

Regular meeting of the Town of Chester Town Board was held on October 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm, at 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, NY.

Roll Call: Mike Packer, Edna Wells, Karen DuRose, Frederick H. Monroe, and Steve Durkish, along with Attorney for the Town Mark Schachner.

Public Hearing.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to establish a Local Law to override the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law Sec. 3-C for the Fiscal Year 2015. Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Supervisor Monroe explained that he had put together a tentative budget which the Board reviewed on October 1st. If we went with that budget, it would mean an increase of about \$0.10 per thousand, which would make the combined tax rate for General and Highway Fund \$1.44 per thousand for 2015. Back in 2001 it was \$2.29 per thousand, comparatively. Mr. Monroe continued that he and some of the other Supervisors have been working with the County, trying to get the reimbursement rate up for our plowing and sanding of County Highways (32.8 miles in the Town of Chester). The vote at the budget committee was to increase the rate by \$1,500 per mile, which for us would mean about \$51,000 extra dollars.

However, the other things we are facing are these:

Replacement of the compacter at the landfill, will cost about \$63,000. Our intent is to start a capital reserve fund with \$20,000 and hope the compacter will survive until we have the money to fully pay for it.

The Chestertown Water tank needs to be painted, and we had budgeted \$30,000 for that for this year. Now we find out from the engineers that it has lead paint on it, and the cost to encapsulate it, treat it and repaint it has risen to \$120,000.

We have put \$50,000 in the budget for the Engineers for the Loon Lake Dam, and we are not sure if that will be enough or not. It all depends on what the State mandates.

We have budgeted \$388,000 for the roads, because that is necessary. We have so many roads in need of repair. The price of salt for the roads is also going up by about 25% and we spent \$80,000 for salt this past winter. These are all of the things that we know about, so far.

Mr. Monroe continued that, thanks to Mr. Packer, we had Finch Paper come in and timber cruise 17 acres of the Town Hall property, and also of Dynamite Hill. They still have to mark, scale, put out to bid, etc., but we could conceivably gain a net amount from lumbering the timber of about \$57,000. This money would be used to offset the cost of the proposed biomass heating.

Mr. Monroe stated that we may not end up going over the tax cap, but this Local Law needs to be put in place even if we do not use it, since we can't override without having it. This was confirmed by Attorney Schachner. Mr. Monroe then closed the public hearing at 7:15 pm.

RESOLUTION #119: ADOPT LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2014 TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, adopt Local Law No. 2 of 2014 to override the tax levy limit for Fiscal year 2015, established in General Municipal Law Section 3-C.

AYE 5 NO 0

Open bid on plow.

In November of 2013, various tools and equipment were put out for bid, including an 8' Snow-Way Plow. All of the other equipment was bid on and paid for, but not the plow. It continued to remain on display at the Landfill. A single bid was submitted by Mr. John Vanderwarker in the amount of \$300, which was the minimum bid amount.

RESOLUTION #120: ACCEPT BID FOR SNOW WAY PLOW.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, to accept bid from John Vanderwarker for 1-8' Snow-Way Plow, as is, in the amount of \$300.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #121: ACCEPT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9TH AND OCTOBER 1ST.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mrs. Wells, Minutes of the September 9th and October 1st meetings were accepted, as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

Finch Timber Proposal.

Len Cronin and Mike Federice were in attendance from Finch Forest Management. We had contracted with Finch to do a timber cruise and valuation, and they have done that. They were here to discuss their recommendations to the Board.

On Dynamite Hill, they found 3 different forested stands (a stand is the way of breaking down a section of forest based on its composition, structure and characteristics), and they found a Hemlock dominated stand, a Pine dominated stand, and a hardwood dominated stand. Pine and Hemlock make up most of what is there, with 43 acres for Hemlock, 33.5 acres of Pine, and the remaining 13 acres of Hardwood. Basically, they choose to thin by 1/3, thinning trees that are at risk of not being here in 15 years. They will return every 15 years, and will continue to maintain the existing trail system on Dynamite Hill, with no harvesting near the recreational trails. The Town Hall tract is just west of the power line, with a 40% proposed removal of pine that exists there, which will improve future timber quality of about 17 total acres. Finch estimates the overall stumpage value from all these harvestings at about \$67,498, and after the 15% of administering the sales, a net value to the Town of \$57,374, with approximately 110.5 total acres being disturbed. These values are based on the timber cruise that was done. The project will be put out for competitive bid. They have a sealed bid process after there is a showing, with the Board opening them at a special session, or at a regular meeting. Following that, there is an execution of a contract, and the Town can choose the way that they wish to receive payment. They can also do a performance bond, usually \$3000 to \$5000 that assures that the contractor does the job according to the contract, and that the cleanup process of the landing area and the skid trails is done to the Town's satisfaction of the contract. The Town can

hold the Bond, then sign off at the end and return it to the contractor. Town has the right of first refusal on any of the bidders submitting their estimates, and they can request viewing of any prior jobs done by the contractor, and request landowner references.

