

March 8, 2012

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

Attendance: Trustee Chapman, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee DelRossi, Sewer Plant Operator Ed Czyzewski, Fire Chief Paul Pratt, a reporter from the Columbia Paper and 6 people in the audience.

There were no comments during the first public comment period.

Resolution # 151 was made by Trustee Chapman to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote-Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Village Clerk Barbara Fischer read the Police Report in the absence of Police Chief Kevin Boehme. There were 112 complaints investigated, 95 were cleared by investigation, 6 were cleared by arrest. 7 offenses were charged, 1 unlawful disposal of garbage, 1 assault 3rd degree, 3 aggravated unlicensed operation 3rd degree, 1 petit larceny, 1 unlawful possession of marihuana. 4 property damage accidents were investigated. There were no personal injury accidents investigated and no fatalities. There were 66 Vehicle and Traffic tickets issued and 8 parking tickets were issued. 22 assists were rendered as follows; 2 Chatham Fire Department, 12 Chatham Rescue Squad, 3 disabled motorists, 3 miscellaneous assists, 2 New York State Police. 3 alarms were answered and 6 doors and windows were found open on door check.

Fire Chief Paul Pratt reported that the fire department had answered 8 alarms for the month of February; 1 chemical odor with ill effects, 1 fire alarm activation, 3 propane leaks, 1 standby for Ghent, 1 EMS lift assistance, 1 brush fire for a total of 43 firefighter hours. There were two drills for the month of February for a total of 125 training hours. The bar and chain have been replaced on the cutters edge saw and parts are on order for it for a total of \$395.00. As reported the previous month, 20 sets of turnout gear will need to be replaced by 2013. Two companies have showed us their gear and have given us price quotes. The cost will be \$1900.00 per firefighter which equates to \$19,000.00 this year for turnout gear. Beginning in 2013, Chatham and Ghent will work together in having an outside company come to the firehouse to inspect and repair gear yearly. This service will help keep the turnout gear from wearing out too prematurely. The Chief purchased 10 pagers and chargers at a cost of \$150.00. They are being sent out to have crystals and any adjustments made at an additional cost of \$200.00. Also 123 people enjoyed the monthly breakfast.

The fire department is very proud to announce that John Howe, the recent past chief, has had his name forwarded by the Columbia County Fire Advisory Board to the Columbia County Public Safety Board for the position of Fire Coordinator in Columbia County. Phil Genovese was voted in as the new Captain for S.W. Smith Hook & Ladder and Andy Silver was voted in as the new 2nd Lieutenant for Ocean Fire Company. Chief Pratt reported that the fire department budget was submitted before the March 1st deadline and they were able to take out \$4000.00 out of the budget for building repairs.

Trustee Chapman presented the report of the DPW activities for the period of February 9th – March 8, 2012. Trustee Chapman stated that the mild winter has been good for the Highway Department by saving a lot of wear and tear on the plows and machinery. They have been able to keep ahead of the potholes, done some street sweeping, some off season equipment maintenance and highway abrasives and overtime. The last load of salt was delivered after the quick hitting winter events of late February and early March. This puts the salt purchases over the 70% purchase requirement and will see the department through the balance of this year and well into the 2012-2013 winter season. Ghent could not accommodate storing our salt in their shed therefore the DPW will pile the salt and sand on the pad at the sewer plant and tarp it off to keep it dry and avoid runoff from the summer rains. The 2000F-550 Dump Truck needed some repair to the front end. Figures for a replacement vehicle have been offered for consideration in the 2012-2013 budget. NYSOGS Procurement Contracts are limited in the type and size truck that is available for purchase under these contracts. There are two trucks that are

worth keeping going and replacing them one at a time over a period of a few years will result in cost savings and can be accomplished through budget planning.

This is the last report for Trustee Chapman who stated he enjoyed his experience on the Board and the opportunity to serve the citizens of the Village. He wished the Board success in the future and thanked all those who have made his years on the Board “a memorable experience”. Trustee Locke commended Trustee Chapman and stated that he “has been a wonderful supporter and champion of doing things for this Village” and we will miss him.

Trustee Grant presented the Water/Sewer Department report for March 2012. There was a 15-20% pumping loss at the Kline Kill well site. Smith Well Drilling, the company that installed the facility, was called in to do an inspection and found small holes in the riser pipes coming from the well. While we are not actually losing water, it is costing more to pump it. Mr. Smith is working up a price and the work will proceed as soon as the figures are received. The representative from New York Rural Water visited the sewer plant and there were discussions regarding the meter problem at the Hargis residence on Woodbridge Avenue. He stated that the only way a meter would spin faster was when it had air going through it instead of water. For this to happen in the Village, the water mains would drain down causing a water main break. Trustee Grant recommended that the Board waive the \$100 new meter fee and grant them sewer relief to them for the amount of water used over their average billing. Ed Czyzewski met with the electrical engineer for our sewer project regarding sizing a backup generator for the Kline Kill well site. The chlorine pump was maintained at Kline Kill and the altitude valve at the water tower was adjusted as well as the water level in the reservoir.

The sewer plant is running well. The paperwork to enroll Phil Genovese for the classes needed to obtain his Sewer Plant Operation license at SUNY Morrisville has been completed. A new electric pole has been installed at the sewer plant and all lines that “might run afoul” of the impending 1.6 million dollar sewer plant upgrade, have been marked. The Greenport Sewer/Water Department helped out in breaking apart and cleaning sewer plugs on Fairview Avenue and between the Village Hall and the Old 1811 Inn. Leggett Electric repaired the inside building ventilation system at the Hudson Avenue sewer pumping station. We are still waiting for the parts to repair the system in the wet well. Three quotes were received for the replacement/repair of the pumping system at that pumping station. Emmons Pump gave a quote of \$7116 plus \$2952 to install it. PSS Pump Service & Supply have a 4 inch different kind of pump and gave a quote of \$5128 but they do not install it. There are some issues because of a different pump style. Blake Company has a pump like we already have and gave a quote of \$5578.23. Charles Rothermel would install it for \$1500 making the total cost \$7728.00. The plan is to purchase a new pump and install it this year. The worn pump would be sent out to be rebuilt and then replace the other pump at the station next year with the rebuilt pump. After that exchange, the other pump would be sent out to be rebuilt thus giving us a “spare” unit on the shelf. Sewer degreaser was put in our residential lift stations to cut down on service calls due to coagulating grease in these stations. It is illegal to pour grease into our sanitary sewer. Commercial grease traps will be inspected later this spring.

Resolution # 152 was made by Trustee Chapman to purchase the pump from Blake Company and have Charles Rothermel install it. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee Chapman, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Trustee Locke asked that a letter be sent to businesses stating that it is illegal to pour grease into the sewer and that they will be inspected. Building Inspector Stan Koloski will be asked for input for this letter.

Old Business

Discussion ensued regarding the non- sewer hookup issue at the DeMarco residence. The Board discussed many issues with Ms. DeMarco to try to resolve this issue. Trustee Grant stated that Ed Czyzewski from the DPW surveyed the sewer line in the street with a camera with negative results. Documents that the Village has, state that her line was never hooked up and

that a stub was put in there back in 1938. According to Trustee Grant, a pipe was broken by Ms. DeMarcos' excavators and that the Village is supposed to supervise putting in any hookups. Ms. DeMarco stated that the Village was informed of every step made. Trustee Grant commented that he would like to have a resolution to this problem and suggested that all fines for not being hooked up and other fees be waived. Mayor Curran stated that the burden of proof lies with Ms. DeMarco and asked her what she wanted to get out of this? Ms. DeMarco felt she had done her part by supplying pictures and information awhile ago and she was told everything was ok. She also stated that she would like to see some financial compensation if the Board would split the cost of her excavation bill which would be \$1500 or apply it to her taxes. Trustee Chapman stated that a portion of Ms. DeMarcos water bill which was sewer doesn't go back until 1980 and there was no surcharge then. There are others in the Village who are not hooked up but they still pay. He suggested that the Board come up with a plan and submit it to our attorney. He also stated that her other recourse would be to sue the Village since the Board may be limited by statute. Ms. DeMarco commented that she just wanted to resolve this. The Board agreed that they can not violate Village Code and that the burden of proof is on the homeowner. Mayor Curran asked Ms. DeMarco to try to establish the fact that the house was never connected to the sewer. Ms DeMarco said she will try to contact the contractors again that were used when this was done 4 years ago.

Trustee Grant commented again on the meter issue at the Hargis residence and stated that the meter was tested but the water didn't go down into the sewer. The DPW replaced the meter as a courtesy to them and asked that the new meter fee of \$100 be waived and that they be given sewer relief for the portion used in the 4th quarter.

Resolution # 153 was made by Trustee Chapman to waive the \$100 new meter fee for the Hargis residence and to give them sewer relief. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman, yes; no negative votes.

New Business

Joe Iuvienne from the Architectural Bureau was in attendance to represent the owners of the Bartlett House in Ghent. The owners are asking if the Village would extend the water line to the building. There is currently a well on the property. The "tree" house that is next to the Bartlett House is going to be purchased also. Trustee Grant stated that a storage tank can be put in the basement of the Bartlett House under a "Hold Harmless Agreement". Mr. Iuvienne stated that a 2 inch line is going to be put in in the near future and the "tree" house will be put on the well. The well is closer to the tree house than the Bartlett House. Mr. Iuvienne also stated that in Columbia County if there are more than 25 people on the line it is a public water supply. Trustee Grant commented that if the line is run past the Bartlett House, a blow off hydrant can be put in to clear off rusty water. Trustee Grant suggested that they get an easement and have the line moved back off the road as well as dig small holes to extend the laterals. The Village would have to supervise the tap in to the line. Trustee Chapman stated that everyone who is on the line currently would have to share the cost of the work. Mr. Iuvienne commented that a water district could be created and the cost could be Bonded. Trustee Grant stated that Ghent does not want to create a water district and that he realizes that Mr. Iuvienne is looking for a vote of confidence in this matter. The Board was in agreement with Mr. Iuvienne to extend the line to the Bartlett House.

Resolution # 154 was made by Trustee Chapman to allow 5 Planning Board members to attend a conference of the New York Planning Federation on April 16, 2012 in Saratoga Springs for a total cost of \$550 and to approve the transfer of \$550 from A1991.40 to A8020.47 to cover the cost. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 155 was made by Trustee Chapman to purchase a used Rodder and Jetter equipment as is for the sewer department knowing that it may need at least \$1000 worth of work and accessories. Seconded by Trustee Locke. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 156 was made by Trustee Locke to hire Earl Redding and his firm to represent the Village on matters pertaining to the labor union at a cost of \$180- \$190 an hour. Seconded by Trustee Del Rossi. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 157 was made by Trustee DelRossi to allow the Village DPW to sweep Hudson Avenue in exchange for New York State removing snow and cleaning storm drains. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee Grant, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Chapman, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 158 was made by Trustee Locke to appoint Peter Wenk as election machine custodian for the election on March 20, 2012. Seconded by Trustee Grant. Vote- Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Chapman, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 159 was made by Trustee Grant to approve the purchase of turnout gear for the fire department at a cost of \$19,000.00 in the next fiscal year and the year after. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote- Trustee Grant, Trustee Chapman, Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Correspondence

Mayor Curran read a letter from resident Lawrence Turk regarding the noise ordinance and a copy of a letter that was forwarded to the Village to Mr. Bill Black of the Columbia County Office of Emergency Management. The letter stated that the New York State Office of Emergency Management has granted a sixth month time extension on Category A and B Emergency Work for all applicants in Columbia County under the major disaster declaration 4020 DR NY.

There were no comments from the second public comment period.

Resolution # 160 was made by Trustee Locke to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Chapman. Vote- Trustee Chapman, Trustee Grant, Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer
Village Clerk