

**Regular meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Chester was held **October 9, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Municipal Center, Chestertown, NY.

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

**Privilege of the floor.**

**Linda Muench** stated that she had received very positive feedback regarding the new planters and the flowers this year, and they had received a Certificate from the Garden Club. She also stated that the watering was well done, and no plants were lost this year. Questioned future of the Carboy house, to which Supervisor Monroe stated that a relative would be administering the estate, after which the County could take some action on the property.

Supervisor Monroe also stated that Jupiter Engineering would be taking down the Pine Street building on October 29<sup>th</sup>, the contract has already been signed. They requested that a hydrant hookup be available and Jason stated that there is a hydrant about 500 feet away, so that will be no problem.

**Ed Greismer**, Loon Lake Park District, explained that they had taken a cruise of the Lake with Lycott Engineering and Supervisor Monroe, looking at milfoil sites that had been identified, and ascertaining the work that remains to be done. A great deal of the work that has been completed has been done by volunteers, such as the divers, the scouts, and the matters, which saved them a lot of money. A report will be done by Lycott, and then shared at a future meeting. The south end of the lake will be targeted very aggressively in early May when determined what treatment to use to eradicate the dense milfoil there.

Discussion on the traffic/speed limits on Route 8 near the beach/dam, and wondering whether signage indicating it is a recreational area would be helpful from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Supervisor Monroe stated that they would speak with the County DPW and the DOT Engineer about it, in hopes of a recommended solution. Supervisor Monroe also expressed the Town's appreciation for all that the Loon Lake Park Association has done.

**Mary Jane Dower** indicated that tomorrow (the 10<sup>th</sup>), would be their last Farmer's Market for this year, and she would be reporting on the success of it when all the tallies were in. She also inquired as to when the work on the in ground drains on Route 9 (Main Street) would be completed, in the event there should be a snow storm.

**Old Business.**

The solar panels for the Town Hall have been turned on for about 2 weeks, with the second array having been installed, producing 50 KW

here, and also at the Health Center. Work has begun at the Dynamite site, with some hazard trees being removed first.

Town Clerk shared that the Engineer had told her that a single array would be installed by the Ski hut. There would be a display mounted on the building, which would keep changing, showing, for instance, how much carbon was **not** produced, how many kilowatt hours were made, etc. There will probably be some interesting facts posted as well for the public to read about solar energy.

**Removal of waste oil tanks at Highway Garage.** The project has gone out to bid, and the bid opening will be Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #162: SCHEDULE SPECIAL MEETING FOR AWARD OF BID FOR TANK REMOVAL AT HIGHWAY GARAGE.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, schedule a Special meeting on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to award bid for removal of waste oil tanks at the Highway Garage.

AYE 5 NO 0

**Agreement with Helper's Fund/Food Pantry.**

Attorney Schachner has drafted an agreement between the Helper's Fund and the Town of Chester for the operation of the Food Pantry. In essence, the Helper's Fund will receive donations and manage and operate the Food Pantry. The Town will provide space for the Food Pantry in the Municipal Center, and will pay one employee at the Food Pantry. The equipment in the food Pantry is currently owned by the Town, but the Helper's Fund will maintain and replace equipment as needed, and will then own any replacement equipment. The Helper's Fund will also maintain general liability insurance of at least One Million Dollars coverage for operations at the Food Pantry with the Town named as an additional insured.

**RESOLUTION #163: ACCEPT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND THE HELPER'S FUND, INC.**

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Packer, accept agreement, as drafted, between the Helpers Fund, Inc., and the Town of Chester.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

**Sign for the Town Hall.**

Two bids had been received for the construction of the new sign for the Town Municipal Center. The first was from Garnet Signs, in the amount of \$10,295. The second was from Bader-Lueki Industries, LLC in

the amount of \$14,966. Garnet signs brought in a contract for signing with some modifications to make the sign more durable. He also recommends a vandal cover for the changeable sign area to protect the messages. The price to do so is \$11,400. Jason will do the excavation and construct the base, supports, etc.

**RESOLUTION #164: APPROVE PRICE INCREASE FROM GARNET SIGNS WITH RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Durkish, accept the price of \$11,400 from Garnet Signs, with the modifications indicated, and sign contract.

AYE 5 NO 0

Clerk had gotten a price on the signs for "Leash Law in effect" at \$42.00 each, and needed to know how many the Board wanted to post. Jason will get a count of the roads where "Zoning in effect" signs are posted and let us know how many so they can be ordered.

**New Business.**

Again, Bid opening for highway garage tank removal scheduled for Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Time and date were set by CT Male.

**Parks & Rec.** had requested establishing their work hours from 6 AM to 2:30 PM year round. Their hours are set by the Town Board. No one at the meeting from Parks & Rec. Tabled.

**Veteran's** had met with Mr. Monroe, and informed him that Home Depot wants to donate three (3) granite benches, to replace the wooden ones now in place, a cobble walkway, and some low hedges between the performance space and the rest of the monument. Thank you to the Home Depot!

**HITS Triathlon Series.**

This enterprise has asked for permission to hold a triathlon event on the weekend of June 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The race would begin in Hague, proceed over Route 8, and half cyclists will return from Johnsbury to Hague. Full cyclists will continue on to Speculator, then turn around and return to Hague.

**RESOLUTION #165: APPROVE HITS TRIATHLON TRAVERSE THROUGH TOWN OF CHESTER SUMMER 2013.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Durkish, approve HITS Triathlon to use State Route 8, in the Town of Chester, the weekend of June 29-30, 2013 for their Triathlon, contingent on it not being the same weekend as the Centurian.

AYE 5 NO 0

**Preliminary Budget.**

The tentative budget had been reviewed at the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. There were some additional changes with regard to Loon Lake Park

District, from \$81,000 to \$84,000, and to appropriate the difference of \$30,000 from Lycott's bill for this year, (\$81,000 had been budgeted) into surplus, with the additional \$3,000 to come from the surplus for 2013.

**RESOLUTION #166: APPROVE PRELIMINARY BUDGET WITH AMENDMENTS.**

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, approve Preliminary Budget, with amendments.

AYE 5 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #167: SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, set date of Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for public hearing of Preliminary Budget.

AYE 5 NO 0

**Unsafe building.**

Supervisor Monroe stated that the County would like a resolution with regard to the cost of demolition for the Pine Street building, in order to levy the cost against the property. If the building is razed on October 29<sup>th</sup>, a resolution can be made at the November meeting.

**Watering Tub.**

Supervisor Monroe had met with the Schroon Lake Park District, who were concerned over the watering tub. The watering tub is owned by the Town of Schroon, located in the Town of Horicon, and used by both Towns, plus the Town of Chester. Horicon doesn't want it shut down, and Schroon Lake doesn't want to own it. They are looking at the possibility of a Maintenance and Operation Agreement for it between the three Towns of Schroon, Chester, and Horicon, to share the liability. Discussion has been tabled for the time being.

**Steve Ovitt** has submitted an invoice for payment, and we need to be sure that these expenses are paid for through the First Wilderness Grant. Mr. Monroe has advised Mr. Ovitt to go ahead with his application to the APA. Mr. Monroe also mentioned that there had been a meeting with Warren County Planning and Jim Martin of the LA Group to devise a broader Recreational plan for the entire Town. The Grant requires a match, and some of that can be covered by the time spent by the volunteers' committee. The rest will require some cash, and Mr. Monroe has budgeted for projects like this through the Occupancy Tax.

**Schroon Lake Milfoil.**

Aquatic Invasive Management out of Saranac Lake is proposing \$44,000 for Schroon Lake Milfoil, but they believe they can get it down to \$15,000. The Schroon Lake Association and the Town of Schroon have had Steve LaMere and Adirondack Ecologists, and wanted to stay with Adirondack Ecologists. The Towns of Horicon and Chester wanted to go with AIM. AIM will do the entire Lake, and the Schroon Supervisor will recommend to his Board at their next meeting, that they do that.

They would like a contribution from the Town of Chester in the amount of \$7,000 which Mr. Monroe recommends we do, and he has included it in the budget. They expect it to go down substantially, at \$22,000 next year, instead of \$44,000 as for this year. Mr. Monroe also feels that we need to keep some money in reserve for both the Loon Lake Park District and the Schroon Lake Park District for any upcoming problems.

**Main Street Parking.**

Due to the problems we've been having with parking along Main Street and the inability to see around vehicles parked on the Street while exiting a driveway, Supervisor Monroe had asked Attorney Schachner to draft a Local Law with regard to parking. Brief discussion ensued.

**RESOLUTION #168: AUTHORIZE CLERK ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON MAIN STREET.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize Town Clerk to advertise public hearing for parking restrictions on Main Street, to be held at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:00 pm.

AYE 5 NO 0

**Vacant space in building.** Mindy Conway asked whether she could use the former Sheriff space for the youth program.

**RESOLUTION #169: AUTHORIZE USE OF FORMER SHERIFF LOCATION FOR YOUTH PROGRAM.**

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Durkish, authorize use of former Sheriff space for youth program until such time as the space is rented.

AYE 5 NO 0

**RESOLUTION #170: ACCEPT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11th AND OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> MEETINGS.**

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mrs. Wells, accept Minutes of the September 11<sup>th</sup>, and October 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes, as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

**Health Insurance.** Negotiations are in progress with CSEA, as the plan that we have had is no longer going to be offered. Union contract states that we cannot diminish the coverage, and going with the Blue Shield Plan is being discussed, which will save the Town money, and funds could be put in a health care reimbursement account for the employees. Some of the co-pays are higher, and CSEA stated that they would consider sharing the savings if the Town would agree to cover the difference between the \$100 co-pay for hospitalization that we now have which would increase to \$1000 per incident. The incidence of these events is about 3% per group. CSEA membership met today, and membership actually prefers CDPHP. Savings realized would be about \$67,867.75 and membership might also consider this plan if the Town would share savings with them, (which would save the Town about \$34,000), and pay the difference in the co-pays. Renewal date is

December 1, instead of January 1. Negotiations will continue.

**RESOLUTION #171: 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, with the exception of Voucher #456 in the amount of \$743.20 for new tires for the skid steer, unless Supervisor Monroe is satisfied with the answer as to why we needed to purchase them for a relatively new piece of equipment.

General Fund	\$38,457.02	(455-505)
Highway	\$26,143.67	(224-247)
C'Town Water	\$ 533.54	( 39-40 )
P'Ville Water	\$ 297.71	( 46-47 )
Library	\$ 910.72	( 48-51 )
Loon Lk. Park Dist.	\$54,727.00	( 10-10 )

AYE 5 NO 0

**Adjournment.** On a motion by Supervisor Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Town Clerk