

August 9, 2012

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

Attendance: Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell. Trustee Packet was absent. Police Chief Kevin Boehme, First Assistant Chief Paul Rideout, Attorney Daniel Tuczinski, Attorney William Better, Chatham Courier Reporter, Michael Richardson and two people in the audience.

First Public Comment Period-

Attorney Dan Tuczinski representing the Hampshire Companies, notified the Board that they have filed another petition against the Ghent Planning Board stating that there was compromise and bias on the part of the chairman of the Planning Board. A petition of approximately 200 signatures of people in the community who believe the Town of Ghent moved too quickly in approving the new Price Chopper building was presented to the Board by Attorney William Better. The petition asks that the Village Board adopt a moratorium and study in greater detail, issues of regional storm water management, visual and character concerns and existing zoning in the area of the proposed building lot.

There were no other comments.

Resolution # 233 was made by Trustee Locke to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2012 meeting. Seconded by Trustee Morrell. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

Reports of Commissioners and Committees-

Police Report- presented by Chief Boehme, attached.

Resolution # 234 was made by Trustee DelRossi to hire 5 candidates for Part Time Police Officer that were presented to the Board before the start of the regular meeting. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

Fire Department Report- Assistant Chief Paul Rideout presented, attached. Mr. Rideout will get a current inventory list of the fire trucks.

Wastewater report- presented by Trustee Morrell, attached.

Streets & Snow Removal-Mayor Curran presented, attached. Mayor Curran commended DPW/Water Operator John Bartholomew for getting the Village Clock to ring on time.

Old Business-

Trustee Locke questioned whether anyone has been hired for the Part Time Laborer position or the Supervisory position for the DPW. Mayor Curran commented that he and Trustee Packet will be interviewing candidates soon.

New Business-

Mayor Curran stated that he and Trustee Morrell have been interviewing engineering firms to evaluate the Village Water supply. Four different firms have been reviewed to see what services they can offer, what they can envision for the long term and if they can structure our current system. The Board is looking into ways to improve the system. Trustee Locke asked how these people would be paid and Trustee Morrell commented that an assessment of what is needed needs to be implemented first. She stated that the State may come in and say we can't use the reservoir anymore, we don't want to be in the backend of the situation. Trustee DelRossi stated that knowing what will need to be replaced as far as the budget is concerned and having a plan for next year will affect our water/sewer rates. Trustee Morrell stated that our water/sewer rates were currently too low. The firms interviewed were, CT Male, current engineer Patrick Prendergast, Delaware Engineering and Crawford Associates. Trustee Morrell recommended Delaware Engineering because they have lots of resources and someone on their staff knows Chatham very well. Mayor Curran stated that there is a big concern with the Ghent line and they were recommended by the Village of Valatie. Trustee Morrell stated that they would not take over the

Village Engineering at this point but a first step needs to be taken to determine what the Village can afford. They can also help us gather information for new water/sewer rates. She also commented that discussion has begun to look into outsourcing the water billing. A conference call is scheduled for the next week with VRI, Trustee Morrell, Trustee DelRossi and the Village Clerk. Trustee Morrell will ask for a quote from them also.

Mayor Curran opened the bids for fuel for all Village buildings at 8:05 pm. Main Care Energy and Long Oil were the only bids received. The Board had questions regarding the terms used by each company and their fixed pricing. The Village Clerk will contact each company to clarify the terms used for each bid package before a decision is awarded.

Trustee Locke suggested that the Board use Main Care for the year since we have been very satisfied with them subject to satisfactorily answering any questions the Board may have. The bids were tabled until more information can be obtained.

Resolution #235 was made by Trustee Morrell to revise the Procurement Policy again stating that the \$25 to \$149 becomes \$25 to \$249 and an employee does not need to go to their respective liason for approval but a purchase order will still need to be done. The \$150 to \$1999 becomes \$250 to \$1999. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Morrell, Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, yes;no negative votes.