They will remain 75 feet away from any given wetland area, and those areas will be flagged. The Town Hall only has wetland along the Chester Creek. There are approximately 6 acres of buffers and/or wetlands within the scope of the designated harvesting area. The header will be located at the Chestertown Fish & Game Club. Finch will take care of the marking, the tallying, the showing, and advertising for the bids. A short Environmental Assessment review was done.

RESOLUTION #122: ADOPT SEQRA NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORIZE PROCEEDING WITH EXISTING CONTRACT FOR MARKING, TALLYING, SHOWING AND BIDDING BY FINCH FOREST MANAGEMENT.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, adopt SEQRA Negative Declaration, and authorize proceeding with the existing contract with Finch Forest Management for marking, tallying, showing and bidding of the project.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fred Monroe	AYE
Edna Wells	AYE
Mike Packer	AYE
Steve Durkish	AYE
Karen DuRose	ABSTAIN

Privilege of the Floor.

Nancy Tennyson, President of the Town of Chester Historical Society, had submitted a letter requesting bed tax money to assist in the memorial for the Darrowsville Church, which was part of the underground railroad, that she believes will qualify as a Historical Tourism draw. They pretty much have raised the funds that they need for the building materials, and would like to put “talkers” in that will talk about Darrowsville as a hamlet, and its part in the underground railroad. They hope to print a map of some of the locations within the entire Town of Chester that were involved at that time.

Old Business:

Pellet boiler. Supervisor Monroe explained that the monies realized from the timber sales will be put toward the purchase of the pellet boiler, and with NYSERDA offering to pay 75% of the cost, the total cost to the Town should be minimal. Estimated fuel savings from the Pellet boiler are 18% per year.

LARAC Grant. Mrs. Wells stated that she had received a request from Barbara Repp, that either she or Mindy Conway be authorized to file the LARAC Grant for the Children’s Opera for 2015 by October 27th. This years’ production will be “The Ugly Duckling.”

RESOLUTION #123: AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION BE FILED WITH LARAC.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize the LARAC Grant application be filed before October 27th.

AYE 5 NO 0

Water Tank. The Chestertown Water Tank was built in 1978. After 1972, all tanks were supposed to be lead-free. Due to the excessive moss and lichen growing on the tank, Jason Monroe, Water Superintendent, decided that it should be painted. We had budgeted \$30,000 for this year to do that. He had an engineer look at it, and it was determined that the paint contained 20% lead. In order to paint the tank, the surface of the tank would need to be roughed up first due to the moss and lichen, but that would cause the paint to become airborne. Consequently, the tank would need to be encapsulated to prevent any paint chips from hitting the ground, and the entire process could cost between \$120,000 to \$250,000, and could take up to 6 weeks to complete. Therefore, it was decided that we could use the money that we had budgeted for this year, and put an ROB (a mini sub) into the tank to inspect the tanks interior. Two quotes will be obtained.

Streetlights. Supervisor Monroe and Jason walked Main Street to decide on locations for the Street Lights. It was decided to put two between the Post Office and the beginning of the rock wall by the Ice Cream Parlor, two more at the north end of the rock wall up to the bank, and then two across the street, one by the bank parking lot, and the other 100 feet south of it. Mr. Monroe will draw up a plan, and Jason will do the install in the spring. Discussion on running electric wire, etc., or an alternate plan.

New business:

Set dates for November meetings.

RESOLUTION #124: SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET FOR NOVEMBER 6TH.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, set date for Public Hearing on Budget for November 6, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #125: SET DATE FOR REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 12TH.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Durkish, set date for regular monthly meeting for November 12, 2014 at 7:30 pm. (My Note: Regular meeting day conflicts with Veteran's Day)

AYE 5 NO 0

Reconfiguration of Pottersville Cemetery.

Currently the Pottersville Cemetery, new section, has graves that measure 5' wide, and between every set of 2 graves there exists a 2' walkway. Greg Bolton has been working on remapping the

graves to eliminate the 2' walkways and decrease the size of the grave width to 4'. In so doing, the Loop will gain an additional 123 graves, and the area below it, another 60.

