

**TOWN OF CHATHAM
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 15, 2008 ~ 7:00 PM**

Board Present:

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

Board Absent:

Councilman Bob Balcom

Others Present:

Dan Horst, Assessor
Tal Rappleyea
Joseph Rickert

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.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Kinderhook Lake street lighting (one petition and seven letters).
2. NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, re: New Concord Historic District.
3. Village of Valatie Board of Trustees, re: fire truck.
4. NYS Town Clerks Association, re: Carol Gregg.
5. Kinderhook Lake Corp., re: pesticide permit.
6. Assemblyman Tim Gordon, re: Lafarge mercury emissions testing. (A Public Hearing in Chatham is being held at the Town Hall on June 19th at 7:00 PM.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Temple stated his opposition to banning outdoor wood boilers because it takes away the people's freedom and liberty. Chatham people often want to burn the plentiful wood in town since oil and gas are expensive and there are not many alternate energy options for heat. Temple stated that outdoor wood boilers emit the same kind of gas as regular chimneys. He bet that if this ban is passed, people will come back to ban fireplace burning. He spoke on the science of emissions and atmospheric chemistry, stating that the research is incomplete and not as dangerous as most people think. Temple concluded with a quote from James Madison in reference to gradual encroachment being more dangerous to liberty than outright violence.

REPORTS

1. Highway: Joe Rickert gave his report to the Board and specifically explained to them the problem of funds running low for fuel. A copy of the report is on file.
2. Code Enforcement/Zoning Enforcement (On file)
3. Justice Court (On file)
4. Supervisor (County Business): Jesse DeGroot stated that the biggest issue with the Board of Supervisors is the contract to buy the old school building and discussion of what county offices should work there. DeGroot stated that this decision may make various modes of transportation available in Hudson.
5. Recreation Department (On file).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Kinderhook Lake Street Lighting. The Board discussed street lighting issues and Tal Rappleyea gave some information regarding changing aesthetics versus removing lights altogether. Marilyn and Rich Schrage presented their opinions to the Board on the street lights and surrounding neighborhood.
2. Justice Court Audit. Supervisor DeGroot read the letter from Comptroller Earle Kelsey in regards to the recent court audit. The letter is on file.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Route 295 Zoning. The Board determined that they would hold a Public Hearing at next month's meeting, June 19th at 6:45 PM, on changing the zoning on Route 295 to business. At that time, the County Planning Board will have met and have sent a letter to the Town.
2. Outdoor Wood Boilers. Tal Rappleyea stated that through researching this issue, most towns do not ban wood boilers, but regulate them through requiring building permits and setting up specifics for them. Also, the older models are not encouraged since the new boilers re-burn the emissions for cleaner air. Rappleyea agreed to draft a law in time for next month's meeting for discussion.

3. Right-to-Farm. Tal Rappleyea informed the Board that a Right-to-Farm law basically provides comfort for current and new farmers in Chatham and protects them legally against neighbors who do not like farming. He stated that although Chatham is in an agricultural district, a Right-to-Farm law is quite different. Rappleyea gave several examples of counties that had existing laws and agreed to draft a law for Chatham. Jim Temple asked the Board to be cautious in drafting a law in regards to wind farms and the Comprehensive Plan's mention of that.

RESOLUTION #68-08 to approve minutes.

Offered by Councilman Hegeman, moved adoption to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2008, regular Town Board meeting.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #69-08 to authorize Barton & Loguidice's preparation of the 2008 EPF Grant for the recreation department.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption to authorize Barton & Loguidice to proceed with a contract not to exceed \$3,000.00 for the preparation of the 2008 EPF grant for the recreation department.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #70-08 to increase CHIPS appropriation.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption as follows:

Whereas, the CHIPS Funding for Highway Improvement has increased in 2008 from \$114,000 to \$169,756.65 and

Whereas, the Highway Fund "DB" (5110.4) was budgeted for CHIPS Funding in the amount of \$114,000 for the 2008 budget;

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Town Board authorizes the Town Comptroller to increase the Highway CE (DB5110.4) appropriation by \$55,756.65 for Highway improvement.

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #71-08 to remove items from highway inventory and sell as surplus equipment or send to Columbia County auction.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption as follows:

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the removal of the following items from the Highway Inventory and to sell as surplus equipment and/or send to Auction:

1. 1978 Chevrolet C-60 Bucket Truck, VIN# CCE618V170489 (Truck #23, ID#H-01-90-02)
2. 1989 International Dump Truck, VIN# 1HTZMGJR9KH652186 (Truck #10, ID#H-01-89-02)
3. 1992 International Dump Truck, VIN# 1HTGEA2R8NH431876 (Truck #4, ID#H-01-92-01)
4. Stanley Hydraulic Pole Saw (ID#H-06-84-01)

Councilwoman Rohde seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Temple mentioned a section in the Comprehensive Plan regarding the sale prices of houses in Chatham. He provided the Board with copies of an editorial about how high housing prices drive out the young, minorities, and others in favor of open space. Temple stated that while he likes open space, it becomes dangerous when driving out people and others could

criticize the Town on these issues. He noted that putting business standards that harm minorities is discrimination and wondered if that was why Chatham does not have many minorities.

Marilyn and Rich Schrage agreed, stating that their children cannot afford houses or find good paying jobs in Chatham but are forced to move out or live in two or three family houses. In addition, seniors find it harder to live in Chatham because there is nothing under \$200k or \$250k.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (personnel).

Supervisor DeGroot moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel at 7:50 PM. Councilman Hegeman seconded and this motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor DeGroot moved to leave executive session at 8:02 PM and this was seconded by Councilwoman Rohde.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING: Supervisor DeGroot moved, Councilman Hegeman seconded, and it was carried to adjourn the Town Board meeting of May 15, 2008, at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Horst
Deputy Town Clerk