

December 13, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was brought to order by Mayor Curran at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, Chief Boehme, Sewer Plant Operator Ed Czyzewski, Water Operator/ CSEA President John Bartholomew and CSEA Representative Diane Johnson.

Resolution # 126 was made by Trustee Locke to enter into Executive Session at 7:00 pm to discuss the Step 3 conference with CSEA pertaining to grievance on seasonal on-call laborers and to discuss the Civil Service status of a part time police officer. Trustee Packet seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Resolution # 127 was made by Trustee Del Rossi to come out of executive session at 7:39 pm with no decisions made. Trustee Locke seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Mayor Curran opened the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:47 pm in the upstairs meeting hall of the Tracy with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, Trustee DelRossi, Chief Kevin Boehme, Fire Chief Paul Pratt, Sewer Plant Operator Ed Czyzewski, Accountant Michael Torchia, Peter Lynch, Esq., Reporters from the Chatham Courier and Columbia Paper and 23 members of the audience.

First Public Comment Period

Vance Pitkin from 14 River Street thanked the Police Department for helping him during a personal medical emergency.

Nancy Baker of Thomas Street asked the Board for the job description of the Mayor.

Michael Burrows asked for the year to date review of the Village finances.

Resolution # 128 was made by Trustee Locke to approve the minutes of the November 8th and December 3, 2012 meetings. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Trustees Locke, Morrell, Packet, Del Rossi

Nays: None Resolution adopted.

Reports of Commissioners and Committees

Police Report- Chief Boehme presented, attached and on file in Clerk's Office.

Fire Report- Chief Pratt presented, attached and on file in Clerk's Office. Chief Pratt explained the reasoning behind calling a Battalion 4 response to a fire call at the Engel residence on Woodbridge Avenue.

Wastewater/ Water Report-on file in Clerk's Office. Trustee Morrell commented that there will be an open house in the spring at the sewer plant. Ed Czyzewski will give tours of the plant.

Streets & Snow Removal- attached and on file in Clerk's Office.

Village Clerk, Barbara Fischer commented that she is collecting donations for the Woodbridge Avenue fire of the Engel Family in the Clerk's Office. Checks should be made out to the Chatham Lion's Club and earmarked "Engel Family".

New Business

Accountant Michael Torchia stated that he and his staff are still working on issues with entering the year to date financials into the new software program and therefore there are no reports ready as of yet. The bank reconciliations are up to date and all deposits are in. He and his staff are manually making adjustments and he hopes to have a budget to actuals report for the January 10, 2013 meeting. He is working on getting all of the EFC reports in and dealing with some NYS Retirement System issues.

Mayor Curran proposed the appointment of a Village Administrator on a provisional basis with no benefits other than NYS Retirement. This position would be based on 16 hours per week at a total of \$480.77. This person would also act as the Treasurer.

Resolution # 129 was made by Trustee Locke to appoint Barbara A. Henry to the position of Village Administrator for 16 hours per week with no benefits other than NYS Retirement and to make this adjustment in the budget. Trustee Del Rossi seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Curran stated that Village Attorney Nelson Alford will be retiring and the Board will need to interview new candidates. The Mayor had asked Trustee Locke to investigate potential candidates and present them to the Board to be interviewed.

Mayor Curran asked Trustee Locke to chair a Special Committee to review and update the zoning, planning and comprehensive plan for the Village. The last time this was done was around 1993. This committee would meet on a monthly basis. A professional consultant may be hired on an "as needed" basis to help with this undertaking.

Resolution # 130 was made by Trustee Del Rossi to sign the Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Kinderhook. Trustee Packet seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Curran discussed the possible consolidation of Building Inspectors with the Towns of Ghent and Chatham and hiring a Code Enforcement Officer. Current Building Inspector Walt Simonsmeier informed the Mayor that having the Police Department act as Code Enforcement saves the Village money by not having to consult the Village attorney on certain matters. Mayor Curran stated that he would still like to investigate this option.

A Resolution "Rescinding Certain Work Rules for Bargaining Unit Employees" was read by Mayor Curran. The Board had some discussion regarding their concerns. Resolution is attached and on file in the Clerk's Office.

Resolution # 131 was made by Trustee Locke to adopt the resolution Rescinding Certain Work Rules for Bargaining Unit Employees. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes; Trustees Locke, Morrell, Packet
Nays; Trustee Del Rossi Resolution adopted.

Old Business

Resolution #132 was made by Trustee DelRossi to hire Trevellyan.biz to revamp the Village website at a cost of \$3,000 this year and move this money from the contingency budget and transfer it to the A1990.4 line. A \$90 per quarter fee for back- up protection plan and restoration of the website and a \$320 maintenance fee would be assessed per year. The Village Administrator would work with this company. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes; Trustees Del Rossi, Morrell, Packet, Locke
Nays; None Resolution adopted.

Correspondence

The Clerk read a letter from Thomas Gavin of 3 Shore Road asking for sewer relief for his rental property at 4 Shore Road which had a damaged water heater problem.

Resolution # 133 was made by Trustee Locke to grant sewer relief at a total of \$71.66. Seconded by Trustee Packet.

Vote: Ayes; Trustees Packet, Locke, Morrell, Del Rossi
Nays; None Resolution adopted.

A letter was received from the Columbia Land Conservancy offering free training on using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping system for community planning.

Attorney Peter Lynch revised his presentation regarding the proposed Price Chopper and asked that the Board sign a "Stipulation and Order for Partial Discontinuance of an Article 78 Proceeding. "

Resolution # 134 was made by Trustee Del Rossi to go into Executive Session to discuss pending Price Chopper litigation at 9:05 pm. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes; Trustees Del Rossi, Morrell, Packet, Locke
Nays; None Resolution adopted.

Resolution # 135 was made by Trustee Del Rossi to come out of Executive Session at 9:35 pm. Trustee Locke seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes; Trustees Del Rossi, Locke, Packet, Morrell
Nays; None Resolution adopted.

Resolution # 136 was made by Trustee Morrell to authorize the "Execution of a Stipulation of Settlement Including Forms of Intermunicipal Agreements with the Town of Ghent Regarding Water and Sewer Service and relating to Building Department Matters and Related Agreements." Trustee Del Rossi seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes; Trustees Del Rossi, Morrell, Mayor Curran
Nays; Trustees Locke, Packet Resolution adopted.

Second Public Comment Period

Cindy Smith commented that the Board should consider getting a cordless microphone for those residents who are hard of hearing.

Vance Pitkin commented that he heard that the Police Force is no longer providing 24 hour protection.

As a CSEA member, Ed Czyzewski stated that he was unhappy with the way the Resolution Rescinding Certain Work Rules was presented. He felt that the DPW department was "made to look like fools."

Nancy Baker expressed her opposition of having Mr. Richardson negotiating contracts with the CSEA Union and the excessive expenditures of farming out village services. She also asked where the Nativity scene for the Village was.

Lisa Johnson stated that she felt that there is a lack of respect at Board meetings and everyone should try to get along and work together.

Michael Burrows asked the Board who owned the Tracy building and when could the public get a copy of the budget to actuals report from the accounting firm. Mayor Curran responded that hopefully by the January meeting it will be ready.

Harry Smith commented that it was a misguided belief that the Nativity scene was an issue regarding the separation of church and state.

Mayor Curran closed the comment period at 9:55 pm.

Resolution # 137 was made by Trustee Del Rossi to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 pm. Trustee Locke seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes; Trustees Locke, Del Rossi, Packet, Morrell
Nays; None Resolution adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer
Village Clerk