

Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester was held on **May 13, 2014** at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Center, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, New York.

Roll Call:

Karen DuRose, Edna Wells, Mike Packer, Steve Durkish, Fred Monroe. Attorney for the Town, Mark Schachner.

RESOLUTION #56: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2014 MEETING.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Durkish, accept the Minutes of the April 8, 2014 meeting, as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

Privilege of the floor.

Linda Muench requested permission from the Board for use of Room #101 on Monday afternoons for a gathering of Senior Citizens to socialize and have time together. Board agreed, providing room was not otherwise in use.

Mrs. Muench also inquired about purchase of flowers for the outdoor boxes. Mr. Monroe told her the budget had remained the same as last year.

Mr. Don Butler, Tri-Lakes Business Alliance, would like to have music on Main Street events on four different occasions this summer. They have chosen four bands, and the dates would be July 7th, July 21st, August 10th, and August 24th. Each event would cost \$800, and they have requested funds from Occupancy Tax to cover the expense.

RESOLUTION #57: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR MUSIC ON MAIN STREET EVENTS.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Durkish, authorize payment from Occupancy tax of \$800 per event for four "Music on Main Street" occasions.

AYE 5 NO 0

Old Business.

Loon Lake Milfoil Control Program.

Will Stevenson, representing Lycott Environmental, did a Power Point presentation on the Chronology of the Milfoil program on Loon Lake from the onset in 2006 to present, and what the plans are for the future. Lycott came on board in 2010, sending divers into the lake to find milfoil beds that are referred to as source sites, which generate more infestation. These beds were mapped, and three different approaches have taken place to combat it. It began with hand harvesting, then benthic mats to smother it, and finally, summer of 2013, treated with an herbicide (Renovate) to kill it, which was applied at the outlet. It had taken 9 months to a year to obtain an APA permit for the project, and we are only the second lake in the Adirondacks to receive this approval, as well as approval from DEC. Water samples were taken at various locations during the treatment process to follow the progress. Sonar images were taken, and post treatment mapping shows 41 sites being controlled, and 3 more listed as moderate to dense still existing. For 2014, we are looking at 7 weeks of dive teams in the lake, 1st week doing barrier work, then 1st sweep of all the sites, doing the sparse sites first, followed by a large hand harvest. Phase 2 and 3 are to revisit the problem sites, and keep observing throughout the summer, as the plants propagate at different times.

Expectations are that we can never fully eradicate invasive species, these plants are, by ecological design, very aggressive. The best course of action is to have a program of vigilant action, such as the boat washing inspection program,

and to watch for plants that we do not now have, so that we do not inherit a new invasive species. There will be buoys in the water designating the presence of milfoil, and for boats to stay away, as a boat running through it could cut it, constituting propagation by fragmentation, resulting in a new site from the cut off plant. Education to the boaters, therefore, is the key.

Question and answer period followed, with an inquiry about a milfoil eating fish, but they are not recommended, they will eat whatever they find, then leave behind whatever they have eaten, which could result in large algae blooms on the lake. Other biological control agents were discussed, but none are proven. Thank you to Will Stevenson for his time and expertise.

Loon Lake Boat inspection program.

The hours for boat inspection will be from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The two attendants hired by the Town were able to attend the training for lake management offered in Lake George. They have worked out a schedule to cover 84 hours at the boat inspection site, and issue was raised to bring in a sub for at least 12 of those hours, and/or to cover in the event that anyone becomes ill and cannot work.

RESOLUTION #58: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HIRE 1 SUBSTITUTE FOR BOAT WASH ATTENDANT.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize Supervisor Monroe hire 1 substitute for boat wash attendant at the same pay rate, in order to allow the other 2 attendants 2 consecutive days off in a row.

AYE 5 NO 0

Loon Lake Dam Engineer.

Supervisor Monroe stated that the dam engineer has been here, and he has been looking for some additional reports that neither he nor the clerk have been able to locate. Mr. Monroe has written to DEC to inquire whether they have a copy on file.

Health Center sidewalks.

Supervisor Monroe suggests tabling any bid requests for repairs to the Health Center sidewalks until Fall when the patient traffic is not so great.

Stratford on Hudson Play.

Supervisor Monroe reminded everyone of the Stratford On Hudson Play entitled "ART" which is to be performed here at the Town Municipal Center on May 16th and 17th, and again on May 23rd, 24th and a matinee on May 25th.

Trench box.

Highway Superintendent Jason Monroe has not been happy with the pricing on the purchase of a trench box, so he is still looking.

Sand Pit purchase.

Town had advertised for sand bids, and at the same time, has been looking into purchase of their own sand pit. Low bidder for the sand was \$4 per yard, and next low bidder was \$4.05. Long discussion ensued. Basically, if we were to purchase our own pit, we would control the material costs long term. There is some risk associated with it, and we don't know what the actual bond interest rate would be. Mr. Monroe ran the numbers, and at 3% for 15 years, it would be about \$15,000 for 20 years, or \$20,700 for 15 years, and at 4% it would be \$18,000 or \$21,300. Low bidder, Bernie Bolton was in attendance, and he had raised some issues, including reclamation of the pit at the end of it's life. Tom Suozzo, engineer with Cedarwood Engineering, presented some cheaper methods for reclamation that could be utilized, and Mr. Monroe is looking into the County purchasing a tub grinder which could be used throughout all of Warren County. It could be used to grind the stumps and the roots, with the end product being mulch, now that DEC has barred us from further burning at the Transfer Station. Mr. Bolton

expressed his views of the costs associated with ownership of the pit that he believed the Board was overlooking. Following extensive conversation, the Board feels that owning the pit is long term insulation against possible inflation of all the variables that could occur. At a 3% interest rate, it would cost the Town between \$18,000-\$21,000 per year, for a term of 17 years.

RESOLUTION #59: APPROVE PURCHASE OF THE BENNETT PIT.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approve purchase of the Bennett pit.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Durkish ~ AYE

Mrs. Wells ~ AYE

Mr. Packer ~ AYE

Mr. Monroe ~ AYE

Mrs. DuRose ~ AYE

With regard to the contract, Mr. Bennett will receive \$2,000 as a deposit, and \$273,000 at closing. Bond payment for this year will be \$20,000 from monies already budgeted for purchase of sand. Bonding will then be in the amount of \$255,000.

RESOLUTION #60: APPROVE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BENNETT PIT, AND AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN IT.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, approve contract for the Bennett pit, and authorize Supervisor to sign it.

AYE 5 NO 0

Discussion: Pit has had pre-inspection and Engineer Tom Suozzo thought DEC permit transfer would go smoothly.

New Business:

Pellet boiler bid and financing.

M/E Engineering has the plans and the specs. for the boiler which needs to be reviewed by the USDA first, because they are financing it.

Some of the work, such as removing the old boiler will be done by the town.

RESOLUTION #61: ADVERTISE BIDS FOR PELLETT BOILER, EXCLUDING WORK WE CAN DO OURSELVES.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Durkish, advertise for bids on pellet boiler, excluding any work that we can do ourselves. Wait to advertise until we have the specs.

AYE 5 NO 0

Committee Reports.

Mrs. Wells reported that Mindy had contacted her, still trying to get someone certified for Water Safety Instruction for swim lessons. She has made several inquiries, and has a call in for Gurney Lane to see if they have any openings so that we can bus people there for swim lessons. She wants to hire the 3 lifeguards from last year, and have a couple of subs. The beach will be open from 10:00am until 6:00 pm., unless swim lessons are given, and then it will close at 5:00 on lesson day.

RESOLUTION #62: AUTHORIZE HIRING OF LIFEGUARDS.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize hiring of lifeguards, choices to be agreed upon between Mindy, Mr. Monroe, Mrs. Wells, and Mrs. DuRose.

AYE 5 NO 0

Mr. Packer reported on the logging proposals.

He had received correspondence from Lake George Forestry, and Benchmark Forest Management who only sent a copy of their pricing, but did not respond. Fountain Forestry out of Tupper Lake wanted \$45 an acre just to cruise the land, and 12% of the income from the timber. Finch Paper would do Dynamite and Town Hall as separate parcels. To cruise and mark Dynamite would be \$881, and the Town Hall would be \$523. This would entail marking of boundary lines, pre-harvest prescription, making of harvestable timber, administration of a timber bid process, supervision of harvest operations and post-harvest wrap-up/supervision. If we accept their proposal, they have offered to give us a 50% rebate on the timber inventory and timber valuation expense at time of contract signing for timber sale. Their fee for a lump sum timber sale bid would be 15% of the net timber revenue. Mr. Packer thought that they would be the best choice.

RESOLUTION #63: APPROVE FINCH PAPER LLC DO EVALUATION AND REPORT OF TIMBER ON DYNAMITE HILL AND THE TOWN HALL PROPERTY (FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN).

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, approve Finch Paper LLC do evaluation and report of timber on Dynamite Hill and the Town Hall property, and present a recommended plan of future forest management.

AYE 5 NO 0

Randy Frasier proposal to sell Item 4.

Randy Frasier was in attendance. He has purchased property on Route 28N and will need to move about 10,000 yards of gravel for a building site. He does not need a mining permit, according to DEC, because it is a building site. He has talked with Highway Superintendent Jason Monroe who stated that he will be doing some work on the north end next year, and he might be interested in purchasing 8,000 to 10,000 yards of it. It would save the town from having to pay for trucking it there. Mr.

Frasier would be willing to bring in the equipment to process it into Item 4 if he has a definite commitment for a sale.

