

**Regular meeting** of the Town of Chester Town Board was held on **September 11, 2013** at 7:00 pm at the Town Municipal Center, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, NY.

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

**RESOLUTION #136: ACCEPT AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> AND 27<sup>th</sup> MINUTES.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, accept Minutes for August 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, as presented.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Open bids.** Notice to Bidders had been advertised for a Biomass Steam Boiler System for the Town Hall. A contractor walk through had been done with Rick Handley on August 29<sup>th</sup>, and Jason had done a walk through with an engineer representative from the USDA, from whom the Town had applied for a grant to assist with monies for the project. Rick Handley from Rick Handley & Associates was in attendance at the meeting. No bids had been received. Mr. Monroe stated that we would be receiving a Grant from USDA in the amount of \$20,000, and there would also be loan money available at a subsidized rate. Mr. Monroe and Mr. Handley will be meeting with a gentleman from the USDA on Friday.

Mr. Monroe stated that he had received an email from them telling us that before they could award the grant, we would need to have a design stamped by an engineer, and then they would have to approve the bid documents. This project is also included in part in a grant for over One Million dollars, which is the New York Energy Research Development Authority minimum that was submitted by the Adirondack North Country Association. Initially he was told that the grant awards would be given in October, but now understands that it will not be until December. We need to determine whether we can get by on the boiler that we now have for this coming winter, and the project will need to be re-bid. Mr. Packer wondered if the project could be delayed until next year, and Mr. Handley thought that any grant money awarded would need to be encumbered soon. Those concerns will be answered Friday when they meet with USDA. Mr. Monroe thought that we would be getting money from the Northern Forest Center also, up to \$10,000.

**Privilege of the Floor.**

Don Butler from the Tri-Lakes Business Association was looking for \$1,000 from the Town to go toward advertising for the Rum Runner weekend.

He also asked for permission to allow ATV's on the Town Roads for their annual ride for "Toys for Tots." The Town has no authority to allow ATV's on the Town Highways unless they connect two designated trails, according to NYS Law.

**RESOLUTION #137: APPROVE TRI-LAKES BUSINESS ALLIANCE \$1000 TOWARD ADVERTISING.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, approve to provide \$1,000 from Occupancy Tax for advertising for the Rum-Runners weekend.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Old Business.**

**Renovate.** Mr. Monroe gave an update on the Renovate application post treatment survey. He had heard from the Darrin Freshwater Institute that they want to launch their boat from our boat launch. Since the boat is coming from Lake George, it will be washed before it goes in the water. They want to leave the boat at the dock overnight, and they will be here for a couple of days. We will need an extension to get the post treatment survey report to the APA, as it will not be completed by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Tree removal ~ Dynamite Hill.**

John West had gotten three proposals for removal of about 20 hazard trees located on Dynamite Hill. Stan Hunt Tree Care had estimated a cost between \$5,600 and \$5,900. High Peaks Tree Removal and Valley Tree's had both estimated a cost of \$4,500 with both including cleanup afterward.

**RESOLUTION #138: ACCEPT VALLEY TREE PROPOSAL FOR REMOVAL OF HAZARD TREES.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, accept proposal from Valley Tree as a local Contractor for removal of hazard trees on Dynamite Hill in the amount of \$4,500.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Tree removal ~ Chester Rural Cemetery.**

Valley Tree had proposed an estimated a cost of \$1,200 for the removal of 5 dead trees in the Chester Rural Cemetery, which includes chipping and removal of the wood and debris from the property.

**RESOLUTION #139: ACCEPT VALLEY TREE PROPOSAL FOR REMOVAL OF DEAD TREES IN CEMETERY.**

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, accept proposal from Valley Tree in the amount of \$1,200 for removal of 5 dead trees in the Chester Rural Cemetery.

AYE 3 NO 0

**LCD Streetlight project.**

Mike Glebus installed one of the LCD retrofitted streetlights in front of the Town Hall, and was happy with the kit. He thought the light emitted from it was brighter than the high pressure sodium lights that we now have. The remaining lights can now be converted.

**Boat wash station.**

Everything going well at the boat wash station site, having had a real busy Labor Day weekend. Mr. Monroe stated that he had had a call from the new Executive Director of the Adirondack Council who was coming here to meet with Bob Sweeney who is the Chairman of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee. Mr. Monroe feels that he is a critical person to see our boat wash station, as he is co-sponsoring a bill to do a five billion dollar environmental bond act with a Senator from Buffalo. If that goes forward, there may be some money available to towns like us who are fighting invasive species.

**New business:**

**Cooperative Assessment Agreement.** The Board had met with the Town of Warrensburg on August 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss a cooperative assessment agreement between our two Towns. The Board agreed to offer the position of Assessor to Warrensburg's Assessor, Greg Klingler. Mr. Monroe met with Mr. Klingler and Warrensburg Supervisor Geraghty, the latter informing Mr. Monroe that the Town of Warrensburg had passed a resolution to enter into the cooperative assessment agreement with the Town of Chester. Mr. Klingler will try it for a year on a trial basis.

**RESOLUTION #140: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR SIGN COOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF WARRENSBURG.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize Supervisor Monroe sign cooperative assessment agreement with Town of Warrensburg.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Discussion.** Supervisor Monroe stated that we had gotten our equalization rates which is at 1.067. The State says that we are now over assessed at this point. The good thing is that our full value for the town is lower than it was last year, so that means our taxpayers should be paying a smaller share of the County tax. We also share in the sales tax, based on our full value, so if the sales tax that comes in remains the same, our share in it may go down.

**RESOLUTION #141: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR APPLY FOR PARKS & RECREATION AND YOUTH FUNDS.**

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize Supervisor to apply for Park & Recreation and Youth funds.

AYE 3 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #142: SET DATE FOR TENTATIVE BUDGET MEETING.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, set date for tentative budget meeting for October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**RESOLUTION #143: REAPPOINT BOAR MEMBER.**

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, reappoint Board of Assessment Review member whose term expires September 30<sup>th</sup>. (My

note: Joe LaRocque is the member whose term expires, but Joe retired June of 2012. The seat remains open, but the term for this seat would expire again on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018).

AYE 3 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #144: STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Chester hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and appointed positions and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System:

Karen L. Griffen, Court clerk TIMEKEEPING 8 hours standard workday.

Harold Ellsworth, Planning Board member 6 hours standard workday,  
1/3 day worked per month.

George G. Hilton, Planning Board member 6 hours standard workday,  
1/3 day worked per month.

Alma L. Alvarez, Library Technician TIMEKEEPING, 6 hours standard  
workday.

Daniel J. Smith, clerk, assessor reval., 6 hour standard workday,  
TIMEKEEPING.

Amy L. Culver, clerk, food pantry, 6 hour standard workday,  
TIMEKEEPING.

Lowell A. Lashomb, recycling attendant, part-time. 6 hours standard  
workday TIMEKEEPING.

William Rowell, laborer, part-time, 6 hours standard workday.  
TIMEKEEPING.

Jeremy J. Little, clerk, part-time, 6 hours standard workday.  
TIMEKEEPING.

Tanya Y. May, clerk, part-time, 6 hours standard workday. TIMEKEEPING.

Mindy A. Conway, youth leader, 6 hours standard workday. TIMEKEEPING.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Finch Land Classification.** Discussion on support of the Upper Hudson Recreation Hub and the critical importance that APA recognize the physical and logical reason to classify recently acquired land as Wild Forest and Intensive Use Corridor, to provide recreational opportunities for all recreational users.

**RESOLUTION #145: IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWNS OF INDIAN LAKE, LONG LAKE, NEWCOMB, MINERVA AND NORTH HUDSON CONCERNING THEIR PLAN FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, the following was ADOPTED:

WHEREAS, we are in receipt of a letter from the 5 TNC towns (the Upper Hudson Recreation Hub/Indian Lake, Long Lake, Newcomb, Minerva, and North Hudson) expressing concerns over the current APA process, and

WHEREAS, we deem the Classification of the newly acquired TNC lands, and the subsequent management of same, as critically important to the future of the 5 Towns and the entire Adirondack Park, and

WHEREAS, we conclude that for all of us to say, it is a new day in the Adirondack Park, that means we ALL have to do business differently, and

WHEREAS, the sense that APA may be poised to, "do business as usual," is of grave concern, and

WHEREAS, staff references to things like the Snowmobile Guidance Document, as an alleged barrier to recreation, are, at a minimum, disheartening, and

WHEREAS, these observations only reinforce the message which was previously sent by the APA, when they failed to offer a broader range of options for public consideration during the recent Classification process, specifically the sad reality that no option considered a campsite, or any significant Intensive Use Area, and

WHEREAS, based on this pattern of disturbing facts, we find it critical to weigh in.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Chester Town Board hereby asserts that the desires and the direction of the Upper Hudson Recreation Hub (Indian Lake, Long Lake, Newcomb, Minerva, and North Hudson), are absolutely consistent with:

1. The Common Ground Alliance stated vision for a more sustainable/usable Park
2. The Rec Strategies work asserting the need for more recreational opportunities (the Upper Hudson Recreational Hub was actually showcased as a pilot area)
3. The Adirondack Futures vision for a more usable Park
4. The highly touted success story involving the Moose River Plains Partnership
5. The Governor's stated vision for these lands
6. Commissioner Marten's stated vision for these lands

And be it further RESOLVED, that it is critically important that the APA recognize the physical and logical reasons to classify these lands as Wild Forest:

1. A network of roads sufficient to support higher levels of use

2. Existing Bridges
3. Continued motorized use, authorized through 2018 for lease holders and 2019 for TNC of these lands.

And also be it RESOLVED, that the use of an Intensive Use Corridor, similar to the successful example demonstrated in the Moose River Plains, is hereby encouraged. This is to allow roadside camping and greater densities of camping, both of which are designed to entice use away from more environmentally sensitive areas. Plus, an Intensive Use Corridor will open up the opportunity for a groomed cross country ski trail connection between the participating towns. And be it also

RESOLVED, the Town of Chester Town Board hereby goes on record, with the strongest level of support possible, for the Governor's vision that these lands provide recreational opportunities for all recreational users, which is basically captured in the plan set forth by the Upper Hudson Recreation Hub (the 5 towns), and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Cuomo, Senator Farley, Senator Little, Assemblyman Butler, Assemblyman Stec, Commissioner Martens, Chairwoman Ulrich, AATV, the Hamilton County BOS, and the Essex County BOS.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Chamber request.** Chamber has requested use of the front lawn of the Municipal Center during World's largest Garage Sale in Warrensburg to conduct their own yard sale.

**RESOLUTION #146: APPROVE USE OF MUNICIPAL CENTER LAWN FOR USE BY THE CHAMBER DURING WORLD'S LARGEST GARAGE SALE.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, approve use of the Municipal Center Lawn by the Chamber to conduct a yard sale, during Warrensburg's World's Largest Garage Sale.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Japanese Knotweed.** Kathy Vanselow had requested permission for treatment of Japanese Knotweed on Town property, by the Landfill. It is currently without charge, but we need to find out how much it would cost, as we cannot make a donation, and then we would have to determine whether we will sign a contract with them.

**RESOLUTION #147: AUTHORIZE TREATMENT OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON TOWN PROPERTY.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, authorize Kathy Vanselow treat Japanese Knotweed within the Town.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Shelter for bus stop.** Several people have requested a small shelter be instituted at the Trailways bus stop, which is located in front of

the Town Municipal Center. During inclement weather, passengers have no protection, and if they are not visible when the bus goes through, the bus will not stop. John West suggested an umbrella, similar to what the lifeguards use. The Board was against any structure out there that could impair the line of sight from anyone trying to exit the municipal center driveways onto Route 9. A call will be made to Trailways Bus Co. to see if they have any ideas or suggestions. Mr. Monroe will report back at our next meeting.

**The Wells House.** Mr. Monroe stated that he understood Tim Beadnell was in contract to purchase the Wells House in Pottersville. Historically, this building has been a bar, restaurant and hotel since sometime prior to 1876. There is a Church located within close proximity, and as there is a 200 foot rule regarding churches and taverns, there are apparently some issues with the State Liquor Authority. Mr. Monroe has written the NYS Liquor Authority that we are in support of Mr. Beadnell's application.

**RESOLUTION #148: THANK CAROL BLEICKHARDT FOR HER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE, HARD WORK AND KNOWLEDGE.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, send acknowledgement and appreciation to Carol Bleickhardt for her dedicated 30 years of service to the Town of Chester, and for all of her knowledge and hard work.

AYE 3 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #149: AUTHORIZE CUB SCOUT PACK #30 TO SPONSOR CAR WASH.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize Cub Scout Pack #30 to sponsor a car wash in the Parking Lot of the Municipal Center on the Mealsite side of the building on October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM until 3 PM.

AYE 3 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #150: AUTHORIZE WESLEYAN CHURCH COLLECT BOTTLES AND CANS FROM TRANSFER STATION.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize Wesleyan Church collect the bottle and cans from the Transfer Station for the months of October and November.

AYE 3 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #151: WRITE LETTER OF SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, write letter of thanks to the Bicentennial Committee for the dedication and hard work and the overwhelming success of the Bicentennial celebration that was held at the Pottersville Fairground.

AYE 3 NO 0

**Health Center Sidewalks.** Supervisor Monroe will speak with Richard Jones & Associates regarding the sidewalks at the Health Center. A

picture will be taken and sent to him following the patch that Mr. West did for a temporary fix.

**Ski tow.** John West inquired about the possibility of replacing the 1930's rope tow at Dynamite Hill and whether some of the money for it could come from Occupancy Tax. Instead of having an EMT on site, John has been citing the Emergency Squad being within sight. The tow rope would cost \$16,000 but the town would have to own the expense for the anchors. Mr. Monroe would like to clear things with the Health Dept. first to be sure that everything would remain in compliance with the change, and without any new requirements. Additionally, we would need to see how much money we will have coming from the Occupancy Tax. We would just be upgrading, not making any changes. The Inspector has a problem with the rope being on the same pole as the lighting and the power line, due to any wires dropping down, etc. The new tow rope would separate it from that situation.

**RESOLUTION #152: APPROVE ABSTRACTS AND CLAIMS PAID PRIOR TO AUDIT.**

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

General Fund	\$ 32,344.02	(384~434)
Highway Fund	\$104,449.37	(211~234)
C'Town Water	\$ 1,439.50	( 35~37 )
P'Ville Water	\$ 309.51	( 30~37 )
Library	\$ 746.89	( 32~36 )
Loon Lk. Pk. Dist.	\$ 1,139.74	( 43~47 )
CDGB P'Ville Water	\$ 3,211.46	( 2~3 )

AYE 3 NO 0

**Adjournment.** On a motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Town Clerk