

May 10, 2012

Mayor Curran opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Morrell entered late, Michael Richardson, Fire Chief Paul Pratt, Building Inspector Stan Koloski, Sandy DenBestin from the Rowlands and Baranca Insurance Agency, reporters from the Chatham Courier and the Columbia Paper and 6 people in the audience.

#### First Public Comment Period

Carol Vontobel from Kinderhook Street expressed her gratitude to the Board for their work for the Village.

The approval of the minutes of 4 previous meetings was tabled until the end of the meeting.

Mayor Curran read the Police report in the absence of Police Chief Kevin Boehme. The mayor reported the following;

There were 110 complaints investigated; 95 were cleared by investigation, 10 were cleared by arrest. There were 21 offenses charged; 5 trespass, 3 disorderly conduct, 1 driving while intoxicated, 1 aggravated harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, 1 reckless endangerment of property, 1 open burning violation, 1 criminal trespass 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, 1 harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, 2 petit larceny, 2 burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, 1 assault 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, 2 unlawful possession of marihuana. 7 property damage accidents were investigated and there were no personal injury accidents and 0 fatalities. 30 vehicle and traffic tickets were issued and 5 parking tickets were issued. 28 assists were rendered as follows: 3 Chatham Fire Department, 13 Chatham Rescue Squad, 6 disabled motorist, 2 miscellaneous assists, 4 Columbia County Sheriff's Office. 9 alarms were answered and 5 doors and windows were found open on door check. Press releases listing person's arrested by the police department were also submitted to the Board.

Fire Chief Paul Pratt reported that the fire department answered 10 alarms for the month of April: 1 CO Detector Activation, 1 structure fire, 1 vehicle fire, 2 brush fires, 1 out building fire, 3 smoke detector activations, 1 standby in Valatie for a total of 158 firefighter hours. There were 2 drills for the month. The first drill was in Red Rock on water relay pumping which was attended by 16 firefighters. The second drill was an interior operations drill with 17 firefighters attending for a total of 146 training hours. The new turnout gear should be arriving the week of 5/14 and the ground ladders were tested in coordination with the Ghent Fire Company on May 2nd at the Chatham station. All ladders passed inspection and are in good shape. The monthly breakfast served 123 people. The May breakfast will be on Mother's Day and all of the mother's will receive an omelet of their choice made by the Fire Chief and Pat Wemmitt. The fire department physicals have begun with the first round held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and continuing on this date. All people thus far are in good shape. A Firefighter II class has begun in Chatham and will end July 9<sup>th</sup>. 5 members from Chatham are in this class including the Chief. The ladder truck in the Valatie Fire District will be out of service for one month starting this date and the Chatham Fire Company will be responding to all structure fires and CO Detector Activation calls.

Mayor Curran read the following Water and Sewer report;

Water-The hydrants were flushed on April 17<sup>th</sup> and there were no complaints of rusty water. The generator plans at Kline Kill are moving forward. The electrical engineer is working with NYSEG and Village Engineer Pat Prendergast for sizing and electrical requirements. Chief Boehme is working on securing some grant money to help fund this project.

Sewer- The sewer plant is running well and all results back from the lab are showing that we are getting good results. Phil Genovese will be attending training at SUNY Morrisville Environmental Training Center for the next two weeks and for two weeks in June to receive his wastewater certification. The sewer plant upgrade is proceeding very well and project coordination with the engineer and contractors is continuing. Some water and electrical lines needed to be relocated by CE Rothermel Contractors. The ceiling, entry door and exhaust fan were removed from the new control room to make way for new electrical panels in that room. The first oxidation ditch has been pumped out and all the grit has been removed for the

contractors to begin retrofitting the new SBR. The effluent tank has been drained and cleaned and the aerator has been installed. The sewer jetter and rodder have been delivered with the rodder ready to go and fully operational. A new ignition switch has been installed and the machine was serviced. Philip also repaired the lights. The jetter has been serviced and some leaks were found. At the time of purchase it was understood that some additional repairs would have to be made to get the jetter operational. Ways to repair the leaks are being sought. The sewer pump station at 21 Church Street has had several electrical issues. Tim Leggett from Leggett Electric has advised us that parts are getting harder to find for these units and we should look at replacement.

Highway Report- All brush and leaves have been picked up in the village and the cutoff for pickup had been advertised to be May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board will need to decide if the DPW is to pick up brush past this cutoff date. All Village and State roads have been swept and the Memorial Day parade route will be swept again for the parade on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Flags have been purchased and will be put up along Main Street, Hudson Avenue and Central Square. The culvert on River St. by the turn-around was replaced and the road was shouldered to allow water to run off the road properly. Work will be done to get the road patched and ready for stone and oil. All brush from the spring cleanup has been taken to the Greenport Transfer station. Lawns are being mowed and trimmed on a weekly basis. A new main broom and side brooms have been installed on the Street Sweeper. A 3 inch diaphragm pump was serviced and a 3 inch trash pump was sent out for repair but is now back in working condition.

Old Business- none

New Business

Sandy DenBesten from Rowlands and Baranca Insurance Agency gave a brief presentation to the Board regarding an alternative plan for the retirees and their spouses who are medicare eligible. Currently the retirees have the Part D plan but the new plan has more out of pocket expense because the copays could be higher. It was suggested that the Board consider giving each retiree approximately \$800 to help with the out of pocket expense. This new plan would go into effect starting June 1<sup>st</sup> until January 1<sup>st</sup> when it would need to be renewed.

Resolution #194 was made by Trustee DelRossi to adopt the Individual Medicare Choice Plan with the Village paying the premiums. Each retiree will receive a check for \$800 to help defray the out of pocket expense and to move a dependent child to Child Health Plus. Each retiree would also receive a 1099. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell- all aye, no negative votes.

Trustee Locke discussed the recent vacancy of a Planning Board/ Zoning Board Clerk. In discussion with Michael Richardson, Trustee Locke noted that the current advertisement for this position was not correct. Mr. Richardson stated that he will contact Civil Service for the vacancy noting that the position will be advertised as one vacancy but with two titles per civil service.

Trustee DelRossi discussed the staffing of temporary help in the Village Clerk's Office. Trustee DelRossi met with Village Clerk Barbara Fischer to discuss having someone help with data entry, water/sewer billing and stuffing envelopes as well as help when the Village Clerk is on vacation and sick days at \$11.00 an hour. This position may possibly be combined with the planning/zoning board vacancy.

The Board discussed the Traffic Safety Grant that the police department currently gets. The Board feels that the village needs to present a "more friendly front" and is not completely in agreement with continuing with this grant. Trustee DelRossi stated that the Board needs to decide how they would like the Police Department to function. The Board will contact Chief Boehme for more information regarding this grant.

Mayor Curran discussed the latest information regarding the parking area behind the businesses on Main Street. He has been in contact with CSX who are concerned with people backing up onto the tracks. This site needs maintenance and the Mayor stated that he was concerned that CSX will shut this property off. The mayor stated that there are approximately 40 spaces behind buildings. Michael Richardson suggested that the Board form a "parking authority" at a cost of approximately \$4000. The Village would have to have a soil sample tested

in agreement with CSX. The total cost for this testing would be around \$7600; \$3500 fee to conduct the test with the balance due for the lab testing. The Board tabled any more discussion regarding this until the June meeting to do more research and to try to get more quotes.

The Board revisited the training costs for DPW worker Philip Genovese to attend classes at SUNY Morrisville for his Sewer Operator license. The Board estimated the cost above the actual classes for hotel, food and mileage to be approximately \$4865. After further discussion, it was determined that the Board needs to be more mindful of other costs above any class expenses that are incurred for any Village employee attending any schooling.

Resolution #195 was made by Trustee Locke to approve the costs above any training Philip will receive to acquire his Sewer Operator license. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, Mayor Curran-yes, Trustee DelRossi voted no.  
Correspondence

A letter was received from Village residents Lisa Johnson, Brian Sullivan and Debbie and Jerry Shepardson regarding large piles of logs, excessive loud noise and miscellaneous junk and vehicles owned by Fred Bishop of 9 Harmon Heights Road that are along the property lines that are adjacent to the Sullivan/Johnson and Shepardson properties. Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Shepardson believe that this activity significantly reduces their property values. Police Chief Kevin Boehme and Building Inspector Stan Koloski had been presented with this issue starting in 2007 and again in 2009, 2010 and 2012. Ms. Johnson presented the Board with maps and photographs of the debris. Trustee Locke reported that Chief Boehme, as Zoning Code Enforcement Officer, re-visited Mr. Bishop to see if any items had been removed. Chief Boehme again spoke to Mr. Bishop regarding this matter. Mr. Sullivan stated that he indeed did notice that Mr. Bishop had removed some items but there was a certain amount of “junk” that remained. Mrs. Shepardson commented that other neighbors were afraid to come forward to complain about Mr. Bishop. Building Inspector Stan Koloski explained the zoning procedure and stated that if this case went to court, he could not prove that the wood pile wasn't just for Mr. Bishop's personal woodstove. Village Attorney Dick Alford has also seen the pictures. Mr. Koloski also stated that you can't have selected enforcement, otherwise the Board would need to get involved in other places around the village. Mr. Shepardson asked that Chief Boehme and Mr. Bishop put something in writing stating a solution to this issue. Mr. Sullivan commented that he would like to see a letter from the Village Attorney stating that Village Law does not allow such activity.

Mayor Curran read a letter from Stephanie Tanaka and Robert Bemiss complaining about their neighbors Jim and Nancy Baker regarding animals and fences that have been erected over the years that may/may not have been put up according to the Village Laws. The Board discussed this matter with Mr. Koloski and it was decided that this issue was a civil matter between the Bakers and Ms. Tanaka and Mr. Bemiss as far as a right of way is concerned. Mayor Curran stated that this matter will be forwarded to the Village Zoning Board of Appeals to review. Mr. Koloski commented that the ZBA may not look into this because it dates back to 2006. Mr. Koloski also commented that someone needs to file a request for an interpretation and this can be anybody. The Mayor will contact Ms. Tanaka and Mr. Bemiss stating that this is a civil matter that they will need to address with their attorney.

The Board only received one bid for the garbage contract and due to the Village Clerk's window hours being changed, the Board decided to postpone the opening of the bid until the May 24<sup>th</sup> end of year meeting to see if any other bids will be received.

The Board decided to wait until the June meeting to see what bids the County has received for fuel oil. The Board will then decide if we need to go out to bid or go by what the County recommends.

#### Second Public Comment Period

Rusty Vazac stated that there is no handicapped parking on Main Street and suggested that a sign be placed for pedestrian crossing in the cross walks.

Mayor Curran read a proposal from Jack Shea/ Steve Ulmer regarding some renovation work at Depot Square. Steve Ulmer submitted a proposal to paint a NO Parking area on the pavement in front of an existing curb cut between the Depot Square building and Herrington's Lumber right

of way. Mr. Ulmer had consulted with Building Inspector Stan Koloski before submitting this proposal. All Board members granted permission for Mr. Ulmer to paint the NO Parking area as long as there was no cost to the Village.

Resolution #196 was made by Trustee Locke to go into executive session at 10:00 pm to discuss the consideration of a wage proposal from the CSEA bargaining unit. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #197 was made by Trustee Locke to close the executive session at 10:30 pm. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution #198 was made by Trustee DelRossi to accept a 2% raise proposal for the Village Police Department and two DPW employees. This would not be applicable to Ed Czyzewski or Darlene Mickle who will receive a wage increase. It is approved that Mr. Czyzewski will receive a \$2.00 wage adjustment and Mrs. Mickle will receive a \$1.04 wage adjustment. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Locke, yes; no negative votes.

The Board tabled the approval of all of the previous meeting minutes until the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Resolution #199 was made by Trustee Packet to approve the monthly abstract of bills. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

The Board tabled discussion for the Emergency Preparedness Plan and the adoption of two manuals until the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Resolution #200 was made by Trustee Locke to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 pm. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Morrell, Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Packet, yes; no negative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer  
Village Clerk