

Town of Chatham
488 Rt. 295
Chatham, NY 12037
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING draft
February 20, 2014 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Jesse DeGroot
Councilman Henry Swartz
Councilman Maria Lull
Councilman Jean Rohde
Councilman Bob Balcom
Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea

Aven Kerr and Jeff Lick from the town's Citizen Finance Committee
Ray Schrenkeisen, Parry Teasdale from the Columbia Paper

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Charter, new hours of operation at their Customer Service office on Rt. 295, Chatham.
- B. Highway letters: 1.) Gilbert's thank you letter to the crew for clearing brush, 2.) Gordon Decker letter regarding the safety of the new bridge in East Chatham, 3.) DOT sent notice that the flags have been taken down from the bridge.
- C. Councilman Swartz stated he received a call from Robert Pulver complaining about Town snow plowing and pushing snow back too far and knocking over his fencing for cows. He is afraid of his cows getting out.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- A.) Parry Teasdale asked if the Town had heard complaints from anyone about the bridge being unable to see the other side approaching from the east. Is the state going to address this? Supervisor DeGroot said that CSX would put in a traffic light if needed, however DOT is against it due to possible traffic back up on Rt. 295 that would be created if drivers had to wait for a red light. Supervisor DeGroot stated that we would have to petition DOT for changes. If it becomes a true problem we will have to see what happens next. Councilman Swartz asked if the traffic safety board could take a look at it.
- B.) Ray Schrenkeisen commented that he thought the idea of using a recycled old barn was a bad idea for the solution to the building project at Crellin Park.

REPORTS

- A. Highway - report on file
 - Councilman Swartz asked about the road salt quantity. Supervisor DeGroot replied that we are okay and the budget is okay.
 - Jesse reported on the White Mills road bridge project. Bette & Cring asked for an extension for the project. July 11th is the target date for substantial completion. Construction was supposed to start on March 3rd but that will now depend on the weather conditions.
- B. Recreation - Councilman Swartz asked if we should schedule a Town Board workshop for the park building project. Councilwoman Lull asked if we could at least do the foundation work and the pavilion (slab and plumbing) which could help the situation of lack of shelter this summer for the camp program. Shari asked if it was necessary to schedule another workshop being that we aren't going to be able to

fund the project this year. Councilwoman Lull asked that Shari gather more information on keeping it simple and possibly build just a shell. Shari stated that bathrooms are definitely needed. Councilman Swartz stated that we do have \$125k to spend this year and that the project should be pursued as soon as possible. Supervisor DeGroot asked if just the recreation committee could meet. Councilwomen Lull and Rohde who are on the recreation committee will meet with Shari next week to discuss the project.

C. Code Enforcement - Report on file

D. Dog Control - No report

E. Environmental Management Council - No report

F. Justice Court - Report on file

J. Assessors - No report

H. ZIC Committee Report - Councilman Swartz said the committee met on Feb 19th. He stated that they worked on handling home occupations and this work will continue. Next meeting will be about the maps of Chatham. He said that a real property tax map will be needed so that they are working off the most recent map. He asked if the maps were approved at that time and said that overlays for those maps are needed and the maps will also need updating. Paul McCreary, engineer, will volunteer to help. There was an application for a ZIC member but they have yet to schedule an interview with this person. Councilman Swartz said that the town clerk has the contact information of this person and he said that it is necessary to get that meeting set up soon. He said there is another person who expressed interest however the request for new members had closed by that time.

I. Supervisor – Re: County Business, Supervisor DeGroot reported on the Airport situation. Nero has come up with four new proposals.

