

Board of Trustees Meeting; 7pm
And Public Hearings; 6:40pm
February 12, 2024
MINUTES

Call to Order (Regular Meeting): *Opened after the public hearing portion, at 7:11pm by Mayor Howe.*

Present: *Mayor J. Howe; Trustees M. Spock, K. Schassler; Attorney K. Dow; Dep. Clerk S. Davis, Jr.; Clerk D. Kelleher; Treasurer P. DeLong; CPD A. Chief J. Alessi; CFD Chief P. Rideout, Code Enforcement Officer E. Reis; Residents M. Blasl, B. Quell, K. Briggs, G. Greystone; Taconic Engineering Chad Lindhurst, A. Didio, 2 others.*
Not present: *Trustee P. Minahan.*

Public Hearings:

- “To amend the Village Code Chapter 110, Table of Use Regulations, with regard to **Accessory Structures** in the Village of Chatham.”
Opened at 6:40pm by Mayor J. Howe.
*B. Quell would like to see changes that would make it easier to house aging and/or infirmed family members. Howe reached out to some of the Comprehensive Plan committee members to get a better sense of their thoughts and positions at the time, about 10 years ago. Existing comp plan is 10 years old and we should begin reviewing it in the next year or so, not to completely re-do, but to review for any necessary updates. Resident asked for an explanation of the basic idea of the proposed law, and K. Dow responded that it is to identify certain basic customary accessory uses and remove them from the category that currently requires that they seek planning board approval, and re-categorize them so that they do not. B. Quell added that it would simplify things. the decision by Mayor Howe to **leave the public hearing open** for another month to allow some revisions and tweaks to the proposed law, and to allow the public more opportunity for review.*

- “A Local Law Providing Real Property Tax Exemptions for **Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers.**”
Opened at 6:50pm by Mayor Howe. Howe noted that the exemption would have about a \$1300 impact on the budget. Discussion about some of the criteria that members would need to qualify for the exemption, and comments about how valuable the firefighters and ambulance workers are for the Village and that it would be a disgrace not to approve this exemption for them. Motion

to **close the public hearing** by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler and approved by all.

- **“A Local Law to Establish a 2-Hour Parking Limit on Railroad Avenue.”**
Opened at 6:55pm. Discussion relating to the lack of usable parking spaces on Railroad Ave. Shop owners would like to see spaces left for their patrons while other business owners would like to use the street parking for their employee parking thereby leaving private parking spaces for their customers. Some business owners with private parking spaces are being asked to use their private lot due to lack of space on the street.
- **“A Local Law Amending the Income Levels of Tax Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income.”** *Public hearing opened 7:07pm by Mayor Howe. No comments. Closed at 7:11pm.*
- Re-introduce, and open public hearing for **“A Resolution proposing the Adoption of Amended Levels of Real Property Tax Exemptions For Senior Citizens Under Real Property Tax Law Section 467.”** *Public hearing opened 7:07pm by Mayor Howe. No comments. Closed at 7:11pm.*

First Public Comment (limited to 15 minutes): Chatham residents K. Briggs and G. Greystone requested that an aggressive stand be taken by the Board to not allow 5G towers/antennae within the Village. They would like to see it kept out of the Village until such time as the FCC can prove that the technology is safe and does not cause health/heart issues and does not have negative biological effects.

Departments and Committees Reports:

- **Building Department:** Building Inspector, Erin Reis.
- **Police Department:** Acting Chief J. Alessi; Police Commissioner Pete Minahan.
- **Fire Department:** Chief P. Rideout; Fire Commissioner Melony Spock. *Chief Rideout would like to set a time for any of the Board members who have not yet toured the fire department so they can see for themselves the condition of the building and its dire need for repair.*
- **DPW:** Foreman P. Genovese; Wastewater/Water Commissioner Ralph O’Mara-Garcia; Streets & Snow Removal Commissioner Karyn Schassler.

Approve Minutes: January 8, 2024. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Approve Budget to Actuals: January 2024. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

New Business:

Resolution 16 of 2024- To grant a one-time **sewer relief** in the amount of **\$157.64** to **Lorraine Nacamulli, 2273 STATE ROUTE 66**, due to a water heater leak. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 17 of 2024 – To adopt the “Amended Levels of Real Property Tax Exemptions For **Senior Citizens** Under Real Property Tax Law Section 467.” *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

Resolution 18 of 2024 – To enact **Local Law 1 of 2024**, “A Local Law Providing Real Property Tax Exemptions for **Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers.**” *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 19 of 2024 – To enact **Local Law 2 of 2024** “A Local Law Amending the **Income Levels of Tax Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income.**” *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 20 of 2024- To enact **Local Law 3 of 2024**, “A Local Law to Establish a **2-Hour Parking Limit on Railroad Avenue.**” *Attorney K. Dow would like to revisit case law and suggested we table the decision. Motion to table by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all to **table.***

Resolution 21 of 2024 - To enact **Local Law 4 of 2024**, “To amend the Village Code Chapter 110, **Table of Use Regulations**, with regard to **Accessory Structures** in the Village of Chatham”. *Motion to table due to public hearing still open by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all to **table.***

Resolution 22 of 2024 – To approve and accept the BID dated 02/12/2024 submitted by **William J. Keller and Sons** in the amount of **\$217,500** for 1740' of **12” HDPE** for Phase 3 of the **Hudson Avenue Water Main** Boring Project. *To be paid for from the Hudson Ave Water Main Reserve. So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 23 of 2024 – To approve and accept **Option #1** of the BID dated 2/9/24 submitted by **DeNooyer Chevrolet, Inc.**, in the amount of **\$97,682**, for a **2023 Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD Truck, with Dump Body**, to replace the DPW 2017 Ram utilizing 2024 **CHIPS** funds up to \$100K. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 24 of 2024 – To approve and accept the BID dated 2/6/24, submitted by F. W. Webb Company, in the amount of **\$48,152.20**, for Phase 3 **Hudson Avenue Water Main Replacement Pipe and Fittings**. *To be paid for using Hudson Ave Water Main Reserve. So moved by R. O’Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 25 of 2024 – To authorize the DPW **transfer of funds** in the amount of **\$4750** from budget line **83404 Transmission Contract** to budget **83402 Transmission Equipment**, noted as letter “D” on the Budget to Actual report, for the purchase of a **Valve Exerciser**. (Verbal quotes obtained from Ferguson, Pollard, and Core & Main). *So moved by R. O’Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 26 of 2024 - To approve the use of **Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Disinfection Reserve Funds** in the amount of **\$14,700** to cover “preliminary design” invoices submitted by **LaBella Engineering**, applied by the Village to **Budget Line 81302 (Treatment Equipment)** during December 2023-February 2024, and reflected as item "A" on the January Budget to Actual report. *So moved by R. O’Mara-Garcia, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

Resolution 27 of 2024 – To authorize the promotion of Officer **Paul Strobel** to **Sergeant** at a Union contract rate of **\$27.54/hr**, effective February 12, 2024. *So moved by R. O’Mara-Garcia, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

Resolution 28 of 2024 – To transfer funds in the amount of **\$1288.85** from Budget Line **Unclassified Revenue 2770.01** to **Police Equipment Budget Line 31202.01** to reflect reimbursement received from a motorist for damages to 3 Village crosswalk signs. *So moved by R. O’Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 29 of 2024 – To authorize the **replacement of 3 vandalized crosswalk** signs by using the **restitution funds** in Police Equipment Budget Line 31202.01 in the amount of **\$1288.85** received from the perp. *So moved by M. Spock, Seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 30 of 2024 – To approve and welcome **Will Harris-Braun**, a Sanford W. Smith Hook and Ladder, Co. Firefighter, as a **new member of the Chatham Fire Department**. *So moved by M. Spock, Seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 31 of 2024 - To approve and welcome **Debra Ulmer**, a Sanford W. Smith Hook and Ladder, Co. Firefighter, as a **new member of the Chatham Fire Department**. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 32 of 2024 - To approve and welcome **Justin Van Alstyne**, a Sanford W. Smith Hook and Ladder, Co. Firefighter, transferred from Mellenville, as a **new**

member of the Chatham Fire Department. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 33 of 2024 – To introduce a proposed Local Law establishing that all water/sewer meters installed after April 1, 2024 will be Smart Meter Radio Read technology. *(Set public hearing for March 11). So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Items for discussion or mention:

- A. Definition for Planning Board regarding Customary Accessory Structure
- B. Speed and overweight trucks on Austerlitz Street. *JH: Trucks are using a particular GPS app and it is sending them to Austerlitz Street and not taking into account their weight, which is limited on that street. The police department will dedicate some time in that area and get the word out to commercial drivers, in addition to anyone traveling too fast.*
- C. KISS Shredding next dates = (March 11 – March 22)
- D. February 29, 2024 NYS Citizen Preparedness Training Program
- E. Budget Season

Second Public Comment Period (limited to 15 minutes):

K. Briggs not in favor of parking meters in the Village.

Executive Session: For discussion of potential, proposed, pending or current litigation.

*Enter Executive session: So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by M. Spock.
Approved by all at 8:12pm.*

*Exit Executive session: So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler.
Approved by all at 8:49pm.*

Adjournment: *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all at 8:49pm.*

Next regular meeting: March 11, 2024; 7:00pm *(after the public hearing which begins at 6:50pm).*

Meeting Place: Tracy Memorial Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Chatham, NY.

*Respectfully submitted,
Desiree Kelleher
Village Clerk
03/08/24*