

# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**November 12, 2024; 7:00pm**

## **MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm by Mayor John Howe.

**Present:** Mayor J. Howe; Trustees M. Spock, K. Schassler, R. O'Mara-Garcia; Clerk D. Kelleher; Deputy Clerk S. Davis, Jr.; Treasurer P. Delong; CPD Chief Alessi; CPD Sergeant J. Favorito; CFD Chief P. Rideout; Attorney K. Dow; Code Enforcement Officer E. Reis; Resident Robert Walters. Not present: P. Minahan.

**First Public Comment (limited to 15 minutes):** Robert Walters, a new village resident, briefly introduced himself.

**Departments and Committees Reports:** (Submitted reports are filed with Clerk)

A. Building Department: Building Inspector, Erin Reis. *Report given by E. Reis.*

B. Police Department: Acting Chief J. Alessi; Police Commissioner Pete Minahan. *Report given by Chief J. Alessi.*

C. Fire Department: Chief P. Rideout; Fire Commissioner Melony Spock. *Report given by Chief P. Rideout.*

D. DPW: Foreman P. Genovese; Wastewater/Water Commissioner Ralph O'Mara-Garcia, Streets & Snow Removal Commissioner Karyn Schassler. *Report not provided by DPW, but Mayor Howe reviewed some of the many current DPW projects including but not limited to the hanging of flags, banners, removal of leaves, and the status of the Sewer Plant UV disinfection project.*

**Approve Minutes of October 15, 2024.** *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Approve the October 2024 Budget to Actuals.** *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution 172 of 2024**– To approve, and authorize the Mayor to sign the CDPHP New York State **Small Group Recertification** for **Dental** health insurance **January 1, 2025** through **December 31, 2025**. (to certify that we are eligible for small group rates). *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 173 of 2024**– To approve, and authorize the Mayor to sign the MVP New York State **Small Group Recertification** for **Medical** health insurance **January 1, 2025** through **December 31, 2025**. (to certify that we are eligible for small group rates). *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 174 of 2024** - To approve the **renewal of the MVP Liberty Silver 3 EPO Medical** health insurance plan, effective January 1, 2025, at an increase of \$16,024.08, approximately 13.7% higher than last year. (renewal of current plan, same benefits). *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 175 of 2024** - To approve the **renewal of the CDPHP/ *Delta Dental*** insurance plan effective January 1, 2025, with no change in benefits, and no increase in premium from last year. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 176 of 2024** - To authorize the Mayor to sign a *renewal* "Agreement For Administrative Services" (**Health Reimbursement Account**) between **Brown and Brown** Insurance and the Village of Chatham, for the term of January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, with no changes from current agreement. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 177 of 2024** - to approve the CPD purchase of a **2025 Dodge Durango PPV** from Central Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Raynham, in the amount of **\$50,866.03**, per Quote/Bid # TB5130, dated 11/06/2024. (includes *some* upfitting). *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 178 of 2024** - to approve the Purchase of **POLICE CAR RADIO** for **\$1310.25** from **River Valley Radio**, per Quote #m5134, dated 11/5/2024. (radio only, not installed). *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 179 of 2024** - to approve **UPFITTING** of the CPD **2025 Dodge Durango PPV** for **\$11,700.96** by **Redlyne Performance** per Quote #18111, dated 10/14/2024. (includes installation of radio). *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 180 of 2024** - to designate **Austerlitz Street** as a "**local traffic only**" street. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 181 of 2024** - to authorize CPD to request a **traffic study** of the **Austerlitz St and Spring St** intersection from **NYS DOT**. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 182 of 2024** in Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments...  
**Whereas**, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and  
**Whereas**, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and  
**Whereas**, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and  
**Whereas**, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and  
**Whereas**, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and  
**Whereas**, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and  
**Whereas**, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;  
**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Village of Chatham calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Village of Chatham urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

**Resolution 183 of 2024** - to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of **\$86.00** from line 51104.01 (General Repairs Contractual) to 51104.01 (General Repairs Office) to cover the cost of **emails and office 365 installation for the DPW computer**. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 184 of 2024** - to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of **\$3,000.00** from line 31204.01 (Police Child Seat Grant) to 31204.01 (Police Supplies and Materials) to cover the **cost of ammo purchased from the Town of Schodack** for training purposes. *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 185 of 2024** - To approve the use of funds in the **Hudson and Houseman Avenue Water Main Reserve Fund** in the amount of **\$4,859.03 to cover invoices** for purchases made from September to October, which were applied to the Village Budget line 83402 (Transmission Equipment), and is reflected as item "G" on the October Budget to Actual report. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 186 of 2024** - To Amend the Budget for use of the **Unappropriated Fund Balance...**

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Trustees resolved on January 8, 2024 to use the unappropriated balance to fund the project known as the **Chatham Municipal Well Assessment, a mandatory redundant water source**; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Village Law section 5-520, appropriation of the necessary funds may be made by transferring available funds from the unappropriated fund balance if the water fund and such unappropriated fund balance contains sufficient funds for such appropriation and transfer;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2024-25 Village of Chatham Water Fund budget is hereby amended and modified as follows:

-Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance Revenue Line is increased by three thousand one hundred dollars (\$3,100.00)

-Appropriation to expense line 83404 (Transmission Contract) is increased by three thousand one hundred dollars (\$3,100.00)

-Unappropriated unreserved fund balance is reduced by three thousand one hundred dollars (\$3,100.00)

-All necessary sums and totals of budgeted appropriations and revenues shall be adjusted accordingly. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 187 of 2024** - to authorize the **Farmers Daughter 2025** Bike race to be held in the Village on **Sunday, May 18, 2025, pending receipt of signed contract and insurance certificate**. *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 188 of 2024** - To authorize **CABA** for use of the **front steps of the Tracy** (or use of the Tracy lobby if it rains), for a **December 14<sup>th</sup> Winterfest** performance by Mac-Hayden Theatre singers from approximately **1:30pm to 3:30pm**. *(rec'd certificate of liability, exp 07.15.25)*. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 189 of 2024** - To authorize **CABA** to use the **Gazebo** on Saturday, **12/14/24**, from 11:00am to 5:00pm for **Winterfest**, *(rec'd certificate of liability, exp 07.15.25)*. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 190 of 2024** - to authorize the **Wild Cats Pop Warner Football (NCCPW)** use of the Tracy upstairs, on Tuesday, **12/3/24 at 5:30pm** for their board nominations/elections, *pending receipt of insurance certificate. So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 191 of 2024** – to accept the highest bid amount of **\$39,000** through **Auctions International** for the **SALE** of the **2017 Dodge Ram 5500 Dump Truck w/Plow and Stainless Sander**. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 192 of 2024** – to accept the highest bid amount of **\$880.00** through **Auctions International** for the **SALE** of the **2012 Olympian 150 KW Generator**. *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

**Resolution 193 of 2024** – to accept the highest bid amount of **\$1025.00** through **Auctions International** for the **SALE** of the **six (6) 22.5 Truck Tires**. *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Items for Discussion or Mention:**

- *Redundant Water Source – Survey, samples, GeoProbe plan by LaBella.*
- *American Legion Letter re: Hometown Hero Banners – JH: The Village is looking at the options. The banners would probably on Streets like Kinderhook St, or Woodbridge Ave.*
- *“Sewer Upgrade Project” - NYSEFC 2024 refinance savings of \$1,020,721.43 over the life of the loan, which ends in 2041.*
- *Columbia County Transportation Survey. – JH: The County is looking for feedback about possible transportation between Chatham and Hudson.*
- *Columbia County Occupancy Tax Bill signed by Governor. Implementation Committee is working with Granicus on a roll out of tax program, and to build a county-specific program for Address Identification (AI).*
- *Letter of Intent to be certified by NYS as Pro-Housing Community*

**Second Public Comment Period (limited to 15 minutes):** *There were no public comments.*

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

Enter Executive Session at 7:38pm: *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Exit Executive Session at 8:09pm: *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

**Adjournment:** *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all at 8:10pm.*

**Next meeting:** *December 9, 2024 7:00pm*

**Meeting Place**

**VILLAGE OF CHATHAM, NEW YORK  
TRACY MEMORIAL BUILDING, 77 MAIN STREET, CHATHAM, NY 12037**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Desiree Kelleher,  
Village of Chatham Clerk  
(v. 12/02/24)*