

January 12, 2012

Mayor Tom Curran opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm regarding changing the railroad crossing at Hudson Avenue and Main Street.

Attendance: Mayor Curran, Trustee David Chapman, Trustee George Grant, Trustee Lael Locke, Trustee Joanne DelRossi, Police Chief Kevin Boehme, Fire Chief Paul Pratt, Bob Rohauser, representing CSX, Jim Rapoli, representing DOT, a reporter from the Chatham Courier, a reporter from The Columbia Paper and 65 people in the audience.

Mayor Curran stated that the New York State Department of Transportation has been mandated to try to resolve some traffic issues at the intersection of Hudson Avenue and Main Street. He also noted that the Village of Chatham has been asked by State DOT to make suggestions such as extending Main Street or adding traffic lights to this area to alleviate these issues.

Mayor Curran presented a brief overview of four different options and then opened up questions to the audience. Several business owners and audience members spoke in slight favor of a couple of the options but the overall consensus was to leave the roads the way they are. Steve Campbell, the owner of Video Visions at the intersection of Main Street and Hudson Avenue, commented that it is dangerous going south on Hudson Avenue since cars don't stop at the stop sign. Business owner Rich Kraham presented the Board with a brochure with suggestions that would only cost around \$1000. Mr. Kraham stated that directional signs and possibly some blinking lights would help the situation. Most of the business owners present commented that their businesses are just starting to come back after the last DOT project and that another construction project would be detrimental. A letter was read from Chatham Area Business Alliance President Kathy Stumph asking for a thorough study to be conducted by the NYS Department of Transportation to identify the specific nature of the problems and to propose practical and affordable options to resolve these issues.

Trustee George Grant stated that the committee that was formed for the last DOT project had asked for a stop ahead sign and lights but this never materialized.

Jim Rapoli from CSX commented that he was not involved in the last project but stated that we have to ensure that the crossing is safe and to prevent people from stopping on the railroad tracks.

Mayor Curran closed the Public Hearing at 8:07 pm.

Mayor Curran opened the regular board meeting at 8:16 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mayor Curran, Trustee Joanne DelRossi, Trustee Lael Locke, Trustee George Grant, Trustee David Chapman, Police Chief Kevin Boehme, Fire Chief Paul Pratt, 2 reporters and 11 people in the audience.

Resolution # 130 was made by Trustee Lael Locke to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Chapman-yes; no negative votes.

Police Chief Kevin Boehme reported that 115 complaints were investigated- 83 cleared by investigation and 25 were cleared by arrest. 34 offenses were charged- 7 aggravated unlicensed operation 3rd degree, 1 assault 3rd degree, 1 criminal possession of a weapon 3rd degree, 1 unlawful imprisonment 1st degree, 1 criminal possession of marihuana 7th degree, 2 endangering the welfare of a child, 1 unlawful imprisonment 2nd degree, 2 harassment 2nd degree, 3 mental health, 2 operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, 1 petit larceny, 1 issuing a bad check, 3 unlawful possession of marihuana, 1 criminal contempt 2nd degree, 1 sexual misconduct, 1 driving while intoxicated, 1 obstructing governmental administration, 1 criminal possession of a control substance 7th degree, 1 possession of a hypodermic needle, 1 menacing 2nd degree, 1 open container violation. 6 property damage accidents were investigated. 1 personal injury accident was investigated and there were no fatalities. 72 vehicle and traffic tickets were issued and 14 parking tickets were issued. 19 assists were rendered as follows; 2 Chatham Fire Department, 6 Chatham Rescue Squad, 2 disabled motorists, 8 miscellaneous assists, 1

New York State Police. 8 alarms were answered and 3 doors and windows were found open on door check. A Press (for) Release list was also presented to the Board dated January 5th, 2012.

Fire Chief Paul Pratt reported that the department answered 9 alarms for the month of December- 2 electric lines down/arching, 2 smoke detector activations, 1 carbon monoxide detector activation, 1 smoke investigation, 1 false call, 1 vehicle accident and 1 vehicle fire for a total of 16 firefighter hours. There was 1 drill for the month of December for a total of 51 training hours. All equipment is functioning without issues at this time. The fire department hosted Santa at the firehouse on December 17th and he saw a total of 108 boys and girls who received some early toys. Chief Pratt presented 2011 in Review; There were 12 monthly meetings, 12 Fire Council meetings and 12 Officer meetings in 2011. Over 700 people were served during 6 monthly breakfasts and the department participated in 4 Dress parades during the year winning trophies in 2 competition parades. A Fire Prevention booth was manned by the department for the annual 4th of July program at the fairgrounds with over 100 people taking part and the department conducted its annual carnival over 2 days in August. A Fire Prevention program was conducted for the Chatham Elementary and Middle Schools in October and the fire company hosted its annual Halloween Party for approximately 100 children. The fire department once again assisted the Village in bringing Santa and his mailbox to the Village in December and 2 weeks later, hosted the annual Christmas party with a visit by Santa and a gift to over 108 children. The department conducted 29 training exercises and responded to 134 alarms, 108 calls were non Mutual Aid calls. The following is a breakdown of calls by the month, day of week and time of day;

Calls by Month-

January-4, February-9, March-17, April- 5, May- 10, June- 7, July-10, August-15, September-19, October-18, November-11, December-9.

Day of week-

Sunday-18, Monday-17, Tuesday-16, Wednesday-19, Thursday-23, Friday-21, Saturday-20.

Time of Day-

6-7 pm-12, 12-1 pm-11, 7-8 pm-11, 2-3 pm-9, 2-3 am-7, 11-12 pm-7, 9-10 pm-7.

Trustee Chapman presented the report of DPW activities. He stated that the Department was continuing to pick up Christmas trees and the final collection of brush and leaves. The department was able to work with the Town of Chatham until a mechanical problem with the wood chipper stopped the cleanup and they had to seek an alternate chipper. The Columbia County D.P.W. was able to help out with a chipper and operator for one day to complete the work. Thanks to the Town of Chatham Highway Department and the Columbia County D.P.W. for their assistance. The salt usage is less than years past due to the lack of snow so far, saving us \$60 a ton. Also, the lack of snow has allowed for the sweeper to continue to work and keep the streets swept. With the 2012-2013 budget approaching, it is hoped that some street resurfacing that was postponed this budget will be on track for the coming year. He stated that it is important that the investment in street infrastructure not be allowed to go to a point where repair rather than maintenance is required. The cutting edge on the front plow of the large highway plow, as well as all plow shoes on the unit, was replaced. Parts were purchased through the County cutting edge contract and we are now in the process of replacing the cutting edge on the John Deere loader since it is severely worn. Failure to replace the cutting edge on the loader will result in costly repairs to the bucket of the machine.

Trustee Grant presented the Water and Sewer Department report. The sewer plant continues to run very well and recent results back from the lab stated that everything is up to specifications. A problem was found at the generator at the Hudson Avenue sewer pump station during a normal maintenance check. The generator has been taking on diesel fuel into the oil and Ray Palmer was called in to check it out. He believes that the fuel pump may be defective. The part has been ordered and will be installed when it comes in. A new sump pump has been purchased to replace a worn out unit at the sewer plant. This pump is used in the decanting process to clear water from the digester. Quotes are being sought from Emmons Pump Company to either rebuild or replace the grinder pumps at the Hudson Avenue Pump Station. These are the original pumps that were installed when the Chatham Plaza was built and

they have worn to the point where the shaft seals are leaking badly and there is no more adjustment left in the packings. When this project is done, we will be able to do it one pump at a time since this station must be on line at all times. The water meters were read during the month of December and there were a few complaints of some "high reads". All have been investigated and 3 meters had been replaced in the past. Phil Genovese is being trained to do the "rounds". These are the checks that are done every day, seven days a week to make sure that all equipment at our facilities is in proper working order. One length of four inch ductile iron pipe and two Hymax repair clamps were ordered to replace the stock that was used on a water main break on Houseman Avenue. 7 chlorine cylinders have been ordered and received for chlorination purposes at the reservoir. The liquid chlorine tank at the Kline Kill pump station well site has been cleaned.

A letter was received and read from the New York Rural Water Association asking for a support letter from the Village to help them regain their funding for EPA programs. A letter will be sent in support.

Old Business

The Mayor and Police Chief Kevin Boehme met with the owners of MJ's and Lippera's regarding the noise issues. They are all working on solutions.

New Business

The Board discussed the options regarding the crossing at the Hudson Avenue and Main Street crossing. It was decided that the Mayor will contact NYS DOT again and express that the Village is interested in the safety concerns of the crossing but we are also concerned with normal traffic flow of the Village. Another meeting between the Board, the public and NYS DOT and CSX may be set up in the future.

After some discussion it was decided that the Village Clerk's Window Hours will now be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30am-4:00pm, closed on Mondays and Thursdays starting February 1, 2012. A notice will be placed in the newspapers and posted at the Village Hall.

Resolution # 131 was made by Trustee DelRossi to appoint Village Clerk Barbara Fischer as the Tax Collector for the upcoming tax season. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman-yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 132 was made by Trustee DelRossi to appoint Village Clerk Barbara Fischer as the Registrar of Vital Statistics. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman- yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 133 was made by Trustee DelRossi to appoint Village Treasurer Anne Marshall to be the EFC Fund Administrator for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman- yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #134 was made by Trustee DelRossi to make the Tracy Memorial Hall a polling place for the March 20th Village election from 12 noon to 9:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman- yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #135 was made by Trustee DelRossi to renew the Technology Assurance Program (TAP) contract with Technology 4 All at a cost of \$1512.00. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman- yes; no negative votes.

A letter was received from Lisa Caproni regarding tax bills. Ms. Caproni stated that she had not received last year's tax bill or the current year's tax bill because they had apparently been delivered to another address. She is seeking relief for payment of late fees on these bills. The Board decided to seek advice from Village Attorney Nelson Alford regarding this situation and someone would get back to Ms. Caproni. The Village Clerk will contact the Assessor again with the correct address for Ms. Caproni.

Resolution # 136 was made by Trustee Chapman to renew the Fire Contract with the Town of Kinderhook. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote- Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke- yes; no negative votes.

Trustee DelRossi presented a list of services for the Accounting firm of Sickler, Torcia, Allen & Churchill. This firm will reconcile the books quarterly and the Board would receive reports that are actual vs. what is budgeted. The cost is \$850 to start which includes the preparation of the Annual Update Document (AUD) report for the NYS Comptroller's office. This firm will work with the Village Treasurer as well as assist with the Village budget process as needed.

Resolution # 137 was made by Trustee DelRossi to appoint Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill as our accounting firm to work with the Village Treasurer. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Chapman- yes. Trustee Grant voted no.

Resolution # 138 was made by Trustee Chapman to table the Vision Rider until the next collective bargaining agreement. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote- Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke- yes; no negative votes.

Trustee Grant commented that the Assessor should be contacted regarding the Board of Assessment Review. Trustee Locke stated that the Mayor usually appoints this Board.

Resolution #139 was made by Trustee Grant to have the Mayor contact the Assessor to make up the tax rolls, appoint the Assessment Review Board and to set the date for Grievance Day, February 21st from 4-8pm. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman, Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi- yes; no negative votes.

Trustee DelRossi commented on a bill from James Garvey who manages the Village website. She was under the impression that he was volunteering his time for the website. She will contact him.

Public comment:

Maria DeMarco of Hudson Avenue stated that she has not heard from the Mayor regarding any decisions that were or were not made regarding her sewer line issue at her home. Trustee Grant commented that the Village DPW did look at her line and determined that the line went to an old septic and went to a lateral further up the street. Ms. DeMarco stated that this line is supposedly still connected but she had to pay an additional \$3,000 to search for this line. Trustee Grant noted that the DPW does not deal with digging on private property and there was no digging in the roadway. Trustee Grant stated that the Village is not responsible for the original drawing of 1938 being inaccurate. The Board tabled any further discussion regarding this until some photos of this project can be found and possibly be presented at the February 9th Board meeting.

Resolution #140 was made by Trustee Locke to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 pm. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman- yes; no negative votes.

Barbara A. Fischer
Village Clerk