

Regular meeting of the Town board of the Town of Chester was held **September 11, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Municipal Center, Chestertown, NY.

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

Public Hearing. Public hearing was opened at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Monroe on the Senior Real Property Tax Exemption Local Law. The proposal is to increase the exemption from \$18,000 to \$24,000. At \$24,000, there would be a 50% exemption, and then it would go down for every \$1,000 of additional income to \$32,400.

Last time we increased the exemption, it affected our value by about one and a half million, but as time went on and incomes went up, that amount went down. Our total assessed value is now over \$700 million, so that is really a very small amount. We want to be consistent with the County. Obviously any exemption affects the remaining taxpayers. No comments were received from the public, and the hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m.

The Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State, but will not affect taxpayers until after the taxable status date of March 1st, 2013 for the 2014 taxes.

RESOLUTION #146: APPROVE INCREASE IN SENIOR REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION from \$18,000 to \$24,000.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, approve increase in Senior tax exemption from \$18,000 to \$24,000.

AYE 5 NO 0

Privilege of the floor.

Arnold Jensen reported that no revenue from any tickets on Loon Lake this year was received. He has had the boat winterized, but it will not need to be shrink wrapped and stored at the Marina this year, as Jason will be building an A-frame to store it in.

Mr. Jensen also mentioned the Loon Lake Golf Tournament and the money raised from it, with \$4100 going to local charities, one of which is the Food Pantry.

Discussion on whether a tour of the lake had been done for a baseline study of the milfoil. Ed Greismer was requesting a tour with Lycott.

Florence Converse, ACO, reported on the progress of the dog enumeration program. We had sent out over 2000 postcards, and as of today, we had received 292 replies back, and had sold 68 + new dog licenses. The rabies clinic on Saturday yielded 97 animals receiving shots, most of them cats, and Florence had sold 24 new licenses that

day. Discussion on pursuing those who did not respond. Florence thought perhaps a letter should be sent first, to be followed by a site visit in the event of no response. The board agreed.

Old Business.

Dynamite Hill plan update from Steve Ovitt. We had passed a resolution at the August meeting to approve Mr. Ovitt doing the trail development, not to exceed \$10,000. We did not, however, have a breakdown of what it would cost for various portions of the work. He is currently proposing the first phase which encompasses the design, layout and brushing of the trail. He will then be doing excavation of the trails, which he feels he can do for between \$2,000 and \$3,000. In order to accomplish this, he suggested the Town renting a piece of excavating equipment from Braley & Noxon and he would do the work himself, which would be cheaper than hiring it out. We need to make sure that this will be covered by the grant.

RESOLUTION #147: APPROVE DYNAMITE HILL PLAN CONDITIONED ON DEPT. OF STATE APPROVAL FOR REIMBURSEMENT.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Durkish, approve Steve Ovitt's updated plan for the Dynamite Hill Trail work, with the Town renting the equipment, and Mr. Ovitt doing the work, contingent on Dept of State approving reimbursement to the town.

AYE 5 NO 0

Solar project.

All panels are up for the second array at the Town Hall and the Health Center as well. Supervisor Monroe stated that during the baseball games in the summer, when it would begin to rain, a lot of the people were taking shelter under the solar panels. They are worried about this, because there is voltage there that could hurt someone. Consequently, they will be fencing in the area around the panels, covering the ground with landscaping fabric, and then crushed stone for weed abatement. The power will not be turned on here until the chain link fence is erected.

Fuel tank removal.

Engineers, CT Male have reported that they are over the budget that had been proposed by them and approved by the Board in the amount of \$9610 for their work on the project for removal of the waste oil tanks at the Highway Garage.

The Highway Dept. is not allowed to remove the dirt around the tanks, or remove them. Bid documents have been submitted for approval, and they were given to Attorney Schachner for review.

RESOLUTION #148: APPROVE BID DOCUMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF WASTE OIL TANKS AT HIGHWAY GARAGE.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, approve bid documents for removal of waste oil tanks at the Highway garage.

AYE 5 NO 0

Demolition of Pine Street unsafe building.

Just knocking down the building does not put us in the chain of title with regard to liability. There is no money budgeted for this project, thus we had proposed a Bond Resolution, subject to permissive referendum. No petitions were filed, and all papers were therefore certified back to the Attorney's for the Town at the appropriate times.

We had received one bid, from Jupiter Environmental Service in the amount of \$32,000 for asbestos removal and demolition of the building. Supervisor Monroe had contacted the Corrections Commissioner to see if the town could utilize the inmates that were certified in asbestos removal, which would keep the cost of demolition down. However, we were informed that they can only do asbestos removal in the jails or the prisons.

RESOLUTION #149: RE-APPROVE BID FROM JUPITER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE FOR DEMOLITION OF THE PINE STREET BUILDING.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, re-approve low bidder, Jupiter Environmental Services for removal of asbestos and demolition of the unsafe building on Pine Street in the amount of \$32,000.

AYE 5 NO 0

Discussion on the Brownfield's Grant for tank removal at the site and disposition of contents of the building. No action taken.

RESOLUTION #150: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO BORROW \$45,000 AS AUTHORIZED BY BOND RESOLUTION FOR REMOVAL OF PINE STREET UNSAFE BUILDING.

