

Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester was held **June 11, 2013** at 7:00 pm in the Town Municipal Center, Chestertown, NY.

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

RESOLUTION #89: ACCEPT MAY MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, accept Minutes of May 2nd, 14th, and 21st, as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

Privilege of the Floor.

Ava Ashendorf gave an update on the "whitespace" project which she is working on to bring the Internet to un-served Rural areas. She will be attending a NY State Broadband meeting at the end of the month and mentioned that we are known as innovators for this area, this project putting Chestertown on the map. Mrs. Ashendorf also mentioned that anyone having problems with Frontier's internet at this time should know that they are undergoing an update and everything should be resolved soon.

Linda Muench mentioned that the flowers are in the planter's for this season, and there is a repeated "yellow" theme to complement the Warren County's Bicentennial flower which is the Black Eyed Susan.

Old business.

Pellet Boiler. Mr. Monroe reported that we had requested some grant money from the Northern Forest Center, and we have been told that they will provide us with \$10,000 towards getting a pellet boiler. Mr. Monroe has also been working with Rick Handley on an application to U.S. Department of Agriculture for a \$20,000 grant. We do have a condemned boiler in the Town Hall that needs to be replaced, which would cost from \$20,000 to \$23,000. By receiving the grants, that would give us about \$53,000 toward a pellet boiler. He mentioned that NYSERDA may also be offering a grant, and we will be keeping an eye on that. The Board would like to pursue this project, as the fuel savings should be from 50-60%. At the moment we are waiting for a response to a request for information or expressions of interest in doing a complete project, in order to get a total cost.

Renovate. The Renovate application into Loon Lake has gone well. The water has been tested every week, and the concentration numbers have been steadily going down. Acceptable for drinking, the levels have to be at 50 parts per billion. It started out in the high 400's when it was applied in May, and was at 100 last week. Once the acceptable level is reached, the curtain in the Lake can be pulled up. The water level has also been coming up due to all of the rain. DEC had required that everyone from Exit 25 to Exit 24 be notified of the Renovate application, and testing results have shown that by the time it reaches the Schroon River, it is undetectable.

Mr. Monroe stated that APA requires a post treatment survey be done of all the plants in the treatment area, and he will be getting in touch with the Darrin Fresh Water Institute in Bolton, or the Nature Conservancy for a cost for that. We have until September to get that done.

New business.

Re-appointment of Assessor. Supervisor Monroe mentioned that our Assessor had agreed to come back through September, to finish to the end of his previously appointed term. Additionally, Mr. Monroe had spoken with him recently, and he is willing to come back and be appointed for another term after September 30th.

RESOLUTION #90: REAPPOINT PAUL MANIACEK AS ASSESSOR OCTOBER 1ST, 2013.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, accept offer from Paul Maniacek for re-appointment as Assessor on October 1st. Any notification for future resignation must be offered at least 90 days in advance of vacating the office.

AYE 5 NO 0

L.A. Group.

A contract had been done with the L.A. Group about a year ago for continuation of services. We had gone through a procurement process with them, and had a grant with the Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Project, being funded specifically for recreation and for Dynamite Hill. Basically, L.A. Group would just do an assessment of everything we have, they would hold workshops, establish priorities, identify enhancement projects, develop conceptual plans, hold public informational meetings, draft a recreation plan, then do a final plan. This would put us in a position to be competitive for any future grants. The Board feels that this would be a wise thing to do, and maybe get some trails funded for use within the Town. The grant would pay for half of the cost, and we would then pay the other half with occupancy tax money. Mr. Monroe has also sent a letter to the Department of State requesting approval to work with the L.A. Group because of our past dealings with them, and our existing contract. Wayne LaMothe from Warren County Planning thinks they will approve it, we are just waiting for something back from them in writing.

RESOLUTION #91: APPROVE ADDENDUM TO EXISTING CONTRACT WITH L.A. GROUP.

Introduced by Mr. Durkish, seconded by Mrs. Wells, approve addendum to our current contract with the L.A. Group.

AYE 5 NO 0

South Handicap Ramp.

Darryl Clute, d/b/a Adirondack Masonry, has been working on the ramp at the south end of the Town Hall building, and found that it was almost disintegrated underneath it. He has been rebuilding it. At the same time, some of the stonework alongside the building was chipped and broken. He took some of the pieces from the wall over by the court, and has moved them near the ramp, and then poured concrete where they came from, which Jason painted to match the rest of the stones. Mr. Clute feels that he may go over the allotted budget that had been designated for the job, so Mr. Monroe asked for an increase in the budgeted amount for this project to a maximum of \$12,000. Should they run over, Jason said that we can do the pouring of concrete where the ramp starts, because that needs replacing as well. Mr. Durkish asked whether John West could be asked to back off on the salt being used, which Mr. Monroe said he has talked to him about. There are other products out there that can be used instead, and Mr. Monroe will remind him again before the snow season starts.

RESOLUTION #92: AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE IN BUDGET TO A MAXIMUM OF \$12,000 FOR REPAIR TO THE SOUTH ENTRANCE HANDICAP RAMP.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize an increase in the budget for repair to the south entrance handicap ramp to a maximum of \$12,000.

AYE 5 NO 0

Authorize stipend for Assessor Clerk.

Mr. Maniacek had spoken with Mr. Monroe about giving a stipend to Carol Bleickhardt of \$180 for her work getting ready for Grievance Day, and for her undertakings during his absence.

RESOLUTION #93: AUTHORIZE STIPEND FOR ASSESSOR CLERK.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize Carol Bleickhardt be compensated in the amount of \$180 for her work on the Board of Assessment Review.

AYE 5 NO 0

North Warren Emergency Squad.

Mr. Monroe reported to the Board that the Squad had been under contract with a company called E-5. Basically they were doing management of all the volunteers, and provided an Operations Manager for the Rescue Squad and the ALS Techs. Our representative on that board said that there had been some missed calls because the ALS didn't appear, and the Operations Manager went on vacation for some period of time and was not available. They decided not to renew the contract with E-5. The Town does not want to be involved with micromanaging the Squad, but we want to make sure: 1) that they can perform the contract we have with them, 2) that they are governed by the Board of Directors and not by the paid employees, and 3) that they are keeping an eye on taxpayer money.

They will be entering into a new contract with a different Operations Manager, and assured Mr. Monroe that they were able to meet all of the concerns mentioned. Keena Staffing will be taking care of the administration of the payroll.

Adirondack Action. A letter has been received from Adk Action regarding suspension of mowing of the roadsides from the end of June until mid-September in order to preserve the milkweed for the imperiled Monarch butterfly migration. The milkweed is the only plant on which the Monarchs lay their eggs. Observation of our roadsides does not reveal much milkweed, and the Board feels that for the safety of the traffic and the driver's line of vision, mowing of roadsides will continue as it has in the past.

Speed bumps. Resident Dan Wallace has requested the installation of speed bumps on the Gambles Beach Road, due to the excessive speed of traffic and heavy trucks on it, and the safety of the children who live there or use the road as access to go swimming, fishing, canoeing, etc. He presented the Board with several petitions from concerned citizens, and has also requested a reduction in the speed limit, which, if not posted, would be 55 m.p.h. Discussion ensued regarding DOT recommendations for traffic calming devices, whether they be speed humps, with a maximum height of 3-4", or speed bumps which can be higher. Jason has recommended a speed limit of 15 m.p.h., as he recognizes the traffic hazards there. DOT will need to be approached before we can post the speed limit. Any speed impeding devices would be removed before the winter plowing would be implemented.

RESOLUTION #94: REINSTATE SEASONAL SPEED BUMPS ON GAMBLES BEACH ROAD AND REQUEST SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FROM DOT.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, reinstate seasonal speed bumps on the Gambles Beach Road, and request speed limit reduction from DOT to 15 m.p.h.

AYE 5 NO 0

Boat wash station. The boat wash station has been ordered and should be delivered soon. Mr. Monroe is trying to set up a meeting with Jason and Ed Greismer to see where to put it. He had attended a press conference for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand last week in Bolton where a pressure wash station was set up. He asked the operator what he recommended for security for it, because it is an expensive unit. He was told that they rent a pod which the unit can be kept in, and only the pad is external. The only time the unit has to be moved out of the pod is for expulsion of the water that is in it. Some sort of barrier will need to be placed around the pad to keep traffic from driving over it.

Loon Lake Park District Association does not want the boat launch open

unless the Steward's are there. The Board feels that they need to utilize this practice in order to protect the safety of the lake. Not every boat will need to be washed. Boats that are just in and out of Loon Lake will not need to be rewashed, or if it has been in storage all winter, or if it is cleaned, drained and dry, it will not need to be washed before launching. Steward's will be on duty from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm weekends, and from 6:00 am until 2:00 pm weekdays. Concerns over boats coming from Schroon Lake or Brant lake are also a concern. Schroon Lake has a \$350,000 grant, which we are the grant applicant for, but it does not include a boat wash station. The grant administrator has been asked to amend the work plan to include payment for ½ of a boat wash station for the Schroon Lake launch, which is much busier than ours, and the East Schroon Lake Association has said they will pay for ¼ if the grant pays for ½. We are not sure what Brant Lake will do.

Discussion on having access only by the Steward's controlling the launching, and changing the lock on the gate. If we don't take control, we could lose our lakes. The transient boats seem to be the biggest problem, as they move from lake to lake. As it is now, anyone with a key can go in and launch. Discussion continued regarding people getting off the lake after hours, and it was decided to make a decision regarding launch hours after meeting with the Marina owners on Brant Lake, Schroon Lake, and Loon Lake, to get their ideas and cooperation. A special Board meeting may be called.

RESOLUTION #95: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO RENT POD FOR STORAGE OF BOAT WASH STATION.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, authorize rental of a pod for about \$150 per month for storage of the boat wash station.

AYE 5 NO 0

Southern Adirondack Guide. First Wilderness Heritage Corridor is willing to pay for ½ of an ad in the Southern Adirondack Guide. A full page ad is \$945 and ½ page would come to \$472.50.

RESOLUTION #96: AUTHORIZE ½ PAGE AD IN THE SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK GUIDE.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, authorize a ½ page ad in the Southern Adirondack Guide.

AYE 5 NO 0

Assessor training. discussion on continuing training for the Assessor.

RESOLUTION #97: AUTHORIZE ASSESSOR ATTEND TRAINING CLASSES.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe,

WHEREAS, the New York State Assessor Association offers courses during

the week of July 16th at their Annual Seminar at Cornell University, which supports the Assessor in training imperative to fulfilling the responsibilities of office and to remain abreast of legislative changes pertinent to assessment administration, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Assessor is hereby authorized to travel and attend this training seminar. All necessary expenses for same to be a lawful claim against the Town of Chester.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #98: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF ABSTRACTS AND CLAIMS PAID PRIOR TO AUDIT.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Durkish, approve payment to Floyd Wells for his service on the Board of Assessment Review.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Durkish ~ Yes
Mrs. Wells ~ Abstain
Mr. Packer ~ Yes
Mrs. Wells ~ Yes
Mr. Monroe ~ Yes

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

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| General | \$39,935.98 | (218-273) |
| General (2012) | \$ 4,217.32 | (779-780) |
| Highway | \$19,262.10 | (136-153) |
| Chester Water | \$ 3,313.17 | (19-28) |
| Pottersville Water | \$ 5,618.28 | (15-22) |
| Library | \$ 988.43 | (19-22) |
| Loon Lk. Park District | \$46,576.66 | (6-14) |

AYE 5 NO 0

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk