

Regular meeting of the Town of Chester Town Board was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at the Town Hall, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, NY at 7:00 pm.

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

RESOLUTION #133: ACCEPT MINUTES OF 10/14 AND 11/06, AS PRESENTED.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Durkish, accept Minutes of the October 14th and November 6th meetings, as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

Privilege of the Floor:

Fred Holman, Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Alliance, explained that they were proposing an LED lighted informational sign at Dynamite Hill to replace the existing visitor information sign. They will be raising funds over the year for the cost, (about \$7,500 and more for the controls), and are requesting assistance from the Town in obtaining variances for the sign, since we are the owners of the property. The sign will be in a V-shape (oversized), and it will have a lighted area, as well, with messaging being controlled from inside.

RESOLUTION #134: APPROVE CHAMBER APPLY FOR VARIANCE FOR SIGN ON TOWN'S BEHALF.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, approve Chamber of Commerce apply for variance for new sign on behalf of the Town. Supervisor Monroe to sign any paperwork, if necessary.

AYE 5 NO 0

Barbara Thomas presented a sign design for the Dynamite Hill Recreation area, featuring a history of the hill, to be placed at the trailheads for Dynamite and the Caroline Fish trail. This will be submitted to the County, hopefully to be covered under the grant.

RESOLUTION #135: APPROVE SIGN DESIGN FOR DYNAMITE TRAILHEAD.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, approve design of the sign for the Dynamite Hill and Caroline Fish trailheads.

AYE 5 NO 0

Mrs. Thomas stated that there is a big tree in front of the Chamber building that has blight, and they would like it removed before spring, as the Master Gardener will need the space. Jason Monroe, Highway Superintendent told them to paint a big red "X" on it, and they will remove it.

Old business:

Pellet boiler. Jason Monroe spent the day in a meeting with Rick Handley, and NYSERDA. NYSERDA will be helping us design a project that they will then approve as a demo project, after which they will fund it for us, 75% of \$350,000. The timber harvest funds will also be designated for the boiler, so we may have to borrow very little funds, after which we should be able to save up to 18% per year on heating.

Water tank specs.

Mr. Monroe told Jason to go ahead with the specs, as money was being allocated for painting of the tank. The mini-sub inspection can be done on the interior in the spring.

New business:

Committee reports:

Mr. Packer reported that the trees for the timber harvest have all been marked, and logging should begin soon. The job first goes out for bid by Finch. He and Mrs. DuRose, as Highway Committee, also presented a plowing work schedule for Parks & Rec. John West stated that the 1994 loader would need a new seat, as the old one is broken beyond repair. The adjustable hydraulics are broken. Mr. Durkish will check with Gary Eagan from Schroon Lake regarding a replacement of the parts, and Mr. Durkish, Mr. Packer and Mrs. DuRose will check on the condition of the loader. It was stated that the highway loader operator would plow the transfer station after he had loaded all the trucks with salt and sand. Mrs. DuRose also asked whether Greg Taylor could be called regarding the Bullhouse, as the staircase on Church Street hangs too low for the Bobcat to get under it, and the sidewalk has to be shoveled by hand.

The committee recommends no overtime for any Dynamite Hill operator, with the exception being for holidays and school vacation weeks when the lift operators may get overtime. Mr. West will no longer be able to take the town truck home.

RESOLUTION #136: APPROVE SNOW STORM WORK SCHEDULE FOR PARKS & REC.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, approve snow storm work schedule for Parks & Rec. as presented.

AYE 5 NO 0

Mrs. Wells reported on the youth activities, and Mindy wanting to have her current email address put on the new website. Mindy had told her that it would only cost \$2.95 per month to maintain.

RESOLUTION #137: AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR SALE AND DELIVERY OF #2 FUEL OIL, DIESEL FUEL AND KEROSENE.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize Town Clerk advertise for bids for the sale and delivery of #2 Fuel Oil, Diesel Fuel and Kerosene for 2015.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #138: AUTHORIZE CLERK ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR 2015 CONTRACTS.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize Town Clerk advertise for public hearings on contracts with North Warren Chamber of Commerce, North Warren Emergency Squad, North Creek Fire District, Chestertown Fire District, and Riverside Volunteer Fire Co.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #139: AUTHORIZE CLERK ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR WEEKLY SENIOR CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, authorize Town Clerk advertise for bids for weekly senior citizen transportation.

AYE 5 NO 0

RESOLUTION #140: SET DATE FOR JANUARY RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, set date of Monday, January 5, 2015, at 7:00 PM for the re-organizational meeting.

AYE 5 NO 0

Dynamite Hill Grant.

Mr. Monroe has spoken with Wayne LaMothe regarding purchase of a new ski tow for Dynamite Hill. Mr. LaMothe informed him that ½ of the money can come from the grant, and ½ from Occupancy tax.

RESOLUTION #141: AUTHORIZE USE OF DYNAMITE HILL GRANT FOR ½ THE COST OF NEW SKI TOW, AND ½ FROM OCCUPANCY TAX.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize use of Dynamite Hill Grant for ½ the cost of purchase of a new ski tow and utilize Occupancy tax money for other ½. County to put it out to bid. John West to collaborate with Mr. Monroe regarding specs for the tow.

AYE 5 NO 0

Darrowsville Historical tourism project.

Nancy Tennyson had asked for funds from Occupancy tax for the Darrowsville Historical tourism project in the amount of \$5,000. Supervisor Monroe stated that with the money we had received at the end of October, we would be able to give them the money for that project.

RESOLUTION #142: AUTHORIZE USE OF OCCUPANCY TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 FOR THE DARROWSVILLE HISTORICAL TOURISM PROJECT.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, authorize Occupancy Tax money in the amount of \$5,000 for the Darrowsville Historical tourism project.

AYE 5 NO 0

Chris Boggia/Circle B Ranch had requested Occupancy tax funds for a weekly event to be held at his location. Supervisor Monroe discussed this matter with Attorney for the Town Mark Schachner, and it was determined that the business is a “for profit” entity, and they do not feel that it is a good idea to be involved with programs that are not non-profit. Basically, it is a proposed weekly event that is just an adjunct to an existing business, and his request was excessive at \$4,000 per month. Mr. Monroe suggests to Mr. Boggia that he contact the Chamber or the TLBA to see if they might be interested in holding an event there, and that might be a consideration.

RESOLUTION #143: DENY REQUEST FROM CHRIS BOGGIA FOR OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDING.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, deny request for Occupancy tax funding at the request of a private business, finding the amount requested to be grossly excessive, and suggest Mr. Boggia contact the Chamber or TLBA to see if they might be interested in sponsoring a one-time event for him.

AYE 5 NO 0

Crosswalk and stop bar request from Patrick Powers.

Discussion over traffic at the convergence of Valley Farm Road and Route 9, and Pottersville/Olmstedville Road and Route 9, with requests from Rick Bump and Patrick Powers for a stop light at the Valley Farm Road & Pottersville/Olmstedville Road Route 9 intersection. Trucks and passenger vehicles often fly through these intersections with children playing, pedestrians crossing the street with no benefit of traffic control, and

blind spots from parked cars. Residents deem it a serious, if not fatal accident, waiting to happen.

RESOLUTION #144: AUTHORIZE REQUEST FOR STOP LIGHT/CROSSWALK AT VALLEY FARM ROAD & POTTERSVILLE/OLMSTEDVILLE ROAD ROUTE 9 INTERSECTION FROM DOT.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, authorize request from Patrick Powers/Rick Bump for stop light at Valley Farm Road/Route 9, a crosswalk across Valley Farm Road and Route 9, and a stop bar at the Pottersville/Olmstedville Road. Send Certified copy to DOT in Warrensburg, attention Rob Fitch.

AYE 5 NO 0

Bus to New York. Mrs. Wells will check with Donna Combs regarding bus to NYC for Association of Towns conference. Schuyler Falls will also have a bus, and will pick up in Pottersville, if necessary.

Tom Wolf request for pay in lieu of time off.

Mr. Wolf had requested one week's pay in lieu of vacation time off. Mr. West stated that Lou and Debbie were trying to use their time off so they don't lose it at the end of the year. He stated that Mr. Wolf had 3 weeks coming. Discussion over Mindy covering time off.

RESOLUTION #145: DENY REQUEST FOR VACATION PAY IN LIEU OF TIME OFF.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mr. Durkish, deny request made by Tom Wolf for one week's pay in lieu of time off, and encourage him to take vacation before the end of the year, or lose it.

AYE 5 NO 0

Health Insurance.

Union is prepared to approve CDCPHP EPO for health insurance for 2015, which will be effective December 1st, 2014. Discussion ensued over premiums, and Mr. Monroe stated that they were substantially lower than they were in 2011. A Health Care Reimbursement Account is offered to employees for ½ of the savings to the Town.

For Medicare eligible people, Obamacare has drastically reduced the amount that Medicare pays under the Medicare Advantage plans, so those premiums will go way up if we stay with the plan now in place. Town had agreed with Union that they would pay ½ the reimbursement amount between MVP Tri-vantage plan and the Medicare

Advantage Plan. Neither goes into effect until January 1st, so this issue is still in the works. Discussion over enrollment dates for anyone wanting to opt into the plan.

RESOLUTION #146: APPROVE HEALTH INSURANCE CDPHP EPO PLAN FOR 2015.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, approve the CDPHP EPO plan for 2015 health insurance.

AYE 5 NO 0

Tree cutting at Loon Lake Beach.

Discussion over cutting of some pine trees at Loon Lake Beach and erection of a gazebo. Loon Lake Park Association had had some discussion about it, and Ed Greismer explained that some of the Park Association members are opposed to the erection of a gazebo, citing that the beach could not support the extra traffic. They wish to have this discussion in the spring with the Town Board. Table for now.

Adoption of 2015 budget.

Some final changes were recommended, all keeping us within the tax cap. The following changes:

DA9010.8 Increase Highway Retirement by \$20,000,

A9010.8 Decrease General Fund Retirement by \$10,000,

DA5112.2 Decrease paving by \$23,500 (Originally \$388,000, now reduced to \$364,500),

SP2389 Increase Loon Lake Park District Revenue by \$41,666, (Looks like we will get it),

SP7110.2 Increase Loon Lake Dam Project by \$41,166. This will cover the engineering, but we will no doubt need to bond the actual work.

RESOLUTION #147: ADOPT 2015 BUDGET.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. Wells, authorize adoption of the 2015 budget.

AYE 5 NO 0

Open BTI Bids.

Clerk read the published Notice to Bidders. Two sealed bids had been received.

The first was from Adirondax Service Pest Reduction Programs for a 3 year total of \$54,000, with an annual charge of \$18,000, or \$4,500 per quarter.

The second bid was from Bioconservation, Inc. for a 3 year total of \$41,640, with an annual charge of \$13,880, or \$3,470 per quarter.

Discussion ensued over other towns using the BTI program, and most of the surrounding towns not using it. Mrs. DuRose would like to know exactly what streams are being treated. She stated that the streams by her house were never done. Mr. Monroe requested a copy of the reports received. (The last full report was received in 2006). Mr. Monroe stated that they would ask Kathy Vanselow to update her reports, and possibly invite her to the next meeting. The map on file shows 64 acres being treated. Treated areas are marked with fluorescent ribbons.

Dan Smith, Data Collector for the Assessor, said that he helped set up the program initially, and thought that a map could be obtained from DEC . Mostly what they did was map all the streams within the Town and concentrated on treating populated areas. He also questioned treating of the Schroon River.

RESOLUTION #148: TABLE DECISION ON BTI BIDS.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Monroe, table decision on awarding bid for BTI for further clarification of areas being treated.

AYE 5 NO 0

Discuss proposal to trade topsoil for use of bulldozer and Prentis loader.

Highway Superintendent Jason Monroe stated that they have quite a bit of topsoil at the pit. All of the softwood will be cut and chipped on site and stored for reclamation. Brad Hayes would pay \$8.00/yard for topsoil, or, in essence, trade for rental of equipment to the Town of the bulldozer, the Prentis loader and an excavator. Brad could process the topsoil himself. Jason said that they do not have enough room for storage of all the topsoil until the reclamation takes place, which could be in another 20 years, and an exchange of goods and services is a reasonable proposal. When the property is reclaimed, topsoil will be kept intact. He needs to determine how many hours of use he would need for the equipment to determine how much topsoil would be exchanged, and make sure it is of equal value. Jason's plan is to use every resource available from the pit. He continued that with all of the stone we've gotten off it, we could crush stone and make our own Item 4. We can take action on any exchange after we have all the facts in place.

IRS Form 8038.

Supervisor Monroe had gotten a letter from the IRS, and had spoken with Bond Counsel, Bob Hafner, who stated we needed to adopt this policy with regard to ongoing disclosure in the event that there was a problem with our bonds (on the pit). Mr. Hafner will come to a future meeting and discuss this issue with the Board.

RESOLUTION #149: ADOPT POST ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE AND CONTINUING DISCLOSURE PROCEDURE FOR TAX EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, adopt Post Issuance Tax Compliance and Continuing Disclosure Procedure for Tax Exempt Obligations.

AYE 5 NO 0

Part time custodian.

Dan Smith, Data Collector, had expressed an interest in becoming substitute custodian for Paul Parks during his absence. It was noted that Sam Baker still wishes to continue working as substitute custodian for the time being.

Bill Orluk Proclamation.

Supervisor Monroe stated that they are having a "Bill Orluk" Day at the Firehouse on Saturday, November 15th, to thank him for his many years of service to the community, and Mary Jane Dower had asked the Town to write a Proclamation.

RESOLUTION #150: APPROVE WRITING OF PROCLAMATION FOR BILL ORLUK DAY.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approve writing of a Proclamation for Bill Orluk Day, November 15th.

AYE 5 NO 0

Sullivan Pond Property.

Mr. Monroe presented that Craig Leggett had written a letter stating that a group of residents had gotten together and talked about wanting to purchase the 341 acre Sullivan Pond property, discussing all the aspects of purchase and possible uses. They inquired as to whether the Town could send a letter asking the owner's if they would consider donating it to the Town.

RESOLUTION #151: AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN SEND LETTER TO SULLIVAN POND PROPERTY OWNER.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, authorize Mark Schachner write a letter to Mrs. Gratziaty, owner of the Sullivan Pond property, and ask her if she would consider donating it to the Town of Chester.

AYE 5 NO 0

State Land Master Plan.

Mr. Monroe explained that Adirondack Local Government has been trying for 30 years to get the State to reopen the State land Master Plan. It was drafted by the APA in 1972, Governor Rockefeller signed it and it states that there are supposed to be major reviews every five years. There haven't been any since 1987. There is a long list of things that need to be changed. The Adirondack Review Board and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages have met and reviewed a list of changes. The APA has scheduled a series of meetings, and there is a written comment period that is open until December 5th. The Review Board and the AATV would like to see as many towns and villages in the Adirondacks as possible passing resolutions supporting the position taken by the Review Board and the AATV and getting it to all the political figures that can make a difference. The outline of the amended proposals is as follows:

Return balance to the plan; maintain scenic vistas; expand mountain bike uses; address invasive species; improve snowmobile trails; allow for more grooming of cross country ski trails; powder skiing; improve float plane access; natural materials/bridges and amend the signage policies.

RESOLUTION #152: THE TOWN OF CHESTER SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND THE ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD TO AMEND THE ADIRONDACKS STATE LAND MASTER PLAN.

Introduced by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Durkish, the Town of Chester supports the recommendations of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board to amend the Adirondacks State Land Master Plan.

AYE 5 NO 0

Discussion on new projector and screen.

It appears that a new projector and screen have already been ordered and received for the Youth Commission. Fred will check on this.

RESOLUTION #153: APPROVE PAYMENT OF ABSTRACTS AND CLAIMS PAID PRIOR TO AUDIT.

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

General Fund	\$150,321.88	(496-540)
Highway Fund	\$139,111.23	(274-306)
C'Town Water	\$ 2,619.55	(48-55)
P'Ville Water	\$ 2,638.43	(52-58)
Library	\$ 5,801.74	(40-42)
Loon Lake Park District	\$ 453.87	(33-34)

AYE 5 NO 0

On a motion by Mrs. Wells, seconded by Mr. Packer, Board went into executive session at 9:05 pm to discuss reappointment of Greg Klingler as Assessor for the unexpired term, and Dan Smith's interest in being substitute custodian.

On a motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Wells, Board out of executive session at 9:22 pm.

RESOLUTION #154: APPOINT GREG KLINGLER FOR UNEXPIRED TERM OF ASSESSOR.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, appoint Greg Klingler to unexpired term of Assessor. Term expires 2019.

AYE 5 NO 0

On a motion by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk