

**VILLAGE OF CHATHAM, NEW YORK  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TRACY MEMORIAL BUILDING  
JANUARY 14, 2019  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.**

**Present:** Mayor T. Curran; Trustees L. Packet, M. Wollowitz, P. Minahan, J. Rippel; Village Clerk D. Meyers; Police P. Volkmann; Fire Chief P. Rideout; Asst. Fire Chief J. Howe; DPW Working Foreman P. Genovese; K. Dow, Atty; Residents; M. Howe, J. Boehme, J. Cerami, M. Blasl, S. Oberon, K. Wallin, M. & L. Hoopes, P. Toigo, P. Luccardi, F. Iaconetti, T. Russell, M. Spock, N. & C. Knables, S. Piazza, S & K Schassler plus several other residents.

**First Public Comment Period:** See attached sheet

**Reports of Commissioners and Committees**

Police Commissioner: Mayor Thomas Curran

Fire Commissioner: Trustee Jay Rippel, Jr.

Wastewater/Water Commissioner: Trustee Michael Wollowitz

Streets & Snow Removal Commissioner: Trustee Lenore Packet

**Minutes:** To approve the minutes of November 16, 2018. So moved by Trustee Packet; seconded by Trustee Rippel. Approved by all with Trustee Minahan and Wollowitz abstaining.

**Presentation:** Friends of the Tracy / Village to partner with FOT to kick-off the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Village Incorporation on February 15, 2019 from 5:30 – 7:30 with a reception at the Tracy Memorial Building. Will need to look into the ability of serving liquor at the Tracy through Insurance Company for liability issues.

**New Business:**

- 1. Resolution:** To appoint Robert Patterson as the Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics. So moved by Trustee Wollowitz; seconded by Trustee Packet. Approved by all.
  
- 2. Resolution:** To spend \$400.00 from Celebrations to support the Friends of the Tracy's "kickoff" of the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration. So moved by Trustee Packet; seconded by Trustee Minahan. Approved by all.
  
- 3. Resolution:** To authorize the Mayor to execute a "Shared Services" Agreement with Columbia County for IT services per the attached Agreement. So moved by Trustee Packet; seconded by Trustee Wollowitz. Approved by all.

**Items for Discussion:**

Public Hearing needed for Consolidated Franchise Agreement. Established for 6:30 Monday, February 11, 2019 at the Tracy Memorial Building.

**Correspondence:**

Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
Peter Wenk Letter  
Arthur Henderson Letter

**Second Public Comment Period:** See attached sheet

**Executive Session:** To discuss the medical, financial, or employment history of a particular person. To discuss the employment history of a particular person.

So moved into Executive Session by L. Packet; seconded by M. Wollowitz at 9:12 p.m.  
So moved out of Executive Session by J. Rippel; seconded by M. Wollowitz at 10:12 p.m.

**Adjournment:** So moved by Trustee Packet; seconded by Trustee Rippel. Approved by all at 10:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting: February 11, 2019**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Debra Meyers  
Village Clerk**

**First Public Comment Period:**

F. Iaconetti asked if there would be any discussion from the Board about the situation this week (NY State Raid on Office). Ken Dow spoke of the history of the situation from start of finding financial irregularities to notification of the Comptroller's office to the search warrant being served at the Village Hall on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the matter is in the hands of the investigators and we have no further information. He went on further asking if the Village had reached out to the accounting firm, Sickler Torchia. The Village responded that "no" they had not.

S. Piazza asked who is under investigation; the Village; Barbara Henry; or both? Wants to know the dollar amount associated with this whole matter. "Hold the Board responsible, but don't blame you".

S. Schassler asked who was responsible for certifying tax returns; Treasurer or outside accounting firm. The accountants should have Professional Liability Insurance if they are involved.

C. Spencer asked if all the payments are made. Board mentioned that ADP now handles taxes and payroll. All tax payments are made.

M. Spock asked if the investigation will show other bills not paid. Board mentioned everything appears to be paid. Also asked why Barbara Henry started doing payroll? Save money? Mayor stated that was the plan.

M. Richardson gave an explanation of how the budget works. Told public AUD stands for Annual Updated Document which closes out the book at the end of the year. Audit would indicate overage. YTD budget should be reviewed often.

J. Howe thanked M. Richardson for explanation. Stated that now we use a spreadsheet and see YTD budget very often where they would never see it from previous Treasurer when asked to provide.

P. Luccardi asked about water bills and whether the Village absorbed unpaid water/sewer bills. Explanation given that unpaid bills were responsibility of homeowner and if they went unpaid, they were re-levied again taxes or water was shut off.

**Second Public Comment Period:**

C. and N. Knables asked if the Village has looked into grants (see DPW Report regarding grants) for the deteriorating infrastructure and to explain why the water rates are so high. It was stated that revenues are not keeping up with expenses.

C. Spencer asked how the Village is doing business without computers and documentation.

M. Richardson talking on water rate increases.