Introduced by Mr. Durkish, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, authorize Supervisor Monroe borrow \$45,000 as authorized by Bond Resolution for removal of the unsafe building on Pine Street.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #151: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2012 MEETING.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mrs. Wells, accept Minutes of the August 14, 2012 meeting, as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

New Business.

Set date for budget. Meeting must be on or before October 5th.

RESOLUTION #152: SET DATE FOR TENTATIVE BUDGET MEETING.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Monroe, set date for tentative budget meeting for October 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #153: AUTHORIZE CLERK ADVERTISE FOR BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER AND ALTERNATE.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize Town

Clerk to advertise for member for the Board of Assessment Review, as well as an alternate.

Aye 5 NO 0

Transfer Station Tree cutting.

John Howe, Sr. was at the Transfer Station with some equipment, cutting some trees. Mr. Monroe spoke with John West about it, and John stated that there were some trees that could present a hazard to the Quonset Hut and the Dog shelter. Mr. Monroe asked them to stop the project, as it had been stated that Mr. Howe had a couple weeks worth of work in there. The Board feels that this is a Board decision to be made, and Mr. Monroe has asked Mr. West to bring in pictures of the subject trees for review.

Highway Superintendent's new hire.

Jason Monroe stated that Howard Meade had retired on September 10th, and Bobby Mason was slated for retirement sometime in November. Jason stated that he needed to hire someone to replace Howard right away, and then someone to replace Bobby at the time of his retirement. He has hired Mark Morehouse as a mechanic. Currently young John Howe is the mechanic, and never wanted that position, but was hired for it "temporarily" twelve years ago. He will move up to position of truck driver and operator to fill Howard's position, Mark will assume position of mechanic, and in November Jason will need to hire another laborer. He currently only has one laborer on staff. Discussion ensued. Positions will be posted.

Proposed agreement with Helper's Fund, Inc.

Supervisor Monroe met with Carl Lamm of the Helper's Fund, and he would like to have an agreement with the Town as to how we manage the Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry needs to be run by a non-profit (sponsor), hence the Helper's Fund. The Helper's fund will manage the Food Pantry, the Town will provide the space and pay the employee. Helper's Fund will receive donations and maintain and replace equipment as needed, as well as providing any liability insurance, naming the Town as an additional insured. Discussion on whether the Helper's Fund is in fact incorporated. To be verified.

RESOLUTION #154: AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN AND HELPER'S FUND.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize Attorney Schachner draft agreement with Helper's Fund that Helper's Fund would manage the Food Pantry, Town will provide space and pay the employee, Helper's Fund will receive donations and maintain and replace equipment as needed, as well as provide liability insurance naming the Town as additional insured, once we have established whether the Helper's Fund is incorporated.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Workplace Violence Training.

Supervisor Monroe announced that there will be Workplace Violence Policy training on Thursday, September 20th at 8:00 am.

Mealsite.

Supervisor Monroe went over some background regarding the Mealsite and the fight to keep it local rather than having Countryside prepare meals and deliver them here for distribution. The Town has agreed to allow them rent free space, and the Town will pay for their propane which runs about \$240.00 per month. The Mealsite staff will do their own Pest Control, which is basically to set mousetraps. Agreement to take effect January 1st, 2013.

RESOLUTION #155: APPROVE TERMS OF REVISED MEALSITE AGREEMENT WITH WARREN COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, approve terms of revised Mealsite agreement with Warren County Office for the Aging, that Town will provide the space rent free, and the Town will pay for the cost of the Propane. The Mealsite will maintain their own Pest Control.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #156: APPROVE ERECTION OF A SIGN STATING THERE IS A LEASH LAW IN THE TOWN OF CHESTER.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, erect a sign on Old River Road that there is a Leash Law in effect for the Town of Chester.

AYE 5 NO 0

Leash Law Ad.

Mrs. Wells inquired as to running an ad in the Local papers that there is a Leash Law in the Town, and dogs cannot be running at large.

RESOLUTION #157: APPROVE RUNNING AN AD TO LET PUBLIC KNOW THERE IS A LEASH LAW IN EFFECT.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, run an ad in the local papers to let the public know that there is a Leash Law in effect for the Town of Chester.

AYE 5 NO 0

Health Insurance.

Supervisor Monroe stated that the current insurance plan is being eliminated this year. Additionally, they have made the provisions

worse, and they are raising the premiums 7%. He will be meeting with Kurt Jaeger of Jaeger and Flynn, and the Union representatives to look at any proposals.

Bottle returnables.

Debbie Burch, an employee at the reuse center, has requested two months of the returnables from the bottles and cans for the children's mission project at the Brant Lake Wesleyan Church.

RESOLUTION #158: AUTHORIZE DEBBIE BURCH TO TAKE THE RETURNABLE BOTTLES AND CANS FOR TWO MONTHS THIS FALL.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, authorize Debbie Burch to take the returnable bottles and cans for two months from the Landfill for the children's missions from the Brant Lake Wesleyan Church.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #159: APPROVE ABSTRACTS AND CLAIMS PAID PRIOR TO AUDIT.

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

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| General | \$22,852.78 | (416-454) |
| Highway | \$23,580.95 | (200-223) |
| C'town Water | \$ 774.78 | (35-38) |
| P'Ville Water | \$ 245.38 | (42-45) |
| Library | \$ 1,266.35 | (44-47) |
| Loon Lk. Park Dist. | \$ 580.70 | (8-9) |

On a motion by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Monroe, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk