

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

Board Present:

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

Others Present:

Deputy Sheriff Todd Hyson
Assessor Dan Horst
Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert
Attorney Tal Rappleyea

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS on Local Law No. 1 “Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low-Income Citizens Real Property” and Local Law No. 2 “Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption”.

The Board opened the Public Hearings on Local Law 1 and Local Law 2 at 7:05 PM.

Dan Horst stated that, speaking as an assessor, any effort the Town took on tax exemptions for seniors would be helpful.

As there was no more comment, the Public Hearings were closed.

CORRESPONDENCE / NEW BUSINESS: Gail Blass Wolczanski/Chatham Village Historical Society, re: Blinn-Pulver Farmhouse

Gail Blass Wolczanski gave a presentation to the Board regarding the old Blinn-Pulver Farmhouse in the Village of Chatham and Town of Ghent across the street from Price Chopper. She asked the Board for money for scaffolding (\$600/month) and the Board agreed to give her \$1000 after conferring with Tal Rappleyea and confirming that a contract had to be made first.

RESOLUTION #45-08 to help fund restoration of the Blinn-Pulver Farmhouse.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption to pay \$1000.00 for scaffolding in the restoration of the Blinn-Pulver Farmhouse.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Horst stated that it is easy for the government to spend other people’s money and while he is not necessarily against the before mentioned project, he objects to the use of public money for private operations.

REPORTS

1. Highway: **Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert** presented his report to the Board, addressed Comprehensive Plan issues, and gave an opinion on permit fees. He stated that the Comprehensive Plan needs to be completely redone in some areas (i.e., in regards to road infrastructure, housing development, and unpaved roads) since it does not point in a positive direction. Rickert also mentioned that he spoke with the Building Inspector, who believed that a \$50 fee for fence permits was too expensive, but he disagreed and encouraged the Board to keep it at that amount.
2. Code Enforcement/Zoning Enforcement (On file)
3. Justice Court (On file)
4. Supervisor (County Business): Supervisor DeGroot stated that the County was dealing with the correctional facility issue and the Board has a resolution to address that.
5. Recreation Department (On file): The Town Board agreed to allow Shari Franks attend sessions at the NYS Recreation and Park Society conference.

RESOLUTION #46-08 to allow Shari Franks to attend a conference.

Offered by Supervisor DeGroot, moved adoption to allow Recreation Director Shari Franks to attend sessions at the New York State Recreation and Park Society conference beginning on March 30th with \$325.00 for attendance fees and \$136.00 for room and board.

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.

OLD BUSINESS: Local Law No. 1 “Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low-Income Citizens Real Property” and Local Law No. 2 “Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption”.

RESOLUTION #47-08 to pass Local Law No. 1 of 2008.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption to pass Local Law No. 1, “Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low-Income Citizens Real Property” with information as follows:

Section 3. Exemption Levels

The County of Columbia hereby adopts the following sliding scale schedule relative to income levels and the percentage of assessed valuation exempt from taxation:

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>% of Exemption</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>% of Exemption</u>
Under \$26,000.00	50	\$29,900.00-30,799.99	25
\$26,000.01-26,999.99	45	\$31,800.00-31,699.99	20
\$27,000.00-27,999.99	40	\$31,700.00-32,599.99	15
\$28,000.00-28,999.99	35	\$32,600.00-33,499.99	10
\$29,000.00-29,899.99	30	\$33,500.00-34,399.99	5

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 #48-08 to pass Local Law No. 2 of 2008.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption to pass Local Law No. 2, “Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption,” with information as follows:

Section 3. Exemption Levels

The County of Columbia hereby adopts the following sliding scale schedule relative to income levels and the percentage of assessed valuation exempt from taxation:

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>% of Exemption</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>% of Exemption</u>
Under \$26,000.00	50	\$29,900.00-30,799.99	25
\$26,000.01-26,999.99	45	\$31,800.00-31,699.99	20
\$27,000.00-27,999.99	40	\$31,700.00-32,599.99	15
\$28,000.00-28,999.99	35	\$32,600.00-33,499.99	10
\$29,000.00-29,899.99	30	\$33,500.00-34,399.99	5

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.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Sheriff Todd Hyson introduced himself to the Town Board and stated that he is available for anyone who needs help. People may stop by his office at the Town Hall or call him.

RESOLUTION #49-08 requesting the State rescind its position regarding closure of the Hudson Correctional Facility.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham has been advised that it is the intention of New York State Department of Correctional Services to close the Hudson Correctional Facility, located in the City of Hudson, Columbia County, New York; and

Whereas, the Hudson Correctional Facility employs approximately 270 employees, with an estimated annual payroll of nearly \$13 million dollars, said employees living and contributing to the local economy of both the City of Hudson and County of Columbia; and

Whereas, the Hudson Correctional Facility and its employees provide valuable community support, labor and services to both the City of Hudson and the County of Columbia; and

Whereas, the closing of the facility, the resultant loss of local jobs, and loss of local business support and patronage is anticipated by the Board to have a drastic effect on the local economy of both the City of Hudson and the County of Columbia; and

Whereas, it is the opinion of the Town Board of the Town of Chatham that such a closure and the related impacts should be more thoroughly analyzed prior to taking any action with such potentially large detrimental community effects; and

Whereas, the City of Hudson Common Council by motion of January 15, 2008 decided to issue a letter to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Correctional Services in efforts to detail the detrimental impacts of the closure, and to have said agency reconsider its position on the closure of the facility;

Now Therefore Be It

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham recognizes the importance of the Hudson Correctional Facility to local jobs, businesses and the overall community, finding that a closure of the facility would have detrimental impacts upon the local community and economy; and be it further

Resolved, that based upon the foregoing, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham does hereby support the Common Council of the City of Hudson in its opposition to the proposed closure; and be it further

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham does hereby request that the Governor and Commissioner of the NYS Department of Correctional Services rescind the decision based on the financial and community impacts of said proposed closure of the Hudson Correctional Facility on the residents of the City of Hudson and County of Columbia; and be it further

Resolved, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the New York State Commissioner of Correctional Services, Governor Eliot Spitzer, Senator Stephen M. Saland, Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry, Assemblyman Tim Gordon, Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro, Assemblyman Pete Lopez, as well as the Common Council of the City of Hudson.

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 #50-08 to allow Highway Superintendent to install weight limit signs.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the Highway Superintendent to install weight limits signs on Town Highways during freeze and thaw cycles to reduce damage to Town roads due to heavy trucks and equipment traveling on roads.

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 #51-08 to accept fence, driveway, and entrance for temporary access permits.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Fence Permit, Driveway Permit and Entrance for Temporary Access Permit Applications as written. (Copy of details on file.)

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 #52-08 to extend the accepted bid for guardrail and post installation.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board authorizes a one-year extension of the Guardrail bid accepted on March 15, 2007 from Town & County Bridge and Rail for the period from April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 and

Therefore, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the extension of the guardrail Bid for the period from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 at the same bid price. (Bid information on file.)

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 #53-08 to accept a bid from Zwack, Inc.

Offered by Councilman Hegeman, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the Chatham Town Board accepts the sole bid for (Two) Dual Purpose Dump/Spreader Body with Snow Plow from Zwack, Inc., Route 22, Stephentown, New York for the total sum of \$92,790.00 and 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 #54-08 to approve the Town Clerk's minutes.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2008, regular Town Board meeting.

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 #55-08 to approve the town comptroller's report.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption to approve the town comptroller's report.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Horst thanked Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert for his hard work on the roads and particularly for not running the big trucks on the back roads during the winter.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING: Councilman Balcom moved, Councilwoman Rippel seconded, and it was carried to adjourn the February 21, 2008, Town Board meeting at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Horst
Deputy Town Clerk