Supervisor Monroe stated that we have to decide, if it goes over the bid amount, we have to bid it, and in order to bid it we need to know how many yards. He added that usually the County bids it, and then we take advantage of the County bid. Mr. Frasier did not bid in the County bid. He stated that he was only going to sell it for bank run sand to individuals who wanted it. Mr. Monroe suggested that Mr. Frasier bid on the County contract, since none of the product would be moved until next year anyway. Mr. Frasier stated that it would only be a one shot deal, because once it is gone, it's gone.

RESOLUTION #64: AUTHORIZE BIDDING FOR ITEM 4 USING COUNTY SPECS, MAXIMUM OF 10,000 YARDS WITHIN 15 MILE RADIUS OF IGERNA ROAD AND BIRD POND ROAD.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize bidding in June for Item 4, using County specs, for a maximum of 10,000 yards, to be located within a 15 mile radius of Igerna Road and Bird Pond Road. Bids to be opened in July.

AYE 5 NO 0

BOAR member .

Christine Hayes will be unable to serve on the Board of Assessment Review.

RESOLUTION #65: RESCIND RESOLUTION #51 OF APRIL 8TH, 2014, AND RATIFY HIRING OF KRISTENA SEVRIE FOR BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Packer, to rescind Resolution #51 of April 8th meeting hiring Christine Hayes for Board of Assessment Review, and ratify hiring Kristena Sevrie for the position.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #66: APPROVE STANDARD WORKDAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Chester/Location code 30213 hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Town Justice ~ James McDermott ~ 6 hours

Planning Board member ~ Harold Ellsworth ~ 6 hours

Planning Board member ~ George Hilton ~ 6 hours

AYE 5 NO 0

Water request.

Joseph Smith had requested water service on Theriot Avenue. Mr. Smith was not present at the meeting. No action taken.

Automatic Electronic Defibrillators.

The head of the NW Emergency Squad told Mr. Monroe that the Town of Horicon was purchasing some AED's and wanted to know if we wanted any. State Contract \$800 used and \$1,200 new.

RESOLUTION #67: AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 2 NEW AED'S.

Introduced by Mr. Durkish, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, purchase 2 new AED's, one for Town Hall and one for Highway Garage.

AYE 5 NO 0

Court room floors.

Pat McCarroll had given Jason a proposal to repair court room and chambers floors in the amount of \$2,263.32. The proposal was not clear, and Jason will talk with Mr. McCarroll as to what he actually proposes to do. No action taken.

Broadband Study.

Ed Bartholomew, Adirondack Gateway Council, had gotten a grant to do a Broadband Study for Warren/Washington and Saratoga Counties. Study has been done, and now the gaps have to be found. We have a lot of fiber and conduit, which is a major draw for a company that might want to locate here. There is a lot of potential for technology, and they will now be negotiating with carriers for improving broadband and cell coverage in the North Country. There will be a written report coming.

Movie Screen.

Mr. Monroe said that everyone he has talked with agrees that the big movie screen in the auditorium is a monstrosity, and needs to be disassembled and removed. The Board would like to install a new electric screen which would come down from the ceiling. Mindy Conway and Alma Alvarez are working together on a grant to pay for it.

Carpet Cleaning.

Stevenson Agency has requested that their carpets be cleaned. Following discussion, Mr. Monroe thought we should rent a machine and have custodian Paul Parks clean them.

Health Insurance.

Mr. Monroe explained that Bernice and Richie Roberts have moved to North Carolina, and their health insurance only covers emergency care. Richie already has a Medicare Advantage Plan because he is over 65, but for an additional \$56 per month, it will cover him down there. Because he also has an HRA, that will be reduced by half of that amount. Nothing can be done for Bernice at this time until she turns 65 and can participate in the Medicare Advantage Plan.

Notice of Claim.

We received a Notice of Claim from Robert Sanders who claims to have fallen on the sidewalk. It will be turned over to the Insurance Company.

Cordless phone.

Mr. Packer thought the Town Clerk should have a cordless telephone in the office.

RESOLUTION #68: APPROVE CORDLESS PHONE FOR CLERK'S OFFICE.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approve Town Clerk purchase cordless telephone for office.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #69: APPROVE ABSTRACTS AND CLAIMS PAID PRIOR TO AUDIT.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approve abstracts and claims paid prior to audit.

General Fund	\$37,124.36	(162-211)
Highway Fund	\$62,990.79	(92-126)

C'Town Water	\$ 1,898.30	(16-21)
P'Ville Water	\$1,617.33	(13-19)
Library	\$ 824.28	(16-18)
Loon Lake Park Dist.	\$ 1,142.38	(2-4)

AYE 5 NO 0

Occupancy Tax Receipts.

Mr. Packer mentioned that we should require receipts for monies requested from Occupancy Tax. Discussion ensued.

RESOLUTION #70: REQUEST RECEIPTS FOR OCCUPANCY TAX MONIES.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Monroe, Board to request receipts for monies spent from Occupancy Tax.

AYE 5 NO 0

On a motion by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, meeting adjourned 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk