

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF CHATHAM  
488 Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037  
January 15, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

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

**ABSENT:** Councilman Henry Swartz

**Others present:** Cynthia Bobseine, John Wapner, Jim Johnson, Heather and Marke Uhlar Vince Pecoraro

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Wendy Gash, re: ZBA decision.

B. Lyn Mitchison, re: naming of White Mills Road Bridge.

C. Jack King, re: naming of White Mills Road Bridge.

D. Jim Johnson, re: Adam Slone pending ZBA application.

E. Marke Uhlar, re: Adam Slone pending ZBA application.

F. Peter Lyden, re: Adam Slone pending ZBA application.

G. Colleen Teal, New Lebanon Town Clerk re: New Lebanon highway to trade work with Chatham highway.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jim Johnson read a statement prepared by the Thomas Road Conservation Alliance regarding the proposed Thomas Rd. tennis camp.

**REPORTS**

A. Highway

- The disc golf volunteers have identified many diseased and damaged trees, mostly pine, along the golf course which will need to be removed for the safety of those on the course. Highway Super. Rickert is willing to do the work providing the Town Board authorizes him to do so. The work would take about 4 or 5 men the better part of a week and can be done during their slow periods.

**RES. #41-15** to authorize Highway Superintendent Rickert to use his own discretion to remove damaged and diseased trees along the Disc Golf Course located at the Town Hall. Supervisor DeGroot offered RES. #41-15 and moved its adoption to authorize Highway Superintendent Rickert to use his own discretion to remove damaged and diseased trees along the Disc Golf Course. Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

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

- The Board would like to bring Barton & Loguidice in sometime in February to go over the East Chatham intersection design proposal. Supervisor DeGroot will reach out to them.

**RES. #42-15** to name the White Mills Rd. Bridge. Supervisor DeGroot offered RES. #42-15 and moved its adoption to name the White Mills Rd. Bridge, Lanphear Crossing. Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

**RES. #43-15** offered by Supervisor DeGroot and moved to adoption. WHEREAS, it has been the policy of the Highway Superintendent to trade highway labor and/or equipment with other towns when it has been of benefit to the Town of Chatham, and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham Town Board authorizes the Highway Superintendent to continue this policy with all Town and Villages in Columbia County, New York for the year 2015. Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

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

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
- H. Zoning Implementation Committee
  - The committee will be meeting on Saturday 12-5pm for a “marathon session”. They’ll be discussing Town Code with Walt Simonsmeier, Town CEO. They are continuing work on the maps. It will be another 5 months or so before there are referrals to the Board.
- I. Supervisor (county business)
- J. Town Comptroller- report on file
- K. Town Clerk – Tax bills went out December 30, 2014 so January is the height of the collection period. There’s not much time for anything else this month.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGrootd and seconded by Councilman Rohde to enter Executive session at 7:20 PM pursuant to Public Officers Law §105(d) for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGrootd and seconded by Councilman Balcom to leave executive session at 7:50 PM. Motion carried.

**RES. #44-15** to authorize Town Attorney, Tal Rappleyea to draft moratorium language, relating to special use permits/site plan review for parcels located on unpaved town roads, for consideration by the Town Board. Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES. #44-15 and moved its adoption to authorize Town Attorney, Tal Rappleyea to draft moratorium language, relating to special use permits/site plan review for parcels located on unpaved town roads, for consideration by the Town Board. Councilman Lull seconded the motion.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Dog control.
- B. New hire health insurance.
  - We usually follow the union contract in this instance. New hires will pay 10% of their health insurance premiums. Change to the personnel policy will be needed.
  - The Finance Committee will address new hire health insurance.
- As per Supervisor DeGrootd the Broadband Committee will be meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Proposed town hall renovations.
  - In January 2014 Barton & Loguidice submitted a proposal to provide professional services associated with the development of concept plan layouts and opinion of probable construction costs for improving the Town of Chatham town hall. Councilmen Balcom and Rohde would like more information. Supervisor DeGrootd would like B&L to do their thing.

**RES #45-15** to accept the proposal from Barton & Loguidice as written. Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES. #45-15 and moved its adoption to accept the proposal from B&L to provide professional services associated with the development of concept plan layouts and opinion of probable construction costs for improving the Town Hall at a cost of \$7,800.00. Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

- B. East Chatham Bridge.
- C. Naming of White Mills Rd. Bridge.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RES. #46-15** to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014, regular town board meeting and the January 5, 2015 organizational meeting. Councilman Balcom offered RES. #46-15 and moved its adoption to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014, regular town board meeting and the January 5, 2015 organizational meeting. Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

**RES. #47-15** to approve Code Enforcement Officers conference request. Councilman Lull offered RES. #47-15 and moved its adoption to approve the CEO request to attend the annual conference March 1-5, 2015 in Lake Placid. Conference cost is \$260.00, room charges \$424.00, plus mileage. The financial obligation will be divided between Ghent and Chatham.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

-Highway Superintendent Rickert asked if the Town Board would take a look at retiree health insurance. Does it apply to employees who have a buyback? It does not differentiate.

Motion was made by Councilman Lull and seconded by Councilman Balcom to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel  
Town Clerk