

**TOWN OF CHATHAM
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 21, 2008 ~ 7:00 PM**

Board Present:

Supervisor Jesse DeGroot
Councilman Bob Balcom
Councilwoman Jean Rohde

Board Absent:

Beth Ann Rippel
Don Hegeman

Others Present:

Dan Horst, Assessor
Earle Kelsey, Comptroller
Shari Franks, Park Director

Call to Order and Pledge: Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Public Hearing: Right-to-Farm Local Law #2

Dan Horst stated that he had been exercising his right to farm for several years in his hamlet.

Sumaya Connors mentioned a local farm that upheld its right to farm with a sign stating that there is no food without farms.

Public Comment

Melissa Pollack asked for an update on the Comprehensive Plan.

Roland Drowne expressed several concerns with the situation at the Old Chatham pond and that it has been a problem since 1971. The Board explained that DEC is still evaluating the situation and until there are instructions from the state, the Town cannot act on the issue.

Randi Walker also asked for more information on the Comprehensive Plan, specifically in regards to a time frame.

Old Business: Comprehensive Plan. The Town Board explained that the draft plan was sent back to Nan Stolzenburg for revision. The Board will hopefully have a workshop meeting in September to ascertain that the new draft reflects the desired changes, hold a public hearing in October, and vote on the plan in November. As per Randi Walker's request, the Board agreed that a form with information on the changes made to the plan would be helpful.

Reports:

1. Highway: A copy of the report is on file. Supervisor DeGroot gave an update on the White Mills Road project.
2. Justice Court (On file).
3. Supervisor (County Business). Supervisor DeGroot stated that the county is in the middle of the budget process and adjusting to administrative changes. Councilwoman Rohde gave an update on heating issues on the county level and plans to prevent problems.
4. Recreation Department. Shari Franks gave her report to the Board. A copy is on file.

New Business: Right to Farm Local Law #2.

RESOLUTION #87-08 to accept Local Law #2 on Right-to-Farm in the Town of Chatham.

Offered by Supervisor DeGroot, moved adoption to enact Local Law #2 as filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

Old Business

1. ICLEI (Green Towns USA) Membership Proposal. The Board agreed to postpone this discussion due to two members being absent. It was noted that this goes along with the Comprehensive Plan and ongoing discussions with Sun Dog Solar.
2. Town Hall Answering Machine. Supervisor DeGroot gave information about the current system and several quotes from local companies.

RESOLUTION #88-08 to purchase a new phone system for the Town Hall.

Offered by Supervisor DeGroot, moved adoption to purchase a new phone system for the Town Hall from FairPoint Communications for \$3310.00 with a 5-year warranty.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #89-08 to accept amendments to budget appropriations.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to make the following amendments to Budget Appropriations: From A1990.4 to A7140.4 – \$6000.00

Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #90-08 to approve the use of budgeted funds for Justice use.

Offered by Councilman Balcom, moved adoption to approve the use of budgeted funds for Town Justice Doris Appel to attend the annual conference of the NYS Magistrates Association.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #91-08 to remove Truck #36 from Highway Inventory.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the removal of (one) 2000 Ford F550, VIN # 1FDAF57F2YEE26549, Truck #36, from the Highway Inventory and to use the parts due to truck being in a 2005 accident and was totaled.

Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #92-08 to approve Town Clerk minutes.

Offered by Councilman Balcom, moved adoption to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2008, Town Board meeting.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #93-08 to approve Town Comptroller's report..

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

Councilman Balcom seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

Public Comment

Dan Horst had several questions regarding fuel costs and ramifications that would have on the budget process.

Motion to Close Meeting: Councilwoman Rohde moved to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Balcom seconded. It was carried to adjourn the regular Town Board meeting of August 21, 2008, at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Horst
Deputy Town Clerk