RESOLUTION #126: AUTHORIZE RECONFIGURATION OF POTTERSVILLE CEMETERY.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize reconfiguration of Pottersville Cemetery.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOSLUTION #127: RETAIN SURVEYOR TO REDRAW MAP AND FILE WITH COUNTY CLERK.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, retain Surveyor Jim Hughes to redraw map of Pottersville Cemetery and file with Warren County Clerk.

AYE 5 NO 0

Bus to New York for NYS Association of Towns.

Supervisor Monroe explained that Schuyler Falls has a bus going to New York for the NYS Association of Towns conference, and if the Town wanted to go with them, they would want to know right away. Mr. Monroe will check with Donna Combs in Warrensburg to see if she has room on the bus, else they will say yes to Schuyler Falls. Mrs. Wells asked whether the dues could be paid ahead of time so they did not run into the problem that they had last year.

RESOLUTION #128: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF DUES FOR ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS WHEN INVOICE COMES IN AND PREPAY RESERVATIONS AND BUS.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Durkish, authorize payment of dues for NYS Association of Towns as soon as it comes in, and prepay for bus and reservations.

AYE 5 NO 0

Veteran's Memorial Plants.

The new plantings for the Veteran's Memorial have been put in, and will be mulched and covered with burlap for the winter to preserve them.

Assessor.

Mr. Monroe stated that Mr. Klingler has asked to be appointed for the next five years. An executive session was requested by a Board member.

Arnold Jensen mentioned that he would be taking Mr. Klingler out on his boat, and would like to be reimbursed for his gas.

Tom Wolf request for pay in lieu of vacation.

Mr. Monroe stated that Tom Wolf has time accumulated for vacation since his part time status, and has requested pay in lieu of vacation. Discussion ensued, after which Mr. Monroe stated that this matter should be tabled until he had clarified with the bookkeeper how much time they were talking about.

MOAS.

MOAS has sent a letter to the Town requesting whether the students could have the bottles from the Transfer Station to help with their annual fund raising ventures for their trip to Washington DC. John West stated that the Boy Scouts had been collecting them since no one else had requested them.

RESOLUTION #129: AUTHORIZE MOAS STUDENTS TAKE BOTTLES AND CANS FROM TRANSFER STATION.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Durkish, authorize MOAS students take bottles and cans from Transfer Station to aid in their fundraising efforts for their annual trip to Washington DC.

AYE 5 NO 0

2015 Health Insurance options.

Mr. Monroe stated that there would be a meeting with the bargaining unit and employees on 10/16/14 at 1:30 pm to discuss health insurance options for 2015. Discussion on Health Insurance options would be discussed during executive session.

Review revised 2015 budget.

Due to the fact that Mr. Durkish and Mr. Packer had been absent from the initial review of the budget, Supervisor Monroe opted to review it again. A couple of changes were made since the initial discussion, one being the anticipated \$51,000 revenue from the County for maintenance of their roads, and another to reduce the initial amount set aside for repair of the sidewalks at the Health Center by \$8,000. The consensus of the Board was that the sidewalks could be repaired rather than totally replaced. Discussion also on the money realized from the sale of timber would go toward the pellet boiler, the money from the County would go toward the highway repairs, and a capital reserve fund be instituted for the compactor at the Landfill.

RESOLUTION #130: AUTHORIZE INCREASE OF REVENUE BY \$51,000, DECREASE CODE #4560.2 BY \$8,000, AND AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO MAKE MINOR TWEAKS, AS NEEDED IN THE BUDGET.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, authorize an increase in revenue by \$51,000, decrease code #A4560.2 from \$11,000 to \$3,000 for Health Center, and authorize Supervisor to make minor tweaks in the budget if or as needed.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #131: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF ABSTRACTS AND CLAIMS PAID PRIOR TO AUDIT.

Introduced by Mrs.DuRose, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize payment of abstracts and claims paid prior to audit:

General Fund	\$49,254.18	(444-495)
Highway Fund	\$24,145.33	(243-273)
C'Town Water	\$ 8,170.64	(40-47)
P'Ville Water	\$ 7,337.59	(49-51)
Library	\$ 815.00	(36-39)
Loon Lake Park District	\$ 5,168.88	(30-32)
Schroon Lake Park District	\$ 9,715.00	(3-3)

AYE 5 NO 1

On a motion by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, Board went into executive session at 9:15 pm to discuss the appointment of the Assessor, and the Health Insurance options.

On a motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, Board was out of executive session at 9:50 pm. No action taken.

On a motion by Mr. Durkish, seconded by Mr. Packer, Board adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk