

Board of Trustees
With Public Hearing; 6:50pm
March 11, 2024; 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Mayor J. Howe; Trustees K. Schassler, R. O'Mara-Garcia, P. Minahan; Clerk D. Kelleher; Treasurer P. DeLong; Code Enforcement E. Reis; A. Police Chief J. Alessi, Fire Chief P. Rideout; Residents J. Sauca (Crows Cottage), A. Didio (Taconic Engineering).

Not present: Attorney K. Dow; Trustee M. Spock; Dep. Clerk S. Davis Jr.

Public Hearing for "A Local Law Requiring Remote-read Water Meters" called to order at 6:50pm by Mayor J. Howe. There were no comments or questions from the public. Motion to close the public hearing made by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all to close at 7pm.

Call to Order (Regular Meeting): Called to order by Mayor Howe at 7:00pm.

First Public Comment (limited to 15 minutes): No comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Continue Public Hearings opened on February 12, 2024:

...**"To amend the Village Code Chapter 110, Table of Use Regulations, with regard to Accessory Structures in the Village of Chatham."** Motion to close the public hearing by M. Spock, seconded by P. Minahan. Approved by all to close the public hearing at 7:00pm.

...**"A Local Law to Establish a 2-Hour Parking Limit on Railroad Avenue."** Mayor Howe started with a brief overview which touched on the desire by the Board to update the traffic and parking throughout the entire Village but in the mean time they believed they could begin with Railroad Ave, while they investigate other areas of the Village. The Mayor addressed the public and asked for any comments for the Board. A. Didio (Taconic Engineering, Railroad Ave) expressed his support for looking for a big picture solution and looking at the parking concerns throughout the Village as a whole, prior to piecing together partial Village fixes. Partial solutions without a big picture study would likely have a negative result. Changing the code on one street will displace people from that particular street and relocate them to another area, then causing an issue where there might not have been one before. He requested that the Board consider tabling this decision for now if they are even possibly considering a larger area of the Village traffic/parking study review.

J. Sauca (Crow's Cottage) expressed her thoughts about Railroad Ave parking. She understands that parking is an issue and asked that on the days her business is open she is left at least one spot in front of her shop for customers. She sees that her customers end up parking all over the place... in the post office parking lot, the funeral home lot, a nearby apartment building, and in Taconic Engineering driveway.

A. Didio again suggested that the Village have a parking study done before taking action one street at a time. Their firm would be able to recommend other firms since they are an interested party.

J. Alessi suggested that if the Village is considering any business specific spots that they are limited in time to something an hour or less. The point is to have people in and out to allow for rotation to the shops. Railroad Ave is now at least 50% commercial. Of the 10 buildings on Railroad Ave are businesses. Not even counting businesses behind the street side businesses.

A. Didio suggested that he and J. Sauca speak outside of the meeting and J. Sauca agreed.

Mayor Howe commented that unless someone wanted to push this forward the Village Board will not necessarily act on this proposed law through resolution this evening. He would like to allow for some further investigation, communication, and possible solution. The more we can work together, and cooperate, we will not please everyone, but the more we can champion that, it's going to make things better for each and every one of us. The Mayor decided to keep the public hearing open to enable the discussion to continue as necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

Departments and Committees Reports:

- **Building Department:** Building Inspector, Erin Reis. *Report given by E. Reis. Howe thanked E. Reis for the Knox Box information she forwarded to the CFD.*
- **Police Department:** Acting Chief J. Alessi; Police Commissioner Pete Minahan. *Report given by Chief J. Alessi. The Chief would like to call out special commendations to Officers C. Coolidge and J. Favorito for their DWI patrol work.*
- **Fire Department:** Chief P. Rideout; Fire Commissioner Melony Spock. *Report given by Chief P. Rideout. As a reminder, the Chief encouraged the Village Board members, or anyone interested in seeing the condition of the fire station first hand, to reach out to him.*
- **DPW:** Foreman P. Genovese; Wastewater/Water Commissioner Ralph O'Mara-Garcia; Streets & Snow Removal Commissioner Karyn Schassler. *DPW report read by K. Schassler. Mayor Howe offered come clarification regarding ARPA funds which is Covid related money allocated to the Village back in 2022 for specific use and one off the acceptable expenditures is for water and sewer. At the time we opted to do a small section on Hudson Ave by Price Chopper and the*

Fair grounds that had been an issue for a number of years. We used some of the ARPA money to replace that line, so it was no cost to the water fund or to the tax payers. There is about \$18K left and we have to the end of 2024 to allocate it. We still need to replace the meter system that meters the water from there south to Ghent. It is going to be a little more than \$18K to do that and we will at some point need a resolution to expend that money. Mayor Howe also mentioned that looking at a breakout comparison of the water projects we've done over the last 5-6 years, proposed cost to contract out vs actual cost by doing them in-house, the approximate savings by doing them in-house on just the 3 phases of the Hudson Avenue projects was about \$1.1M.

Approve Minutes: February, 2024. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Approve Budget to Actuals: February 2024. *So moved by P. Minahan, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 34 of 2024- To approve the application submitted by the **Chatham High School Booster Club** requesting **use of municipal facilities**, specifically the **Tracy Memorial** upstairs, on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm. (Certificate of Liability insurance is included). *So moved by P. Minahan, seconded by K. Schassler. Approved by all.*

Resolution 35 of 2024 – To enact **Local Law 3 of 2024**, “To amend the Village Code Chapter 110, **Table of Use Regulations**, with regard to **Accessory Structures** in the Village of Chatham.” (Review SEQR per KD). *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by P. Minahan. SEQR questionnaire read aloud by D. Kelleher, responses of “no impact” given by the Board, resulting in a negative declaration. All approved.*

Resolution 36 of 2024 – To enact **Local Law 4 of 2024**, “A Local Law to Establish a **2-Hour Parking Limit on Railroad Avenue.**” *Before tabling the resolution the Mayor verified that the Trustees were in agreement to do so. All agreed to table for now.*

Resolution 37 of 2024 – To enact **Local Law 5 of 2024**, “A Local Law Requiring **Remote-Read Water Meters.**” *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Resolution 38 of 2024 - To approve the transfer of funds from the “**Village of Chatham Sewer Reserve Fund**” in the amount of **\$9,800** to cover **WWTP UV Disinfection “preliminary and final design” invoices submitted by LaBella Engineering**, applied by the Village to Budget Line 81302 (**Treatment Equipment**) during December 2023-February 2024, and reflected as item "B" on the February Budget to Actual report. *So moved by R. O'Mara-Garcia, seconded by P. Minahan. Approved by all.*

Resolution 39 of 2024 - To approve the transfer of funds from the “Village of Chatham Sewer Reserve Fund” in the amount of **\$53,650** to cover the purchase of a new WWTP generator (purchase approval Resolution 143 of 2023), applied to the Village to Budget Line 81302 (**Treatment Equipment**), and is reflected as item "C" on the February Budget to Actual report. *So moved by K. Schassler, seconded by R. O’Mara-Garcia. Approved by all.*

Items for discussion or mention:

- a. *Budget Workshops – Monday, **March 18, 2024** beginning at 5:00pm. The Mayor briefly explained that he and Treasurer DeLong reviewed all of the Department budget estimates, made very few changes, and ran the department estimates by our Accountant Bob Patterson. Patterson will be here for the Tentative Budget Workshops and for the Tentative Budget Public Hearing. The workshops are open to the public, but it is not a public comment meeting. The Public Hearing is for public comment.*
- b. *Village Elections – Monday, **March 19, 2024.***
- c. *Monday, **April 1, 2024;** 6:00pm. Organizational Meeting.*
- d. *Budget Public Hearing **April 8, 2024;** 6:30pm. Mayor Howe: Open to the public and for the purpose of hearing public comment. Accountant Bob Patterson will attend.*
- e. *Rail Trail update – Mayor Howe: They are still in the design phase and are in communication with P. Genovese (DPW). Looking to have the trail go down Hudson Ave using the current sidewalks location, and end at the “green shanty” where there will be a bike rack. From there it will be a shared road with signage section along Railroad Ave, and terminate at the Shaker Museum.*

Second Public Comment Period (limited to 15 minutes): *No comments.*

Executive Session: N/A

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn by P. Minahan, seconded by K. Schassler, all approved to adjourn at 8:05pm.*

Next regular meeting: *April 8, 2024; 7:00pm.*

(Following the Budget public hearing which is scheduled to begin at 6:30pm).

Meeting Place: *Tracy Memorial Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Chatham, NY 12037.*

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Kelleher

Village Clerk

04/02/24