

May24, 2012

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

Attendance: Trustee Morrell, Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee DelRossi, Police Chief Kevin Boehme, Treasurer Anne Marshall, Sewer Plant Operator Ed Czyzewski, Water Operator John Bartholomew, Michael Richardson, reporter from the Chatham Courier and 6 people in the audience.

First Public Comment Period

Nancy Thaler from High Street commented that she has been a Village resident for 8 years and is worried about the Police Department being cut back. She stated that she feels safe in the village with the police department and thanked Deputy Chief Leggett for checking on her house when he spotted a vehicle in her driveway. Ms. Thaler had neglected to contact the Police to let them know that she had returned from being away. Deputy Chief Leggett checked her house to make sure everything was ok. Ms. Thaler asked the Board to support these Police Officers who make her feel safe.

Mayor Curran changed the order of business on the agenda to begin with the Assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator issue.

Resolution # 201 was made by Trustee Morrell to revisit the issue of training for an assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Morrell, Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Packet- yes, no negative votes.

Trustee Morrell commented that the way the training was presented was not in a normal way and it was not thought out clearly. The costs for such training were not known before Phil Genovese was sent off to school and she stated that she found a class in Ulster County that would have been closer. The last two weeks of school for Philip to attend were cancelled but then re-instated. Trustee Morrell suggested that the procedures for hiring be changed and that an apology is owed to Philip. Trustee Morrell stated that this sets a terrible precedent on how we advertise for vacancies. Trustee DelRossi commented that she had struggled with this issue since the beginning and therefore voted not to send Phil off to school because of the costs associated with the school. She commented that this should have been done in February to see if the position could have been filled. Trustee DelRossi also stated that the Board did not follow procedures, and she didn't feel that the Board was in the best financial position to send Phil and that Phil was caught in the middle of all of this. Trustee Locke stated that she was not torn about this issue. The tuition was presented and it was the Boards' mistake since the Board knew Phil was going. Trustee Locke feels this is demoralizing to a small department and this is one of those live and learn situations.

Mayor Curran stated that he had talked to DEC and that this was a plan to satisfy DEC to have Philip get trained because we can not have a single operator. The decision to send Phil to school was made with DEC in mind. Ed Czyzewski commented that Phil has been helping him since January and the Village needs another sewer plant operator. He stated that Philip is a good worker and he deserves a shot at getting the license. Rusty Vazac commented that it was foolish not to let Philip finish with the schooling since he is the youngest guy in the Village and will most likely be here for awhile and we need to support him. Trustee Locke commented that this walks a very fine line with wanting people to advance. She stated that the Board is very policy oriented now and she was appalled that this issue was even back on the table. Michael Richardson stated that policies are in place and if the Board is going to invest in time and money there should be some sort of recovery costs in place if someone does not go through with staying with the Village.

Village resident Wendy Carroll commented that this issue was brought up a long time ago and to pull out now was not good for the morale of the employees. She stated that this is a done deal and the Board should move forward. Resident Eric Colon asked if the Board was able to get the money that was already spent back? If the Village would lose that money the Board should allow Philip to continue with his schooling. Paul Boehme asked if Phil goes down in pay or down in grade, would the Board increase Phil's salary if Ed was not around? Mr. Richardson stated that he would not go down in title and there would be no loss in pay. If he was to go up in title there would be an additional amount paid. The Board needs to adopt a policy for out of title.

Resolution # 202 was made by Trustee Locke to continue Phil's training for the remainder of the period and not to reconsider the previous action of cancelling the schooling. If the Board is not reconsidering the action, a no vote allows it to stand that Phil continue with the school. Trustee Packet seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, Trustee Locke- yes, Trustee DelRossi voted no stating that there was not enough information given to the Board about the school and she is standing by her previous decision. Mayor Curran also voted no and stated that we have already committed to sending Phil to school.

Resolution # 203 was made by Trustee DelRossi to negotiate an agreement with Phil for a 3 year commitment to stay with the Village so that the Board gets their monies worth out of this schooling with a graduated descending payback. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Mr. Richardson stated that this could be conditional and that the Board needed to consult with the Union. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, yes; no negative votes. Trustee Locke had to leave the meeting for a previous engagement.

Trustee Packet received information from the Laberge Group regarding alternatives for development and operation of the "73 Main Street Lot" and the proposed "CSX Lot". The Laberge Group is willing to do soil testing for an hourly rate of \$125. The Board decided to table discussion until the June 14th meeting to do more research.

Mayor Curran tabled discussion regarding the Traffic Safety Grant until the June meeting so he can meet with Chief Boehme to discuss any issues.

New Business

The Board reviewed the Emergency Preparedness Plan and recommended a few changes. All members of the Board will need to have Emergency Preparedness Training through the Office of Emergency Management. A question was put forth about multiple sirens going off during an emergency and other areas that the public may be notified in case of an emergency. It was suggested that an alert be placed on the cable channel 7 and possible information to be placed in the water billing, the web site and radio stations. Chief Boehme will contact Fire Chief Paul Pratt regarding a multiple siren pattern change mentioned in the cover letter for the plan.

Resolution # 204 was made by Trustee DelRossi to adopt the Emergency Preparedness Plan as amended and to utilize the sirens to alert any danger. Trustee Packet seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet-yes , no negative votes.

There was discussion regarding the Compensation and Benefits Manual for non-union represented employees. Any non union employees are grandfathered and held harmless until the next agreement comes around. The CSEA Union has also been informed of the Employment Practices Compliance Manual for all employees and elected officials. The Board is awaiting a reply from the union.

A date will be determined for sexual harassment training for all Village employees/officials and the members of the fire department.

Trustee DelRossi stated that a Purchase Order form will soon be implemented for all departments to use when ordering anything for the Village.

At 8:50 pm Trustee Packet opened the garbage bid package received for the Village. Welsh Sanitation was the only bid received for Residential Refuse Collection and Disposal at a monthly rate of \$5,675.40. The proposal for disposal sites beyond the 20 mile limit is \$6.31 per mile. This contract will be forwarded to the Village Attorney Nelson Alford for review.

Mayor Curran discussed approving a temporary stipend for out-of-title supervisory work in the Wastewater, Water and Street Departments. Mr. Richardson recommended that the Board apply a retroactive wage rate for Ed Czyzewski to the date that former employee Chris Sperl resigned on January 24, 2012. The Board agreed to give a wage increase of \$2.00 an hour for a 40 hour week retroactive to Mr. Czyzewski.

Resolution # 205 was made by Trustee Morrell to increase Ed Czyzewski's salary retroactive for January through May 31st to represent the work he did for a total amount of \$1280. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Correspondence

Columbia Greene Hospital Foundation will once again be hosting a tennis tournament on Saturday, September 15th and Sunday, September 16th, 2012. The Board was in agreement to allow the Foundation to conduct the tennis tournament. The clerk will contact the foundation.

Mayor Curran read a letter from village resident Ann Marie Borsh of 13 Murray Street for sewer relief for filling her pool. Ms. Borsh used 98 cubic feet of water to fill the 18 foot pool. The relief she would receive is \$39.20.

Resolution # 206 was made by Trustee Morrell to grant the sewer relief. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes. The amount will be deducted from the next water billing.

A letter was received from a group named Protect Chatham regarding a fundraising effort to help the Village pay for its portion of the legal action against the Town of Ghent/ Price Chopper law suit. A total of \$1600 was raised in their efforts. The Board thanked the group.

An invitation was received for a "Party in the Park" on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at Crellin Park to honor the many volunteers who have made Crellin Community Park the special park that it is today!

Another letter was received from NYS Department of Transportation announcing the availability of funds for the Safe Routes to School Program. Officer Eric Colon commented to the Board that people are driving along the tracks and this is a safety issue.

Second Public Comment Period

Nancy Thaler thanked Officer Colon and Chief Boehme for making her feel safe in the Village.

Resolution #207 was made by Trustee DelRossi to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote-Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, yes; no negative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer
Village Clerk