

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037
April 28, 2015
8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Henry Swartz, Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom Councilman Jean Rohde , Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea

Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. and led the pledge to the flag

The Board convened this morning to discuss the town comptroller vacancy. Comptroller Deb Cesternino passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 25. Deb was a highly regarded employee who brought professionalism and expertise to her position as Comptroller. She will be sorely missed by all.

Cesternino had nearly completed the AUD Report which is filed annually with NYS. There were two remaining questions and the report is ready to go. The NYS Comptroller's office recommended that this be done ASAP.

The Board discussed the strides Deb had made in the office and wished to continue moving forward. They're not interested in consulting with firms whose performance they had not been happy with in the past. DeGroot would like to reach out to Ray Preusser, CPA who had been helpful prior to the hiring of Cesternino. If he is not interested then perhaps they could try David Ackerman.

Lull said she reached out to the Town's previous Comptroller Earl Kelsey and to Mike Bucci, CPA from Hudson. Mr. Bucci's firm charges \$60/hr. for a clerk and \$110/hr. for senior staff.

The Town does have an assistant bookkeeper who works regularly in the comptroller's office and is familiar with the system. Councilman Balcom suggested that she get a stipend for taking on any additional work. He would also like to see "crossover" for all jobs.

There should be a profile for the comptroller position.

Councilman Lull wants the finance committee to look at this. Swartz doesn't feel it's in their purview but they will review it. Lull doesn't want to over pay for a comptroller.

An ad will be run in the local papers and resumes will be accepted up until May 22, 2015.

DeGroot asked about discussing this in a workshop. Councilman Swartz suggested the Board continue this at the May7th meeting.

Cesternino and Shaw had been researching new accounting software to replace the antiquated software they're currently working with. This discussion will continue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Supervisor DeGroot, seconded by Councilman Swartz and carried the Town Board entered executive session at 8:25 AM in accordance with Public Officers Law §105 (1) (h) for the purpose of discussing the proposed acquisition, sale, lease of real property...

Motion was made by Councilman Rohde, seconded by Councilman Swartz to leave executive session at 8:45 AM. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGroot, seconded by Councilman Balcom to adjourn at 8:50 AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk