

November 8, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Curran.

ATTENDANCE:

Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Locke, Michael Richardson, Peter Lynch, Esq., Fire Chief Paul Pratt, Mitchell Khosrova, Reporters from the Chatham Courier and Columbia Paper and 15 people in the audience.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Smith commented that at the October Board meeting, a member of the Board stated that the previous administration was always over budgeted. She questioned the Board on this and stated that there was no fact or basis for that comment.

Resolution # 270 was made by Trustee DelRossi to approve the minutes of the October 11, 23, and 25th Board meetings. Trustee Locke seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees DelRossi, Locke, Packet, Morrell

Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Reports of Commissioners and Committees

Police Report- attached to minutes, on file in Clerk's Office.

Resolution # 271 was made by Trustee DelRossi to hire Frances Bridy as a substitute crossing guard at \$10.00 an hour. Trustee Packet seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees DelRossi, Locke, Packet, Morrell

Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Michael Richardson will forward the information to Civil Service.

Fire Department Report- attached and on file in Clerk's office.

Resolution #272 was made by Trustee Locke to accept Courtney Haner as a new member of the S. W. Smith Hook & Ladder Company to the Chatham Fire Department pending a firefighter physical. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees Locke, Packet, Morrell, DelRossi

Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Resolution # 273 was made by Trustee Packet to allow 4 members of the fire department to attend fire school in Emmetsburg, MD in March 2013 at a cost of \$180 each for a total of \$720.

Trustee Locke seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees Packet, Locke, Morrell, DelRossi

Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Wastewater/ Water Report- attached and on file in Clerk's Office. Trustee Morrell commented that new water rates and the budget are being reviewed. More information will follow at a later date.

Streets & Snow Removal- attached and on file in Clerk's Office. Trustee Packet stated that the DPW Department got the trucks ready for the impending snow. She and Mayor Curran have been in touch with NYS DOT to have them remove the snow once the Main Street merchants push the snow from the sidewalks into the road.

Old Business

Trustee Locke stated that she and the Mayor have been looking into a list of priorities for a Village Administrator position. Ads have been placed on the NYCOM, NY Planning Federation and Columbia County Planning Board websites at no cost to the Village. Michael Richardson stated that he spoke to Columbia County Civil Service and this position would be an exempt position. Civil Service is flexible with the combination of education and experience and this would be a provisional appointment at first. This would take a matter of months to be in effect by NY State.

Trustee DelRossi stated that there were 28 proposals received for the website. The Committee narrowed them down to four possibilities. Interviews of the two local bidders will take place on November 12th & 14th. Columbia County Real Property would like the Village to link to their website.

New Business

Resolution # 274 was made by Trustee Packet to establish a standard work day for elected and appointed officials and to report the days worked to the NY State and Local Employee's Retirement based on the time keeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by the officials to the Clerk of the Board. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Trustees Packet, DelRossi, Locke, Morrell
Nays: None Resolution adopted.

A holiday committee has been formed and will start decorating the village for the holidays on November 23rd. The Village Carol Sing with children from the Chatham Central School District will be on Friday, November 30th with the arrival of Santa and his mailbox on a fire truck.

Old Business revisited

Attorney Peter Lynch commented that he has been in contact with attorney Christine Chale regarding the water and sewer connection for Price Chopper. He stated that one of the major concerns for this project is that the Town of Ghent would need to indemnify the Village in the event the property owner does not pay the water/ sewer bill which would then go on the taxes. Ms. Chale stated that delinquent taxes would go to the Town first and then to the Village. She also stated that the Village would be the administrator of the water district for this project and out of district rates would be billed. Mr. Lynch stated that he felt Price Chopper was making a major contribution to the Village of Chatham.

Resolution # 275 was made by Trustee DelRossi to go into executive session to discuss Price Chopper litigation at 8:14 pm. Trustee Packet seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees DelRossi, Packet, Morrell, Locke
Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Resolution # 276 was made by Trustee DelRossi to come out of executive session with no decisions being made and to reopen the regular meeting at 8:37 pm. Trustee Locke seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees DelRossi, Locke, Packet, Morrell
Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Correspondence

Mayor Curran read a letter from the Columbia County Agricultural Society thanking the Board, Village Clerk, DPW and Police Department for assistance to them during the annual Fair. A donation of \$2,000 was made to the Chatham Police Department for their services as a token of appreciation.

Mayor Curran read a letter from the Morris Memorial Association thanking the Board for their donation of \$10,500 which will benefit the many programs held to help local children and families.

Mayor Curran read a letter from the Morris Memorial Association requesting the use of the Village Streets with Police presence for the annual Ray Barbuti Turkey Trot to be held at the Morris Memorial on Thanksgiving Day.

Second Public Comment Period

A woman in the audience asked the Mayor to respond to Ms. Smith's comment from the First Comment Period. She also stated that there is a loose tile on the front landing of the Tracy.

An audience member asked the Mayor and Board if the financial information that was asked for months ago was available yet.

Harry Smith stated that he was confused as to why the Board needed a Village Administrator. He commented that he thought that Board members were to oversee all employees and feels that this is another bureaucratic position. Trustee Locke stated that she had worked with Mr. Richardson and found that there are villages that are much more involved with an administrator than what we are looking for. This Board is asking for much less oversight from an administrator.

Resolution # 277 was made by Trustee DelRossi to move into executive session at 8:50 pm to discuss potential steps regarding a grievance. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees DelRossi, Locke, Packet, Morrell
Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Resolution # 278 was made by Trustee Locke to come out of executive session with no decisions being made at 9:45 pm. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees Locke, DelRossi, Packet, Morrell
Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Resolution # 279 was made by Trustee Locke to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees Locke, DelRossi, Morrell, Packet
Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer
Village Clerk