

October 13, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was brought to order at 7:30 by Mayor Curran.

Attendance: Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke, Police Chief Boehme, Fire Chief Pratt, Barbara Fischer, Calliope Nicholas, Fred Freidel, Columbia Paper reporter, Eric Colon, Angelo Nero, Wendy Carroll, Gary VanAllen, Peter Harvey, James Kleinbaum, Michael Bemiss, Carolyn Gregory, Chris Sperl.

The clerk opened the bids for insurance from Metz-Wood Harder and Kleeber Agency. The Board will meet with representative of the two agencies on October 27 at 6:30 to go over the proposals.

There was one bid received from D.C.S. Plumbing & Heating for the boiler for the firehouse. Resolution #78 was made by Trustee Chapman awarding the bid to D.C.S. pending consultation to see if the job could be split between this budget year and next. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #79 was made by Trustee Locke approving the minutes of the September 8, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative.

Police Chief Boehme reported 158 complaints were investigated – 136 cleared by investigation and 13 cleared by arrest. 19 offenses were charged – 2 aggravated unlicensed operation 3rd, 1 criminal contempt 1st, 3 unlawful possession of marihuana, 1 harassment 2nd, 1 open container violation, 4 DWI, 2 failure to appear, 1 aggravated unlicensed 2nd, 3 issuing a bad check and 1 reckless endangerment 2nd. 9 property damage accidents were investigated. 117 vehicle and traffic tickets and 14 parking tickets were issued. 34 assists were rendered – 2 Chatham Fire Department, 13 Chatham Rescue Squad, 2 Columbia County Sheriff's Department, 6 disabled motorist, 9 miscellaneous assists and 2 New York State Police. 16 alarms were answered and 8 doors and windows were found open on door check. No overnight parking will begin on October 17. The chief asked the Board to approve hiring Henry Klein III as a part-time police officer. Resolution #80 was made by Trustee DelRossi hiring Henry Klein III as a part-time police officer. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Fire Chief Pratt reported 17 alarms for September – 1 fire in a ceiling, 6 water problems/pump outs, 3 AAPD hazardous condition, 1 CO detector activation, 2 smoke detector activation, 1 alarm activation, 1 power line down, 1 propane leak/smell, 1 elevator rescue. There were two drills for the month of September – 126 total training hours. The Ladder truck is leaking water from the pump area. The Chief will call someone to evaluate it. A bid of \$3104 was received from Visconti Building and Restoration to repair and/or replace the damaged overhangs from last year's ice damage. Resolution #81 was made by Trustee Grant to do the work on the overhangs. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes. Chief Pratt read a letter from the Fire Council accepting Chad Turner into the membership of the S.W. Smith Hook & Ladder Co. Resolution #82 was made by Trustee Chapman accepting Mr. Turner into the fire department pending receipt of his physical. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Trustee Chapman reported that the street sweeper is back in service and the billing problem with the Dealer has been resolved. Normal maintenance such as tree trimming, mowing, etc. has been ongoing. Brush that was trimmed was taken to the Greenport Transfer Station for disposal. The leaf vacuum is ready to go. The accumulated CHIP's money is being used to surface treat several streets. Our thanks go to the Town of Chatham for their assistance in this surface treatment project.

Trustee Grant reported that the sewer plant is just starting to go below our permit level. There were a couple of occasions where the flow was over one and a half million gallons per day.

Maintenance was performed at the Hudson Ave. sewer pump station. The quarterly water meter readings have been done. A service line on Rte. 66 in Ghent had to be replaced from the water main to the customer's curb stop. The cost of this repair will be divided between the residents on the Ghent water line. Foreman Sperl and Trustee Grant looked into the rusty water problem on River Street and concluded that the old four inch main has to be replaced. Because the replacement of the line with ductile iron would be very expensive, it was suggested that the line be replaced with 8" plastic water main. This would cost approximately \$30,000. Something also needs to be done about the body for the water department truck. Quotes were received several months ago. The low proposal was from Checkered Flag Fabrications for \$4800. Since this truck is used 99% of the time in the Water Department, the repair will come from the Water Fund. Resolution #83 was made by Trustee Grant to do the water main work on River Street. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes. Resolution #84 was made by Trustee Chapman to repair the Water Department truck. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Trustee Locke stated that she has been talking to Police Chief Boehme regarding the noise ordinance. Chief Boehme and the Village Attorney have been working to draft an ordinance that would be enforceable in court.

Resolution #85 was made by Trustee Chapman authorizing the Village Attorney commence proceeding to collect back taxes. Seconded by trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #86 was made by Trustee Chapman to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to bond \$363968.00 old debt for the sludge press, building and trestle repair. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

There was discussion about overdue water accounts. It was decided that it should be handled on a case by case basis.

Angelo Nero spoke about the sewer hook-ups at the fairgrounds. According to Village Code, all property that is within 100' of the Village sewer must be hooked up to the sewer line. Several buildings on the fairgrounds have their own septic tank. The fairgrounds have been paying sewer fees. Rather than hooking up, the Fair Association would rather keep paying sewer fees according to water usage. Resolution #87 was made by Trustee Grant approving Mr. Nero's request. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Calliope Nicholas spoke to the Board about the Film Festival.

Resolution #88 was made by Trustee Locke authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to pay the School St. BAN in the amount of \$68,100, principal, and \$4,025.30, interest, due October 20, 2011 and to renew the balance of \$136,220. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

The clerk read a letter from American Legion Post #42 regarding the Veteran's Day ceremony to take place on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Resolution #89 was made by Trustee Grant granting permission for the ceremony. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

The clerk read a letter from Mariel Wallin asking sewer relief for topping off her pool several times over the summer. Resolution #90 was made by Trustee Chapman granting the sewer relief. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

The clerk read a request from Arlene Lareau to waive the service charge from her water account because she is legally blind and until the Village sends her a bill she can read, she feels she doesn't have to pay the service charge. Resolution #91 was made by Trustee Chapman denying the request because there are other people living in the house that could have read the bill. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

The Mayor announced that the Caroling will be held on Friday, December 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tracy Memorial Santa will bring his mailbox at 7:30 p.m.

There was a request from the Beautification Committee to refurbish the Tracy sign. Resolution #92 was made by Trustee Locke granting permission. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

There was a discussion on a new accounting software package for the Clerk/Treasurer's office. The decision was tabled.

Cheryl Roberts spoke to the Board regarding the water/sewer hook-up for Price Chopper. The water hook-up was already approved. Since Price Chopper will be in the Village, they are required to hook-up if they are within 100' of the service. Chris Sperl said that the nearest hook-up is over 100'.

The Mayor announced an Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Resolution #93 was made by Trustee DelRossi adjourning the meeting to Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was discussion about the progress of the Price Chopper store and the Ghent Planning Board.

Resolution #94 was made by Trustee Chapman adjourning the Executive Session and returning to the open meeting. Seconded by Trustee DelRossi. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #95 was made by Trustee Chapman to initiate litigation against the Town of Ghent Planning Board for their negative declaration on the Price Chopper application, to hire Rapport Myers as the law firm representing the Village and to set up a Legal Defense Fund to cover the legal fees. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #96 was made by Trustee DelRossi adjourning the meeting at 10:05 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote – Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke – yes; no negative votes.