

September 6, 2012

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

Attendance: Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, Police Chief Kevin Boehme, Fire Chief Paul Pratt, Sewer Plant Operator Ed Czyzewski, reporters from the Chatham Courier and The Columbia Paper and approximately 50 people in the audience.

First Public Comment Period

Attorney Daniel Tuczinski stated that a visual impact study of two telephone poles and a banner near the proposed new Price Chopper building had been cut down. He also presented another affidavit for a Judgement Pursuant to Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

Many members of the audience expressed their concern to the Mayor's recommendation to cut back the number of hours the Police Department will be on patrol. Many residents present stated that the Police Department is needed in many situations such as EMS calls, Fire calls, making sure businesses have locked their doors and windows, drug dealings, etc. Resident Nancy Thaler stated that she has started a petition in the Village for residents to sign in support of keeping the Police Department on call during every shift throughout the week. Another resident commented that the Police Department was cut back with a previous administration and crime had increased.

Mayor Curran closed the first public comment period at 8:00pm.

Resolution # 248 was made by Trustee DelRossi to approve the minutes of August 9, 15, 23 and 28. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Trustee Packet abstained from approving the August 9th minutes due to her absence. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

Reports of Commissioners and Committees-

Police Report- no report given

Fire Department Report- presented by Chief Pratt, attached. Resolution # 249 was made by Trustee DelRossi to approve the fire department purchase of 600 feet of 1 ¼ inch replacement hose at a cost of \$1200 which is in the fire department budget currently, the repair of the CO Detector and replacement batteries for pagers at a cost of \$256. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

Wastewater/ Water Commissioner- Trustee Morrell presented Ed Czyzewski's report, attached. Mr. Czyzewski commented that Phil Genovese has passed the exam for a Grade 1A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and should be given an increase to reflect the new job title. Trustee Locke stated that she thought Phil would be receiving this pay increase. Mayor Curran stated that this is subject to negotiations.

Streets & Snow Removal- Trustee Packet presented, attached.

Old Business- none

New Business-

Mayor Curran stated that he is meeting with Walt Simonsmeier to see what he would need to take over the building inspector position. Walt has covered before for Stan Koloski at the same rate of pay. The mayor will discuss an agreement with him but did not know Stan's rate of pay.

Mayor Curran announced the revision of the police schedule on Sundays when there is not a lot going on and stated that it would be less than a 3% reduction or 250 hours that would be cut. There would be a savings of \$17,000 and he would like to increase the pay rate to attract and keep good quality officers which would bring us up to standards that are more common in the area. A member of the audience commented that he would like to see more foot and bicycle patrol and asked the mayor to discuss the difference between a transition from “traditional policing” to “community policing”.

Trustee Packet discussed the potential hiring of seasonal laborers for snow removal and leaf pickup, etc. Ed Czyzewski stated that the new hires would be needed from approximately October 15th for leaf pick up and throughout the winter depending on snow.

Resolution # 250 was made by Trustee Packet to hire George Sherman and Zachary Glover and utilize them as needed for leaf pickup and snow removal. Trustee DelRossi seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee Packet, Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, Trustee DelRossi, yes; no negative votes.

Mayor Curran discussed the possibility of offering direct deposit for any employees who would like to sign up for this. He also stated that payroll may go to a bi-weekly schedule to our payroll firm that was recently hired which would be a savings of approximately \$200 a month. This would need to be negotiated with the union.

Correspondence-

A letter was received from Film Columbia announcing that the film festival will take place from October 17-21st. They would like to work with the village in installing stronger flag poles at no cost to the village that would be used for Film Columbia flags and then again for the American flags after the film event.

Resolution # 251 was made by Trustee DelRossi to establish a Standard Work Day for elected and appointed officials to satisfy the requirements for the New York State and Local Retirement System. Trustee Locke seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Morrell, Trustee Packet, yes; no negative votes.

A letter was received from Building Inspector Stan Koloski asking for re-appointment as Building Inspector/CEO Officer as a retiree.

Second Public Comment Period-

Martin Witthoft inquired about the sidewalks on Woodbridge Avenue and stated that it is hard for children to walk on this street. Mayor Curran commented that the Safe Routes to School Grant has not been implemented yet. Mr. Witthoft also asked about why the village mowed the lawn next to the road on Hudson Avenue. He was informed that this was actually village property.

Many residents again discussed their concern with the Mayor making more cuts to the Police Department. One resident stated that the Chatham Police do an excellent job and they were afraid that people would take matters into their own hands. Another resident asked the mayor to justify in writing why \$17,000 is being taken out of the Police Department budget and moved to the Fire Department. Trustee Packet commented that it is a tough task trying to meet the needs of each department.

Resolution # 252 was made by Trustee DelRossi to close the meeting at 9:15pm and go into executive session. Trustee Morrell seconded the motion. Vote- Trustee DelRossi, Trustee Locke, Trustee Packet, Trustee Morrell, yes; no negative votes.

The following are minutes from Deputy Mayor DelRossi:

It was moved by Trustee Joanne DelRossi that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter and Police officer wage adjustments at 9:18 pm; seconded by Trustee Lael Locke. Motion unanimously carried.

It was moved by Trustee Joanne DelRossi that the Board of Trustees adjourn its Executive Session at 10:20 pm; seconded by Trustee Lenore Packet. Motion unanimously carried.

No action was taken.

It was moved by Trustee Lael Locke that the special meeting be adjourned at 10:21 p. m.; seconded by Trustee Adrienne Morrell. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara A. Fischer
Village Clerk