

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 10, 2023; 7:00pm - Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Call to Order (Regular Meeting): 7:00pm by Mayor Howe

Present: Mayor J. Howe; Trustees M. Spock, K. Schassler, R. O'Mara-Garcia, P. Minahan; Village Attorney K. Dow; Village Clerk D. Kelleher; Deputy Clerk S. Davis; Fire Chief P. Rideout; Building Dept E. Reis; Treasurer P. Delong; Town of Chatham Liaison V. Pitkin; Columbia Paper E. Teasdale; Members of the Public L. Locke, Sergio Rico, R. Bartolo, C. Bruno, K. Schermerhorn, J. Schermerhorn, S. Piazza, L. Anito, R. Trevellyan, S. Trevellyan, P. Luccardi, G. Whiffen. **Not present:** Acting Police Chief J. Alessi, DPW Foreman P. Genovese.

First Public Comment (limited to 15 minutes):

-Readdressing the Jones Ave Tennis and pickleball matter, Mayor Howe opened by reading the November 14, 1967 Board of Trustees "Resolution to accept Offer to Village to construct Tennis Courts on Village Land". The property was acquired by the Village from Henry B. Ambler and Jessamin G. Ambler, his wife, as a gift in a deed dated April 11, 1929 and record April 12, 1929 in the Columbia County Clerk's Office in Book 203 of Deeds at page 449, which deed restricts the use and purposes of said land to the following: "For a public park, square, athletic field, or playground"; and WHEREAS, there is no similar recreational facility within said Village; and WHEREAS, the Village is authorized pursuant to section 244-a of the General Municipal Law to expend moneys for the expense of maintenance and improvement of such facilities...".

-Public comments were made both in support of, and against the idea of painting pickleball court lines.

- Attorney K. Dow indicates that it would not be lawful for anyone to permanently mark up the courts on their own.

-Mayor Howe noted various signage at other facilities and would like a Village sign indicating that the Village courts are open Dawn to Dusk. The Village is not restricting use to Village residents only. The Village is NOT installing lights at the courts.

-Motion made by R. O'Mara-Garcia to approve the request for the addition of 1 set of removeable pickleball court lines to be added to 1 tennis court, for pickleball use from 9am to 4pm, on a temporary basis until such time as the Town of Chatham is approved for a grant and a new pickleball court is completed at Crellin Park. Motion seconded by M. Spock. Mayor Howe adds that since it is not currently known about the timeframe of the grant and the timing of the new pickleball court completion, if the grant and construction is longer than anticipated, approval of temporary pickleball court lines could be revisited.

*-Attorney K. Dow provided counsel to the Board in an area separate from the open meeting room, and upon returning to the open meeting room, **the Board advised that the motion will be tabled and the Village will be submitting an application to the Planning Board for review at the next Planning Board meeting, which will be held on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Tracy.***

DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES REPORTS:

>Building Department: Building Inspector, Erin Reis. *(given by E. Reis)*

>Police Department: Acting Chief J. Alessi; Police Commissioner Pete Minahan. *(read by P. Minahan)*

>Fire Department: Chief P. Rideout; Fire Commissioner Melony Spock. *(presented by Chief Rideout)*

>DPW: Foreman P. Genovese; Wastewater/Water Commissioner Ralph O'Mara-Garcia; Streets & Snow Removal Commissioner Karyn Schassler. *Report not submitted. Mayor Howe reported that the DPW continues to make progress hooking up the Hudson Ave water lines to the new water main.*

Approve Minutes of June 12, 2023. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by P. Minahan. Approved by all.*

Approve Minutes of June 28, 2023. (Special Meeting - Use of Jones Avenue Courts). *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Approve the June 2023 Budget to Actuals. *So moved by P. Minahan, seconded by M. Spock. Approved by all.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 85 of 2023 – To approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an **Enrollment Agreement**, between the Village of Chatham, and **Brown and Brown** of New York, Inc., effective May 31, 2023 – May 30, 2024, which outlines each parties' responsibilities with regard to the processing of eligibility events. *So moved by P. Minahan, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 86 of 2023 – To approve **budget line transfers** according to the attached **schedule of transfers** dated July 10, 2023, and revised 12:33pm. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by P. Minahan. Approved by all.*

Resolution 87 of 2023 – To approve and authorize the mayor to sign a contract between the Village of Chatham and **Hallenbeck's Cleaning Service Inc.** for cleaning services at the weekly rate of \$30.00 for the DPW, \$55.00 for the CPD, and \$85.00 for the Clerk Office/Building

effective immediately through 06/30/23. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 88 of 2023 - To approve the use of net surplus in the General, Water, and Sewer funds to cover **overages in payroll lines** for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by P. Minahan. Approved by all.*

Resolution 89 of 2023 – To authorize the DPW to accept bids in the total amount of \$4445 on Auctions International, for **sale of surplus items** including \$1075 for **2011 Impala**, \$810 for **6 tires for ladder truck**, \$185 for 2 old **weed eaters** and an old **pole saw** which is not running, and \$2375 for a **Zero-turn 60”mower**. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by P. Minahan. Approved by all.*

Resolution 90 of 2023 – To authorize the DPW to accept a bid on Auctions International for **sale of the used 2017 Bobcat E42 Excavator with Attachment VIN #B2VW13623** in an amount not less than \$27,000. *So moved by R. O’Mara-Garcia, seconded by P. Minahan. Approved by all.*

Resolution 91 of 2023 – To approve the written request from CABA to **hold Octoberfeast** on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 11am-4pm. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 92 of 2023 – To approve the written request from CABA for the **DPW assistance hanging 18”x36” event date/time banners** on Village poles. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all. Requested that the banners are hung by September 1 if possible.*

Resolution 93 of 2023 – To approve the permit application/request from CABA for the **closure of Main Street** to traffic/parking, and for the use of the **Main Street Municipal lot** for a tent with family entertainment and music, from 8am-5pm on Saturday, September 30, 2023 for Octoberfeast. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 94 of 2023 – To approve the written request from CABA for **suspension** of the Village **open container** regulations on Main Street on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 11am-5pm for Octoberfeast. *So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Introduction of Proposed Local Law XX of 2023 “A Local Law Correcting Provisions for **Uniform Code Enforcement** as Enacted by Local Law 1 of 2023”, by Mayor J. Howe.

Introduction of proposed Local Law YY of 2023 “A Local Law Correcting **Zoning Revisions** as Enacted by Local Law 2 of 2019”, by Mayor J. Howe.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Washington Ave** – No parking sign – petition/letter from residents. (Tabled in May for further investigation. Letter sent to petitioner/resident). *JH: Church Street traffic cannot turn onto Washington Ave if cars are too close to STOP sign. The resident has been advised that the spacing of the No Parking Sign is due to traffic and the topic is closed until the code is updated.*
- **Village Code updates** - Vehicles/Traffic, including but not limited to overnight Village parking, Handicap parking, traffic signage, snow emergency streets. Sewer, including but not limited to Specification for Grease Trap placement, and update fines/fees for non-compliance. Water meters, code to specify Radio Read/Smart Meter type meters. (Tabled last month). *JH: We need to dig in and work on updates.*
- **Food Trucks codes committee** – Draft status. (Tabled May, June, July). Need to fine tune more procedural detail. “Need more objective standards”.
- **“Sidewalks are right-of-way and must remain free from hazards”** – Letter from Code enforcement. *Letters were hand delivered by CPD to advise businesses of spacing and regulations of sidewalk. CPD will follow up in a week.*
- **Cottage Place** – *Mayor Howe: Columbia County Agricultural Society would like to give to the Village the Cottage Place property that is currently owned by the CCAS and was previously used for CCAS Parking. Accepting the property increases the # of miles of roadways in the Village used in determination of CHIPS funding, and increases the tax base.*
- **NYMIR installation of battery disconnect switches** – *Mayor Howe: NYMIR is requesting that the Village install Battery disconnect switches on certain vehicles. Village looking into the request.*
- **Revisions to the Sewer Law** – (Introduced in February by Village Attorney K. Dow). Continue discussion regarding the following suggested revisions:
 - 1. Need to determine who has authority to oversee the sewer. Need to indicate a position or person (Chief operator, Superintendent, etc). *Civil Service*

advised that a Trustee may serve as Sewer Superintendent. Trustee Ralph O'Mara-Garcia will be Superintendent, appointed by Mayor Howe.

- *2. Who is best suited to do grease trap inspections? JH: DPW staff will complete Grease Trap inspections. Violations will then be issued by the Code Enforcement Officer.*
- *3. Does the Board want to revise penalties? (Not discussed).*
- *4. Set public hearing for August, SEQR? EAF Part1? Public Hearing for Sewer Law set for August 14, 2023 at 6:30pm.*

Second Public Comment Period (limited to 15 minutes):

-Resident S. Piazza expressed concern regarding speed on Village Streets and asked what would be involved to change the Village speed limit. Mayor Howe replied that he would look into it. He also added that the process for modifying the speed limit on Village streets that are also State highways would be more difficult, than modifying the speed limit on local Village Streets.

-Resident S. Piazza mentioned that it has been arranged by Mr. Johnson to have a technician service the Village Clock on Wednesday and S. Piazza has some concerns. Piazza asked if the Village was paying for the servicing, or if Mr. Johnson was paying for the servicing. Mayor Howe advised that Mr. Johnson is paying for the servicing. S. Piazza plans to be at the appointment and requested that Trustee P. Minahan also be present. Trustee Minahan agreed.

Executive Session: For discussion of collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law.
8:45pm, motion by R. O'Mara-Garcia to enter into executive session, seconded by K. Schassler.

9:00pm, motion by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler to exit Executive session.

Upcoming Meetings: *August 14, 2023; 7:00pm. Regular Meeting.*

Adjournment: *Motion by M. Spock, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all at 9:00pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Kelleher

Village Clerk

07/21/23