J. Town Comptroller - Report on file

K. Town Clerk – no report

L. Citizen Finance Committee - Aven Kerr and Jeff Lick presented handouts (on file) to the board representing the work their committee is doing to help the general public understand the Town financial data. The main goal is to come to an agreement with the board that this is in a useful format. David Levow, committee member, took this layout off of the NYS Open Source site. Page 1 lists revenue, page 2 lists expenditures, page 3 is the glossary of terms. Councilman Swartz asked if they talked to the town comptroller, the reply was “no not yet.” Lick thought that people would want to see percentages and annual trend changes. The glossary tells what is in each of the categories. Keeping it short makes sense. Kerr state that the real audience was not the board, it is the public and this format makes it much simpler for the public due to its ease of read-ability. Supervisor DeGroot thanked them for their work and commented that it’s a good start. Lick encouraged feedback. Councilwoman Rohde asked about a report of what is spent versus what is budgeted and Kerr replied that they are working on that.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Attorney Rappleyea received a letter from NYS DOT working on a project with the Federal Highway Administration regarding the readjustment of Urban Boundary Areas. They developed funds to help municipalities repair their roads within their Urban district. The last one was done in Hudson and in Kinderhook/Valatie. Now they want to expand it from Kinderhook down Route 9 to Livingston which is a trucking industry area. As far as Chatham is concerned, a small section of Route 203 along Kinderhook Lake would be affected. There isn’t anything the Town of Chatham needs to do but because we carry that designation we would have to make an application for funds. Currently, there are no funds, but Attorney Rappleyea stated that once the funds are available, the Town would be eligible to apply. The FHA has asked the Town to pass a resolution to pass this map.

RES #48-14 to approve readjustment of the 2010 Hudson Valatie Urban Boundary Areas map on Route 203 near Kinderhook Lake at the request of the FHA. Supervisor DeGroot offered RES #48-14 and

moved its adoption of the 2010 Hudson Valatie Urban Areas Adjusted Boundary Map at the request of the FHA. Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

VOTE

AYES: DeGrootd, Swartz, Lull, Balcom, Rohde NAYES: None Resolution adopted

OLD BUSINESS

A. Town Waste situation: Councilwoman Lull reminded everyone that she brought this issue up in November and has been brainstorming about this issue with the Town attorney. Residents had told her that receptacles were being left outside for long periods of time. Lull sent a letter to Josh Schneiderman's office (NYS Attorney General) detailing the issues with trash removal. Jihoon Kim of the NYS Attorney General's Office contacted Waste Management and they more or less denied the issues. Lull provided a copy of the email from Mr. Kim. Mr. Kim suggested that residents file a complaint form and file it with the attorney general's office. The town can load the form on its website for residents to access. As far as what to do with the trash receptacles left on the roadsides for extended periods of time is another issue to deal with. Supervisor DeGrootd asked Attorney Rappleyea if our Code Enforcement Officer has an authorization to address this. Rappleyea stated the Town would need to establish a local ordinance. Enforcement is completely up to the Town. Supervisor DeGrootd worried about the health component. Councilman Balcom and DeGrootd both agree that an ordinance might be necessary. Supervisor DeGrootd asked Attorney Rappleyea to draft an ordinance for review.

RES #49-14 to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2014 regular Town Board meeting subject to changing of a "motion to table." Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES #49-14 subject to changing of the motion to table which was actually Councilman Balcom who had made the motion and not Supervisor DeGrootd. Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

VOTE

AYES: DeGrootd, Swartz, Lull, Balcom, Rohde NAYS: None Resolution adopted

RES #50-14 to amend RES #32-14 from the January 2014 meeting minutes. Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES #50-14 and moved its adoption to amend Resolution #32-14. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion.

VOTE

AYES: DeGrootd, Swartz, Lull, Balcom, Rohde NAYS: None Resolution adopted

RES #51-14 to authorize Town Clerk, Beth Anne Rippel to attend the annual Town Clerks Association Meeting in Saratoga, NY, April 27 -30, 2014. Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES #51-14 and moved its adoption to authorize Town Clerk, Beth Anne Rippel, to attend the annual Town Clerks Association Meeting in Saratoga, NY, April 27-30, 2014. The cost of the trip is included in the Town Clerk's budget. Councilwoman Lull seconded the motion.

VOTE

AYES: DeGrootd, Swartz, Lull, Balcom, Rohde NAYS: None Resolution adopted

PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Ray Schrenkeisen wanted to know about bullet proof glass for the court, "Is it really necessary?" Councilman Swartz explained that there was an incident whereby the clerks and judge felt unsafe and explained that the building is not as secure as it used to be due to lack of police force and other workers in the building during normal business hours. The board is convinced that this is the right thing to do to help make the building secure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGroot to enter into executive session at 8:05 #1) Public Officers law §105 (1)(f) for the purpose of discussing the “medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or relating to appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. #2) Public Officers law §105 (1)(d) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGroot to leave executive session at 8:25 PM. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM was made by Councilwoman Rohde. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Shari Franks, Deputy Town Clerk