

**TOWN OF CHATHAM
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
Thursday, December 20, 2007**

Board Members Present:

Supervisor Jesse DeGroot
Councilwoman Beth Ann Rippel
Councilman Bob Balcom
Councilman Don Hegeman
Councilwoman Jean Rohde

Others:

Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea
Assessor Daniel Horst
Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert
Comptroller Earle Kelsey

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor DeGroot called the Town Board Meeting of December 20, 2007 to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE TO FLAG: Councilman Hegeman led the pledge to the flag.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Jeffrey & Sheila Metzner, re: Spangler Bridge.
2. NYS Office of Parks & Recreation, re: Crellin Park grant.
3. Claude Samowitz, re: wireless Internet.
4. Van Calhoun, re: Comprehensive Plan.
5. Van Calhoun, re: planning board and ZBA appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dan Horst thanked Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert and the Town Highway Department for their attention to road situations during the winter months.

REPORTS

1. *Recreation Department:* Recreation Director Shari Franks gave her report to the Board. A copy is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.
2. *Highway:* Joe Rickert, Superintendent, delivered his report to the Board and requested for two resolutions to be passed. Report is on file.
3. *Justice Court:* Report is on file.
4. *Supervisor (County Business):* Supervisor DeGroot noted that the County Board passed their budget on time and that there was a slight decrease in the county tax rate.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Chatham Central School District: Capital project improvement proposal.* Superintendent Scott Hunter presented information to the Board as part of a public informational session.
2. *Spangler Bridge.* The Board discussed a preservation request of Spangler Bridge and agreed to speak to the county regarding renovation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. *County Environmental Management Committee.* The Board heard from Randi Walker, representative to the county, regarding concerns that she would bring up in the next county meeting and provided several additional ideas and corrections.
2. *Comprehensive Master Plan.* Supervisor DeGroot informed the Board and the public that the contract with Nan Stolzenberg of November 16th was passed to allow for reformatting of the Plan. DeGroot mentioned that Stolzenberg was half done with revisions of the Plan and when finished, she will return the Plan to the Board for another workshop meeting. The Board intends to review the new changes and discuss setting a Public Hearing in the future.
3. *Temporary Sign Law.* The Board discussed the issue of realtor, political, and other signs littered on roadway and properties and whether or not it was a good idea to set time limits, size restrictions, etc. The Board agreed to address this issue in the Comprehensive Plan for further development and discussion.
4. *Internet Posting of County/Town Tax Bills.* The County contacted Chatham to allow for the option of posting tax information online and the Board agreed it would be helpful.
5. *O'Leary Fence Variance.* Supervisor DeGroot informed the Board of a letter from Marilyn Cohen regarding an error in requiring an \$100 fee for a Zoning permit variance. The Board agreed to return the money and passed an amendment to take in future fees.

RESOLUTION #157-07 to approve the return of money to Cynthia Elliot.

Offered by Supervisor DeGroot, moved adoption to approve the return of a Zoning fee of \$100 to Cynthia Elliot for Paul O'Leary due to the absence of a law requiring such a fee.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #158-07 to amend the Rules of Code Enforcement Officer.

Offered by Supervisor DeGroot, moved adoption to amend the Rules of Code Enforcement Officer to require a fee in the amount of \$50.00 plus a compliance deposit for inspection of fence or driveway permits to be set by the Highway Superintendent.

Councilwoman Rippel seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #159-07 to approve the clerk's minutes.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2007, regular Town Board meeting.

Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #160-07 to pay the December 2007 monthly payroll.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption to pay the December 2007 monthly payroll prior to December 31, 2007.

Councilman Hegeman seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #161-07 to authorize budget transfers.

Offered by Supervisor DeGroot, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to make the following Amendments to Budget Appropriations:

From	To	Amount
A1990.4	A1410.1	\$4500.00
A1990.4	A5132.4	\$2000.00
A1990.4	A7140.1	\$2500.00
A1440.4	A1420.4	\$4000.00
	TOTAL	\$13,000.00

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #162-07 to manage the sale of gravel.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas: the sale of gravel, from the "Town Hall Gravel Mine", through November 2007 totals \$20,940.52 and

Whereas, the Capital Projects Fund "H" Town Hall (H878.34) expenditures, associated with the preparing the "Town Hall Gravel Mine", currently exceeds funds available for this project by \$1,704

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to transfer \$5,000 from General Fund "A" to Capital Projects Fund "H" – Town Hall (H878.34).

Councilwoman Rippel seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #163-07 to accept a bid for used sand spreader.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption to accept a bid for used sand spreader as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board resolves to accept the bid for the sale of (One) Used Six-Foot Stainless Pick-up Spreader, Series IV sold "as is" "where is" to John Houghtaling for a bid price of \$1,527.00.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #164-07 to accept the State Contract bid price for purchasing equipment.

Offered by Councilman Balcom, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board accepts the State Contract bid Price (State Contract # PC62716), for (Two) 2008 Diamond SPEC 7600 SFA 4 x 2 from H.L. Gage Sales, Inc., 121 Washington Avenue Ext'n, Albany, New York for the sum of \$101,997.80 per truck, total being \$203,995.60 to be purchased with a 2008 Ban Note subject to a permissive referendum.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #165-07 to manage FEMA funds.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas: the FEMA Grant associated with the April 2007 storm is in excess of \$57,000.

Whereas, the Highway Fund "DB" Machinery CE (DB5130.4) expenditures for repair of equipment are projected to exceed funds Appropriated by \$20,000.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to increase appropriations for Highway Fund "DB" Machinery CE (DB5130.4) \$20,000 to cover current and future expenditures.

Councilwoman Rippel seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #166-07 to approve the Town Comptroller's report.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption to approve the Town Comptroller's report.

Supervisor DeGroot seconded the motion.

Vote: Supervisor DeGroot, aye; Councilwoman Rippel, aye; Councilman Balcom, aye; Councilman Hegeman, aye; and Councilwoman Rohde, aye.

The resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Horst briefly commented on New York's high costs and the temporary sign issue. He gave the Board information from Chatham's property assessments in reference to several of the issues the school superintendent brought up. Horst concluded that the plan offered by the school was deceptively based on full market value and did not account for the annual tax increase that made Chatham school taxes already extremely high.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING: Supervisor DeGroot moved, Councilwoman Rippel seconded, and it was carried to close the December 20, 2007, Town Board Meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Horst
Deputy Town Clerk