

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037
April 16, 2015
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was held at the North Chatham Fire House, North Chatham NY.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Jean Rohde, Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea, Julia Horst, Marilyn Cohen

ABSENT: Councilman Henry Swartz

Others present: Jim Temple, members of the Thomas Road Conservation Alliance and others

Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the pledge to the flag.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Various letters re: Life Serve Youth Foundation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tal Rappleyea spoke on behalf of the Mitchison brothers and their hope to divide 20 acre parcel. After some investigation it was determined that the only way to divide this parcel is to ask for a zoning change.

- At the request of Supervisor DeGroot, Rappleyea will bring the information and resolution to set the public hearing to the next board meeting.

- Jim Temple asked about the Ag. Plan, stating he couldn't find it on the Town's website. He would like to see it on the Town's site. Although it can be found on the Chatham Agricultural Partnership website we will bring it to the Town of Chatham page as well.

REPORTS

A. Highway – report on file

-Super. Rickert received the NYS DOT East Chatham bridge inspection report which was done in 2/3/2014. This may or may not be critical but its something we may want to look into It's regarding the bridge abutment barring's. They should be rated a 9 since it's a brand new bridge but it was rated a 7. It should be a 9. He will pass this on to B&L to see if they think CSX needs to come back to fix it. Also while he was out at the bridge he noticed that the sidewalk has split causing a ¼ inch lip which is a tripping hazard. This will need to be fixed before we can continue to finish the sidewalk. Maybe this is under warranty or we'll have to hire a mason to make the repair. Super. Rickert went on to read from his monthly report.

B. Recreation Department – report on file

C. Code Enforcement/Zoning Enforcement – report on file

D. Dog Control – report on file

E. Environmental Management Council

F. Justice Court – report on file

G. Assessors – report on file

H. Zoning Implementation Committee – The committee met on 4-15-15 and finished the definitions then on the final review for “Special Uses”, then the mapping. After that's been completed they'll do a final run through and hand it over to the Board. After the mapping it could be another 2 or 3 months or possibly more.

I. Supervisor (county business)

J. Town Comptroller – report on file

K. Town Clerk – reminder that there is an outdoor burn ban through May 14, 2015. Violators can be reported to DEC.

L. Citizen Finance Committee

NEW BUSINESS

A. Peddler permits. – CEO, Walt Simonsmeier talked about putting a permitting process in place for business wishing to solicit in town. It could be just a simple registration or a more comprehensive law. Rappleyea will send around some sample laws for the Board to look at.

B. Barton & Loguidice report re: town hall expansion. The vertical expansion is about 2.5 million dollars and the horizontal addition is about 1.1 million. There has been no discussion as of yet on ways to cut costs on the proposed addition. The Finance Committee will take a look at it. There are also future costs, what it will cost to heat and cool. Councilman Balcom raised some concerns about the parking lot which the engineers “took” part of in order to accommodate the addition.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Life Serve Youth Foundation waiver application.

- On April 15, 2015 LSYF requested that the Board adjourn the Public Hearing scheduled for April 16, 2015. As per Supervisor DeGroot it was agreed that there would be a 2 month adjournment while a subcommittee looks at the feasibility of having the 3 tennis courts at Crellin Park and what it means to the overall recreation in the Town as well as any other related issues. Folks who will serve on the committee are: Jesse DeGroot, Henry Swartz, Shari Franks, Adam Slone, Sally Veillette, Karen Murphy, and Cathy Kramer. There is a very tight time schedule so they will be meeting very soon. Hopefully there will be some productive conversation.

B. Albany Turnpike Bridge intersection – the owner of Slattery’s store is concerned about losing some the parking lot across from the store in the proposed restructuring of the roadway. This project is way off in the future, the immediate concern right now is the bridge approach.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #72-15 to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2015, regular town board meeting and the March 31, 2015 special town board meeting and the April 2, 2015 workshop meeting.. Councilman Rohde offered RES. #72-15 and moved its adoption to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2015, regular town board meeting and the March 31, 2015 special town board meeting and the April 2, 2015 workshop meeting. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

VOTE

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

RES #73-15

Councilman Lull offered RES. #73-15 and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board has received a letter of request to reduce the speed limit on County Route 32, from State Route 203 to Pebble Lane, 3-tenths of a mile, for the safety of the residents of this Hamlet, and **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLED**, the Chatham Town Board will make an application to the Department of Transportation to request having the speed limit reduction on County Route 32, from State Route 203 to Pebble Lane. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