Mayor Curran stated that Village Treasurer Anne Marshall has tendered her resignation but will stay on until the Board has picked a replacement. The Board will meet with the current accounting firm of Sickler, Torcia, Allen & Churchill at a special meeting on August 15 at 6:00pm for a presentation and proposal. A resume was also received by Maureen Seel who has helped set up the new accounting program in the clerk's office. According to Michael Richardson, Ms. Seel would cost the Village between \$47,000 to \$52,000 with a pension, although she did not submit a pay rate proposal. Trustee Locke suggested that an advertisement be placed in the newspapers for this position and that she was not comfortable with just hiring a firm when there is someone waiting in the wings. The firm of Sickler, Torcia, Allen & Churchill would cost the Village approximately \$43,000 - \$46,000 which would include \$4400 to outsource the payroll to a payroll company. A Special Meeting has been set up for August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to meet with Sickler, Torcia, Allen & Churchill for a presentation.

Building Inspector Stan Koloski sent a letter to the Board regarding his employment status change. Mr. Koloski will be officially retiring as of August 23, 2012 but has requested that his part-time employment as a "retiree" be considered by the Board and he would return to work on August 27, 2012. He has verified this information with the NYS Retirement Office and due to his age, this arrangement can be made with no restriction in his hours/salary that he currently has. Mayor Curran commented that he has contacted the Towns of Chatham and Ghent to see if their building inspector will cover parts of each Town and to look at other alternatives for an inspector. Trustee Locke stated that there are not a lot of people trained for this position and that things will come to a screeching halt if one can't be found. She also commented that there is a lot to be said for someone who already knows the Village. The Board will advertise for a building inspector.

Resolution # 236 was made by Trustee DelRossi to approve the payout of unused vacation leave for the clerk/typist position in the Police Department at the rate of \$11.32 an hour for a total of \$1630.08. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Delrossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

A resolution to establish a standard work day for certain employees for the purpose of reporting service time to the NYS Retirement System was tabled because of the Building Inspector and Treasurer positions currently being vacated.

The Board discussed the Safe Routes to School Grant for Woodbridge Avenue. The 5 year window for this grant is approaching next year and if something is not done the Village would be liable for \$40,000. Drainage issues need to be addressed for this street by next June and a quote of \$16,000 was given from C.E. Rothermel to do the drainage with the help of our DPW. The grant will only cover the cost of the

sidewalk not the drainage cost. Trustee DelRossi stated that the work would need to be allotted for in next year's budget.

#### Correspondence

A letter was received from the Columbia County Agricultural Society asking for Village Board approval of the following which is in conjunction with the annual Columbia County Fair held August 29 through September 3, 2012.

1. Permission to hold the fair on Sunday, September 2
2. Permission to conduct the annual Firefighters parade on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>
3. Request for usage of the grassed area along Hudson Avenue for the parking of vehicles.

Parking of vehicles and the cleaning and maintenance of the area will be maintained by fair staff. The Police Department will be asked for traffic and security needs prior to the fair. The Police Department will bill the Fair Society for their services as they have always done in the past.

Resolution # 237 was made by Trustee Locke to grant permission for the Columbia County Agricultural Society to hold the annual fair from Wednesday, August 29th through Monday, September 3, 2012 and to honor their requests. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Resolution # 238 was made by Trustee Locke to grant sewer relief for filling the pool at the Barendsfeld residence on Center Street at a total of \$46.12. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote-Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

A letter was received from resident Wendy Carroll resigning her position on the Beautification Committee. The Board discussed contacting the current chairman Francis Iaconetti to see if he is still interested in this position otherwise the Board will look for another chairman. Having another cleanup day and possibly forming a garden club was also discussed.

Resolution #239 was made by Trustee Locke to approve the monthly abstracts. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Locke, Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

A Public Hearing has been set for Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm to repeal Local Law No. 1 of the year 2102 that was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 14, 2012.

#### Second Public Comment Period

Georgine Gardner of Kinderhook Street expressed concern over the massive fire recently in West Ghent at the TCI plant. She urged the Board to cooperate with officials in case of an emergency for better notification of residents in case something like this incident happens in the Village. Mayor Curran stated that he has already spoken with Police Chief Kevin Boehme and Fire Chief Paul Pratt regarding this. A meeting has been scheduled with County Officials for Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the West Ghent Fire House to discuss the fire.

An executive session to discuss the labor union's response pertaining to the MOA on training for an assistant wastewater treatment plant operator was tabled.

Resolution # 240 was made by Trustee Locke to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote-Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer  
Village Clerk