

Town of Chatham
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 3, 2017
6:00 PM

PRESENT

Supervisor Maria Lull, Councilwoman Landra Haber, Councilman John Wapner, Councilman Henry Swartz

ABSENT

Councilman Bob Balcom

Supervisor Lull called the meeting to order and Councilman Swartz led the pledge to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT

The Chatham Town Board appreciates information received from the public during the Public Comment portion of each meeting, which often is very helpful in the governance of the Town. It is, however, not intended to be a debate with the public or a question and answer period. Issues raised during the public comment may be addressed by the Board during its regular meeting or by the Supervisor between meetings as necessary. As a courtesy to the other members of the public, there is a 5 minute per person limitation on oral comments for each public comment period. The public is also encouraged to provide the Board with written comments or materials when the subject matter cannot be presented in this time frame. Of course, while the Board discourages any remarks which may be considered defamatory or stigmatizing, it will not restrict the content of the public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

*Jim Temple handed out a copy of the Zoning Board notice to the Board, which he found to be misleading. The ZB reopened the public hearing which had not been closed at a previous meeting. Temple thought he would have an opportunity to speak to the issue, public comment was restricted. He asked that the ZB find in favor of Donal Collins and the grain bin. Is the Zoning Board in favor or not of the Right-to Farm? Our current zoning law is not farm friendly.

PRESENTATION

- Keith Stack, Legislative Aide to the Columbia County Board of Supervisors & CEO of the Addictions Care Center of Albany to discuss the Columbia County Opioid Epidemic Response Plan.

Stack stated that he reached out to Matt Morrell, Chairman of the CCBOS, about the opioid problem in the County. We have to help residents deal with this problem and this was the basis for a County plan. Step one was to do an inventory of services available in the County. Step two is to schedule forums throughout the County comprised of experts in the field of addiction. And thirdly, address the problem of accessing treatment. A crisis hotline number has been established and takes calls

24/7. For more information contact the County at www.columbiacountymhc.com/crisis.

NEW BUSINESS

Lull recognized two Town of Chatham residents; Dave Chapman: who received a lifetime firefighter achievement award from Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association. Chapman's service to his community began in 1963. Also recognized was Chatham native, Ambassador to Turkey, John Bass who was nominated to be the new ambassador to Afghanistan.

*Review the proposed Columbia County Board of Supervisors Shared Services Plan. Lull reported that the County is working to share services with towns and villages throughout CC, a requirement of the States. This plan enables municipalities to utilize County resources. The Town is already working with the IT department and the County may soon be looking into offering health and rx plans to the towns as well.

*Empire State Trail proposal Albany-Hudson Electric Trail through North Chatham public meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 10 at 6 PM. Haber and Swartz plan on attending.

OLD BUSINESS

* Review responses on proposed Drafting Zoning Law.

Councilman Balcom said the timeline for comments has been sent out to the boards and responses are coming in. We need to devote full meetings to this. Swartz said he hasn't looked at the Draft yet and feels that his vote will be based on the opinions of the public and not on his own. Wapner has read some of draft and like Swartz he would also like to hear what the public has to say. Haber hasn't looked at it yet either. Lull set two special meetings, one for August 15th at 5PM and one for 24th at 5PM with the Planning and Zoning Boards. Lull asked Gabriella Sperry, PB Chair about the Draft and she commented that it's difficult to read on the computer. The PB wants the Board to look at the Ag. & Land use section 137. This will need more time for review. The tables and special use permits are too restrictive. We need more site plan reviews instead of special use permits. Swartz asked if all boards could meet jointly. Sperry recommends that comments be put up for comparison.

Lull stated that Joe Rickert mentioned that he was short on money to purchase much needed gravel. Lull spoke to Accountant Mike Bucci about moving money around in the budget to cover the cost.

Mike Bucci of PKHB spoke to Supervisor Lull and it seems that the accountants have put in twice as much time for the Town than they had contracted for. They would appreciate "something" for all the additional work. Lull asked Shaw to review all the bills and the Town will see where they can scale back.

Haber reported that she would be traveling to Plattsburgh to attend a workshop on LED street lighting, she'll report back.

Wapner reported that plans are underway for Park Day and they'll need help. The Berry Farm will sell them chicken at cost. The Soccer Club will sell hot dogs and burgers and the iced cream truck will be there. The Commission will ask one of the local eateries to donate salad for them to sell. There's been a nice response from area donors. Food at this event will be inexpensive but not be free.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

On a motion by Councilwoman Haber and second by Councilman Wapner the meeting was adjourned at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel, RMC
Town Clerk/Tax Collector