot reported that discussion with the Village Mayor about the stair-chair situation is ongoing and should be resolved once the engineer is back from vacation.
- D. **Assessor.** Julia Horst reported that it is a busy season in the office with exemption applications coming in.
- E. **Zoning Implementation Committee.** Councilman Swartz and Councilwoman Rohde reported that the Committee met recently to address maps in the hamlets. The upcoming meeting will include Building Inspector Walt Simonsmeier to discuss zoning and three meetings in January will be for the purpose of discussing definitions.
- F. **Supervisor.** Supervisor DeGroot reported that the County passed its budget.
- G. **Town Comptroller.** Report on file.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Hazardous Materials Law.** Attorney Rappleyea commented on requirements and implications of reporting on hazardous materials. At the Board's request, he agreed to make adjustments to the law and provide further information for the next Board meeting.

B. **2015 Dog Contract.** The Board discussed the current situation with Columbia-Greene Human Society and Pondview Shelter and their proposed dog contracts. Attorney Rappleyea suggested adding a paragraph to the contracts that requires discussion with the Animal Control Officer prior to a shelter housing a dog. Councilman Lull moved to accept the control with the addendum. Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

C. **Naming of White Mills Road Bridge.** Supervisor DeGroot reported that a request was made by a Town resident to name the recently opened bridge on White Mills Road in honor of the late Edward Golden. Councilman Balcom stated that he preferred to name the bridge after the road it is on. The Board discussed the possibilities and decided that it would be helpful to hear input from more Town residents.

D. **North Chatham Speed Limits.** The Board authorized Supervisor DeGroot to forward the letter to the County to deal with the request, as it is not within the jurisdiction of the Town to change the speed limit on a county road.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Organizational Meeting. Supervisor DeGrootd stated by way of reminder that the Town Board Organizational Meeting shall be held on January 5, 2014, at 7:00 PM. In addition, a Public Finance Meeting will be held prior to the Organizational Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #126-14 Resolution to approve minutes. Councilman Balcom noted one correction to the minutes of the regular Town Board Meeting in November. Supervisor DeGrootd moved to accept the corrected minutes of the November 20, 2014, regular Town Board Meeting, and the minutes of the December 4, 2014, Workshop Board Meeting. Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

VOTE: DeGrootd, Aye; Swartz, Aye; Lull, Aye; Balcom, Aye; Rohde, Aye. Resolution adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Emelia Teasdale from the Columbia Paper asked for a clarifying remark regarding the dog impound fee. The Board explained the shelter requirements and referred Teasdale to the Town Clerk for further details.

Assessor Clerk Julia Horst asked for a clarifying remark regarding the business on speed limits. The Board explained that several residents requested reductions and the matter will be forwarded to the Highway Department or the County, depending on the road under consideration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Public Officers Section 105 (a), the Board entered Executive Session to discuss matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed. Supervisor DeGrootd moved to enter Executive Session at 7:30 PM. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

RES. #127-14 Resolution to adopt a memorandum. Supervisor DeGrootd moved to adopt a memorandum concerning the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town of Chatham. Due to the sensitive nature no further information shall be disclosed concerning same pursuant to Public Officers Law Section 87 (2) (f) since the safety of the residents of the Town would be imperiled if the same were to be disclosed. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

VOTE: DeGrootd, Aye; Swartz, Aye; Lull, Aye; Balcom, Aye; Rohde, Aye. Resolution adopted.

Supervisor DeGrootd moved to leave Executive Session at 7:35 PM to discuss further matters. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

B. The Tracy Memorial Village Hall. The Board talked at length regarding options for the Town to take regarding offices at the Tracy Memorial Village Hall. Attorney Rappleyea noted that much remains in negotiation with Village officials right now and he will inform the Board as new information arises.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Motion was made by Councilman Swartz and seconded by Councilwoman Rohde to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Horst
Deputy Town Clerk