

**VILLAGE OF CHATHAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TRACY MEMORIAL HALL, 77 MAIN STREET, CHATHAM NY
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014, 7:00PM EDT**

PUBLIC HEARING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Mayor Curran, Trustee Lenore Packet, Trustee Michael Wollowitz, Trustee Adrienne Morrell and Trustee Jay Ripple

Also present: Katie Kocijanski of the Register Star and Rusty Vazac, Village Property Owner.

Mayor Curran opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm

Mayor Curran stated that the assessed property rate dropped quite a bit this year. Treasurer Henry stated that this is the first year that the Village is using the two Town Assessors, not a Village Assessor.

Treasurer Henry discussed changes in this year's budget – explained increases and decreases in each section.

Discussion of Welsh Sanitation contract being up for renewal this year – Trustee Packet stated that she would like to explore options Welsh can offer.

Discussion of raise in water and sewer funds. Increase caused by increases over the years for supplies, electric, salaries, etc. Trustee Packet asked if any money had been budgeted for new meters. That will be discussed further at a future meeting. Village Accountants, Sickler Torchia, would like to send an accountant to a May meeting to figure out what new water/sewer rates should be.

Rusty Vazac: Water/Sewer Rates – Village may want to consider a fixed solar array to offset electric charges. Organizations that help offset costs exist and should be explored. Stated that lots of little changes can add up to big savings. Very important to get all broken water meters replaced.

Trustee Morrell stated that she would like the Village to get new handheld meter readers.

Rusty Vazac: Police Budget – Would like to see new car be a more efficient model than the one that has been proposed. This Village doesn't have high speed chases, so a powerful vehicle isn't needed – visibility in the community is needed.

Sidewalks – many are missing, broken, heaved – very dangerous. Many people walk in streets to avoid sidewalks.

Roads – many in bad shape. Cemetery Hill, municipal parking lot, many roads falling apart. Needs money and labor thrown at them to fix the problems. Not glamorous, but needed.

Water Tower – will cause another increase in rates if the tower is replaced. Does not want higher taxes and higher water rates to pay for everything.

Mayor Curran stated that an engineer will be hired to study the entire water/sewer system and to make recommendations. Money will have to be spent to assess the problems.

Rusty Vazac – stated he is amenable to improvements he has suggested. The Village was in better repair in the past. The Village may need to hire more people to get all of the needed work done. Suggested starting a “sidewalk repair” fund.

Retaining Wall by Sunoco – is very dangerous. NYSDOT needs to do something about this. Kids climb on it and it would be very dangerous to fall from that wall.

Mayor Curran spoke of recent complaints sent to NYSDOT re: Center Street bridge and traffic circle. Will follow up with them about retaining wall dangers.

Public hearing closed at 7:50pm.

2014/2015 Budget Workshop/Regular Meeting schedule follows:

April 10, 2014 – 2014/2015 Budget Workshop at 6:00 pm; followed by regular Board of Trustees meeting at 7:00 pm

April 14, 2014 – 2014/2015 Budget Workshop at 6:30 pm

April 24, 2014 – 2014/2015 Budget Workshop at 6:00 pm; followed by regular Board of Trustees meeting at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Burke
Village Clerk