

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295
CHATHAM, NY 12037
WORKSHOP MEETING
February 6, 2014 7:00PM

PRESENT:

Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Henry Swartz, Jr., Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom Councilman Jean Rohde, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Shari Franks

Also present: Chatham Village Mayor Tom Curran, Barbara Henry

Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag.

The reason for this meeting is to discuss replacing the pavilion by the pond at Crellin Park.

COMMENTS

- Councilman Swartz stated that there is approximately \$125,000 in a Capital Account set aside for the new building. He's not sure that the Town needs a year round building to serve so few people and a less expensive option may be the answer.
- Shari Franks has investigated grants to try to reach the \$300,000 goal for the building project with not much success. The Town does not qualify for many grants due to its demographics and statistically higher income levels.
- Councilman Lull stated that it's imperative we hold the line on taxes since the tax rate is what's keeping people from moving in to town.
- Shari was asked what quotes she's received. There have been numbers anywhere from \$44,000 to \$850,000. The minimum requirements for the building would be a pavilion with restrooms, a storage/supply closet and office space with the option to expand if and when financing becomes available.
- Councilman Lull asked if there is another \$125,000 in this year's budget for the project, Supervisor DeGroot said no.
- Councilman Lull wanted to know if there was any thought given to a temporary structure, a tent perhaps. Shari believes that it would be cost prohibitive since most tents rented for special events can cost upwards of \$2,500 for just a weekend. She is also concerned that in the event of severe weather a tent would not provide enough protection but she will check on it.
- Councilman Swartz asked if there was a quote for a pavilion with bathrooms/storage closet and office space. Shari said there was not and she would work on that. Pole barns can cost anywhere from \$40,000 to \$150,000. A Morten building does have the ability to expand if necessary.
- Councilman Balcom feels that we can't build for less than \$200,000. We can build a structure similar to what we had and borrow the remainder of the money if we have to. We're looking at \$350,000 which would cover engineering fees as well as construction costs. We have \$125,000 and could look at bonding the \$225,000 balance.
- Shari said that 2 years ago the cost of a building which would suit the needs of the program was going to run about \$250,000.
- Councilman Swartz wants rock solid, actual bids on a building.
- The question is how much would this increase the budget? We can't do it in this year's budget.
- Supervisor DeGroot suggested that to bond the \$225,000 balance of the project would add approximately \$47,000/yr. to the budget for the next 5 years. He and the comptroller will discuss options.
- Last year the Crellin summer program utilized the pavilion back by the soccer fields. That pavilion houses restrooms as well as and small snack bar. Although inconvenient, due to the distance from the waterfront, they can do that again this summer if necessary. However, this could present some challenges with the Town of Kinderhook's summer swim program joining with Chatham's summer swim and rec. program.

- Supervisor DeGroot will speak to Supervisor Gratton from Kinderhook to see if they would be able to assist in some way.
- Shari and Councilman Rohde agreed that the portapotty situation by the pond last year was not ideal. They were difficult for the kids to use and difficult to keep clean. Is there an alternative? Shari will investigate but doubts that we will find anything temporary for a reasonable amount of money for the season.

RES. #47-14 to authorize Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea to proceed with legal action against Stephen Johnson at the request of CEO, Walt Simonsmeier. Councilman Lull offered RES. #47-14 and moved its adoption to authorize Town Attorney, Tal Rappleyea to proceed with legal action against Steven Johnson, at the request of CEO, Walt Simonsmeier for failure to clean up his property located at 673 Albany Turnpike, Tax Map # 25.4-1-9 . Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

VOTE

Ayes: DeGroot, Swartz, Lull, Balcom, Rohde Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Village of Chatham news:

- Mayor Curran met with their attorney regarding the Tracy lease. He and Attorney Rappleyea will work out the details.
- Todd Seamers will be working on the fire escape.
- Village DPW employees are now in charge of cleaning the Tracy.
- The Village will move ahead with the Use Study.
- The Village is fine with the security upgrades the Town has proposed for the Town court.
- If the Town is interested they might want to talk to Mike Wollowitz, Village Trustee, who is working on motion sensitive camera ideas for security.

Councilman Rohde motioned to adjourn at 7:50 P.M., Councilman Swartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Anne Rippel
Town Clerk