

**TOWN OF CHATHAM TOWN BOARD MEETING
JUNE 15, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Town of Chatham, Town Board was held on Thursday June 15, 2006 at the town hall. Present were: Jesse DeGroot – Supervisor, Jean Rohde – Councilman, BethAnn Rippel – Councilman, Don Hegeman – Councilman, Carol Gregg – Town Clerk, Comptroller – Earl Kelsey, Highway Supt. – Joe Rickert, Town Attorney – Tal Rappleyea and several others. Absent was Bob Balcom – Councilman.

Supervisor DeGroot opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Hegeman.

COMMUNICATIONS

POWERS & CO. regarding foil request.

KAREN MURPHY regarding Phelps Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

BILL EIMICKE, husband of Karen Murphy spoke to the board concerning Phelps road preservation

REPORTS

HIGHWAY Joe Rickert presented the Town Board with all the complaints that Karen Murphy has sent to him as the Highway Supt. He explained to the Town Board what the surface of Phelps road consisted of. A copy of the Highway maintenance schedule was also given to the town Board. **BILL EIMICKE** told the Town Board that he and his wife have lived on Phelps road since 1995 and the road had been maintained perfectly up until 2005, when the new surface was put on. He stated that the road is no longer a dirt road. Horses do not walk well on this surface. He would like the Highway Superintendent to remove what is on the road now and return it to the previous surface. Supervisor DeGroot stated that the Town Board has no say in what the elected Highway Superintendent does at his job. The only thing the Town Board has control of is his budget. All the Town Board members have looked at the road and do not see anything wrong with it. Joe Rickert stated that he will not be removing the current surface material on Phelps road.

JUSTICE COURT report is on file.

SUPERVISOR(CTY. BUSINESS) Supervisor DeGroot voted against the new 911 office building as the cost has gone from #300,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 to build a new building.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN Jean Rohde reported that the strategies for the Land Use project have been completed. They hope the Plan will be done by August.

RES. #85-06 to sign contract with Hudson Group, LLC.

Supervisor DeGroot offered Res. #85 and moved its adoption to authorize the Hudson Group LLC to conduct a Fiscal Impact Study and to allow the Supervisor to sign the contract. A copy of the contract is on file. Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, all present

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #86-06 to reapply for the Farmland Protection Grant.

Supervisor DeGroot offered Res. #86 and moved its adoption that

Whereas the Town Board of Chatham held a meeting on June 15, 2006, to discuss the request of William Denner and Claudia Kenny, Little Pine, LLC, and Robert Mitchell (hereinafter the “Landowners”) to apply for a New York State Agricultural and Farmland Protection Implementation grant (hereinafter “Farmland Protection Grant”) as described below;

Whereas the Town of Chatham is currently in the process of updating its comprehensive plan and associated zoning regulations, and as part of this process has been working in partnership with the Chatham Keep Farming Land Team, The Town of Chatham voted on July 28, 2005 to accept the recommendation of the Chatham Keep Farming Land Team, in which the Town Agreed to: “Establish a permanent town agriculture committee to oversee the implementation of the Keep Farming initiatives, continue promotion of agriculture, coordinate citizen involvement, and investigate and coordinate access to private and public funds for ag-related initiatives.”,

Whereas the Town of Chatham’s Draft comprehensive Plan states that “We strive for no loss of farmland...Chatham has made a long-term commitment to being and remaining a farm community, and we make every effort to honor this commitment...We continue to commit significant resources dedicated to the long-term preservation of farmland...We believe that farming and ag-related business are a significant part of Chatham’s economy. The Town is recognized as a farm-friendly community...”

Whereas the Landowners, all of whom own farmland within the town of Chatham, requested the assistance of the Columbia Land Conservancy to investigate whether they would like to participate in a Farmland Protection Grant;

Whereas the Landowners have worked with the Columbia Land conservancy to prepare for a grant application, and, should they wish to proceed, will therefore request that the Columbia Land conservancy write a grant application on their behalf to allow them to apply for a Farmland Protection Grant;

Whereas such Farmland Protection Grant will not cost the Town any money, either in the preparation of the grant application or in securing the local 25% match as required by the grant, unless the Town wishes to assist with such funding. The town acknowledges the considerable time undertaken by the Columbia Land Conservancy in providing this service, and appreciates their efforts to write the grant application on behalf of the Landowners and the Town of Chatham;

Whereas the Town of Chatham and the Columbia Land Conservancy agree that the Columbia Land Conservancy will negotiate the agricultural conservation easements with the Landowners and the State, prepare all necessary supporting documents for the easements, implement the project, hold the easements, and regularly monitor, enforce and defend the terms in a manner consistent with the State’s Farmland Protection Program;

Whereas the Town of Chatham and the Columbia Land Conservancy agree that the Conservancy will administer a successful grant award, thereby sparing the Town any expense or substantial input of time or labor;

Whereas the Farmland Protection Grant requires that the municipality in which the proposed lands for agricultural protection are located submit the grant proposal; and

Whereas the Town Board recognizes that the Columbia County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board must provide an endorsement letter with the grant proposal

Therefore, let it be resolved that on behalf of, and in support of, the Landowners' joint application, the Chatham Town Board will submit an application to New York State's Farmland Protection Program, as discussed above. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hegeman.

Vote; ayes, all present

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #87-06 to accept the minutes.

Councilman Rohde offered Res. #87 and moved its adoption to approve the minutes of May 18, 2006 and June 6, 2006 Town Board minutes as written. Councilman Rippel seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, all present

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #88-06 to remove Mower from inventory.

Councilman Rippel offered Res. #88 and moved its adoption that the Town Board authorizes the removal of the 1980 Woods Mower Model #5105-3, Serial #6717 from the Highway Department's Inventory and to sell as surplus equipment or send to the Columbia County Auction. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hegeman.

Vote; ayes, all present

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #89-06 to conduct research, etc. at Crellin Park.

Councilman Rohde offered Res. #89 and moved its adoption to authorize Morris Associates to conduct research, fieldwork, and mapping at Crellin Park in the amount of \$10,500.00. Councilman Rippel seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, all present

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #90-06 to accept the Town Comptroller's report.

Councilman Rippel offered Res. #90 and moved its adoption to accept the Town comptroller's report. Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, all present

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

RES. #91-06 to re-bid mowing at Crellin Park.

Supervisor DeGroot offered Res. #91 and moved its adoption to re-bid the mowing at Crellin Park for a period of 2 years. Bids should be received by 5 pm on July 18, 2006. Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, all present

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

JIM TEMPLE wondered if a Fiscal Impact Study will also be done by August of 2006. He would like the Town Board to consider waiting until a study has been done before changing our Zoning Laws. He feels that the people's freedom may be taken away when too many zoning laws are imposed. Jim thanked the town Highway for the great job they did on Reed Rd. His road is in the best shape that it has been for 35 years.

Motion was made by Councilman Rippel, seconded by Councilman Rohde, and carried to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carol Gregg, RMC
Town Clerk