

Town of Chatham
Regular Town Board Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 2015, 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilwoman Maria Lull, Councilman Bob Balcom, Councilwoman Jean Rohde, Attorney Tal Rappleyea, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert, Recreation Director Shari Franks, Planning Board Chair Marilyn Cohen, Planning Board Clerk Gail Chamberlain

ABSENT: Councilman Henry Swartz due to illness

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Wemple, John Wapner, and several others.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. PS21: A letter addressed to Recreation Director Shari Franks thanked the Town for its generous donation of \$600 from the Crellin Park Foundation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Domas raised the issue of a roadway speed between State Route 66 and County Road 17. He took several pictures and petitioned the neighbors, noting that the main concern is that SR66 allows drivers to accelerate to 55mph before bringing them to a left (on Harris Road), a right (continuing onto SR66), or driving straight (onto CR17). He and his neighbors see a problem that drivers accelerate for a short distance but do not slow down to the posted 45mph speed, causing safety concerns near his house and other houses with small children. John suggested that the Town set up a radar system to let people know how fast they are driving or increase the local police presence. He understood that the Town may not have jurisdiction because CR17 is a County road and SR66 is a State route.

Supervisor DeGroot thanked John for his concerns and said that it is not within Town jurisdiction at all, but they will bring it to the County's attention so their Transportation Board can take a look at it. He wondered if the Town had addressed this particular area before, and Councilwoman Rohde noted that she thought they had. **John** provided the Town with their petition, adding that it was missing a few signatures of neighbors he had not been able to reach. **Balcom** asked Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert how they would handle the 55mph sign since it is a State route. **Rickert** replied that they would have to talk to the County. He stated that he would be in touch with the Town Clerk to get all the paperwork in.

RES. #125-15 offered by Supervisor DeGroot and moved to adoption. Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board has received a letter of request for a speed limit reduction on County Route 17, from State Route 66 in Chatham Center to State Route 203 in North Chatham, for the safety of all residents, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Chatham Town Board will make an application to the Department of Transportation to request a speed limit reduction on County Route 17, from State Route 66 in Chatham Center to State Route 203 in North Chatham.

VOTE

AYES: DeGroot, Lull, Balcom and Rohde NAYS: None Resolution adopted.

REPORTS

A. Highway: Joe Rickert reported that things at the Highway Department were fairly quiet. They did not receive any correspondence. They issued one permit for a highway fence on Albany Turnpike Road. As an update on the Albany Turnpike Bridge and intersection, Rickert stated that he has been in touch with Jeff Cleary at Senator Kathy Marchione's office and several others and recently sent a letter to the Senator's office to hopefully get the matter cleared up soon. In terms of maintenance, the department has been cutting down a lot of dead trees on a number of roads. Their winter preparations are finished as the vehicles and plows are all ready and the snow fence is up around the Town. Under shared projects, the department helped with paving in the Town of Taghkanic. Finally, they received a delivery of their new loader recently and just this Monday received a new Terra Star truck.

B. Recreation: Report on file

C. Code Enforcement: Report on file

D. Climate Smart Councilman Bob Balcom gave an update, stating that some awards had been given and that they were looking into a \$250,000 grant. There were a couple steps that needed to be taken before they are eligible for the grant so they are investigating the matter.

E. Justice: Report on file

F. Assessors: Report on file

G. Zoning Implementation Committee: Attorney Tal Rappleyea gave the report since Councilman Henry Swartz was unable to make the meeting. The ZIC completed its work recently and believes that it can provide the final draft to the Town Board. Rappleyea stated that he would email the work to the Board in the morning and also asked that it be posted on the website. Councilwoman Maria Lull stated that she felt it should be reviewed by the Board before being posted on the website. Rappleyea agreed and said he would only email it to the Board.

H. Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Beth Anne Rippel thanked Randy Hahn for making the beautiful Christmas wreath in the lobby, as he has done for the past couple of years, stating that the Town truly appreciates his efforts. She also announced the appointment of a deputy clerk and collector, Elizabeth Horst, at the wage of \$15.00 an hour.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Department Contracts for Niverville, Tri-Village, and Chatham. Supervisor DeGroot asked when the Board would like to hold the public hearings for the fire contracts. Councilman Balcom stated that it does not have to be before the end of the year. Attorney Rappleyea agreed and stated that the old contracts will simply carry forward and then the Board can sign the new contracts into effect. Councilwoman Lull asked the Supervisor if the fire departments were usually invited to the public hearings. DeGroot replied that he informs them of the hearings and sometimes they show up, but usually they do not. The Board agreed to hold the hearings at the next regular meeting. Lull asked DeGroot if he would notify the fire departments and he stated that he could.

RES. #126-15 offered by **Councilman** Lull and moved to adoption to hold Public Hearings for the new fire department contracts for Niverville, Tri-Village, and Chatham on the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, January 21, 2016, at 7:00 PM. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

VOTE Ayes: DeGroot, Lull, Balcom, Rohde. Nays: None

Resolution adopted

County Office of the Aging Appointments: Supervisor **DeGroot** mentioned that they received a letter from Keven MacDonald about the County Office of the Aging appointments. He wondered if MacDonald was he looking for new people. Councilwoman Lull replied that he was looking for the Town's advisory representatives, which are currently Carol Pinkowski and Liz Chapman. She spoke to both of them and they intimated that they would like to continue in those volunteer positions. Lull also stated that she explained to both Pinkowski and Chapman that their positions were being opened up to other appointments and she would be receiving letters of interest up until February 1, though neither of them would be required to resubmit anything.

Open Board Seat: On a similar topic, Supervisor **DeGroot** asked out of curiosity since all the boards were being opened up for interviews, what would happen with the open seat on the Town Board. Councilwoman Lull replied that it would also be an appointment. DeGroot stated that all the other situations were appointments also, but asked if the Board would take letters for the open seat. Lull responded that she would entertain that idea. DeGroot said that was good and found it curious since everything else was opening up but it had been silent about that.

Lull asked Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, regarding the Office of Aging appointments, if she would run the ads on that position. Rippel Anne asked to clarify that Lull wanted a newspaper ad for those representatives. Lull replied that she would email Rippel.

Workshop Meetings:

Lull also asked Town Clerk Rippel if she would post ads for the workshop meetings to be held in January, February, and March 2016. Rippel asked for clarification, if Lull wanted ads in the newspaper because the Board would not be voting to hold workshop meetings at their organizational meeting. Lull was not certain was the standard practice was, so Rippel explained that workshop meeting notices are usually posted on the Town Hall door and on the website.

Columbia-Greene Human Society Contract: Supervisor DeGroot stated that the Town needed to renew their contract with the human society. Attorney Rappleyea explained that the contract was mostly the same, though the fee structure had changed to \$35 per day for first ten days and then there were particular fees for each additional day, and that the legal requirements for a dog to be held are only for five days. DeGroot asked Highway Supt Rickert if he was still looking into doing something at the Highway Garage. Rickert responded in the affirmative, and several other board members asked if they were referring to a kennel or a holding place for dogs. Councilwoman Lull asked if it could be done in the spring. Rickert replied that it would be up to the Board to decide in the spring since he was not sure what was going on with the budget appropriations for it.

RES. #127-15 offered by Supervisor Jesse DeGroot and moved to renew the Town's 2016 contract with the Columbia-Greene Human Society. Councilwoman Jean Rohde seconded the motion.

VOTE

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

RES. #128-15 offered by Supervisor Jesse DeGroot moved to accept the October 19, 2015, and October 29, 2015 town board meetings. Councilwoman Maria Lull seconded the motion.

VOTE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Recreation Director Shari Franks thanked Jesse DeGrootd and Jean Rohde for all their years of public service, stating that it was a pleasure to work with them and that she would miss them. DeGrootd thanked Franks and stated that he felt likewise.

Terrance Deval with the Columbia Land Conservancy stated that he had some business with the Town. Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel stated that she had his letter and that he was on the agenda but that there had been a little mix-up in the communication. Deval explained that his business was in regards to the Doyle property within the Towns of Chatham and Austerlitz and that they were requesting a conservation easement on it, and that he was happy to answer any questions about the situation. Supervisor DeGrootd stated that it sounded like a legitimate and reasonable request and that they would work on getting the signed letter to him.

RES #129-15 offered by Supervisor Jesse DeGrootd moved to support the Columbia Land Conservancy's grant application to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for the purchase of development rights on the Doyle Farm and additional lands owned by Ronald Davis Jr.. Councilwoman Jean Rohde seconded the motion.

VOTE

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

On a motion by Supervisor DeGrootd and second by Councilman Lull the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by,
Beth Anne Rippel, RMC
Town Clerk