VOTE

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

RES #74-15

Councilman Lull offered RES. #74-15 and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, The Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding for 2015-2016 for the Town of Chatham is \$218,998.21, and **WHEREAS**, the 2015-2016 New York State Budget will include extra funding for the Town of Chatham in the sum of \$32,410.17, due to the devastating effect of the recent harsh winter under the "Extreme Weather Recovery Funding", and **WHEREAS**, the Chatham Town Board budgeted \$ 219,016.00 for the 2015C HIPS Funding in the Permanent Improvement EQ @B5112.2), and **THEREFORE**, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to increase the Permanent Improvement EQ (DB5II2.2) budget appropriation by \$32,392.38 for Highway improvement changing the total budget for (DB5112.2) to \$251,408.38. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

VOTE

Ayes: DeGrootd, Lull, Balcom, Rohde Nays: None Resolution adopted

RES. #75-15

Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES. #75-15 and moved its adoption. The Skid Steer purchase will be contingent upon the availability of cash funds, no borrowing, to make the purchase.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Highway has requested that the Town Board authorize the purchase of (One) Skid Steer 332E from John Deere Shared Services, and **THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Chatham Town Board accepts the Contract price through NJPA (National Joint Powers Alliance Program) Cooperative Contract #060311 – JDC; NYS OGS Contract PC66575, for (one) Skid Steer 332E from John Deere Shared Services, 1515 Fifth Ave. Moline, IL 61265 for the sum of \$82,563.25. Councilman Lull seconded the motion

VOTE: Ayes: DeGrootd, Lull, Balcom, Rohde Nays: None Resolution adopted

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Adelle Kleiman-Levine of Haddock Hill Rd. had questions about the East Chatham Bridge and also voiced her concerns about safety issues caused by the new design.

- Rickert stated that the new bridge is 2.5 inches higher than the old bridge. CSX lowered the tracks last year. The bridge was not raised to meet the clearance requirements for double decker trains; they had the clearance to begin with. The new bridge style is 2.5 inches thicker. A double lane bridge would be about 20 inches higher because of the thickness of the deck. A double lane bridge would not have worked in this location because of the additional height.

- Kleiman-Levine is looking to alleviate the problems and is asking if there is anything she can do to assist the Town. Perhaps a traffic light could help. Why would the Town take position of and agree to maintain the Bridge when there is a liability attached to it. There are safety issues here. She would be willing to investigate possible funding sources to assist with mitigating some of these safety concerns.

_ Supervisor DeGrootd again stated that the Town was faced with a difficult choice. Either take the 1 lane bridge CSX was offering to build or the old bridge would have been taken out and not replaced. The Town did not have 1.3 million to put in a bridge more to their liking.

- Kleiman-Levine asked if there was an agreement between CSX and the Town that the public could look at, DeGrootd said yes.

- DeGrootd stated that DOT was not in favor of a traffic light. We're trying to work with traffic patterns to slow things down on the approach. Kleiman-Levine feels that that doesn't help with safety. She can't accept that there is nothing else the Town can do to address these safety concerns.

- Rickert is hoping to get moving on the barriers for the approach sometime this summer. The course of action is dependent upon DOT permits and how long it takes for the approval.

- Jim Temple asked about the possibility of a rotary on State Rt. 295 to address safety concerns and slow traffic down. DeGrootd stated that DOT had touched on the rotary idea on State Rt. 295 when the project was in the planning stages.

- Temple suggested that the speed limit reduction request on County Route 32, from Route 203 in North Chatham be extended past Pebble Lane to Woodward Rd. The Board agreed to amend RES. #73-15.

RES #76-15 to amend RES. #73-15. Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES. #76-15 and moved its adoption to amend RES. #73-15 to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board has received a letter of request to reduce the **speed limit on County Route 32, from State Route 203 to Pebble Lane, 3-tenths of a mile**, for the safety of the residents of this Hamlet, and **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLED**, the Chatham Town Board will make an application to the Department of Transportation to request having the **speed limit reduction on County Route 32, from State Route 203, past Pebble Lane, to Woodward Road**. Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: DeGrootd, Lull, Balcom, Rohde Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Motion was made by Councilman Balcom and seconded by Councilman Lull to adjourn at 7:40 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk