

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

Board Present:

Supervisor Jesse DeGroot
Councilwoman Beth Ann Rippel
Councilman Bob Balcom

Councilwoman Jean Rohde
Councilman Don Hegeman

Others Present:

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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. John Fanning, re: speed limits
2. Michael and Monica Farragher, re: leash law

REPORTS

1. Highway. (On file) The Board noted that there was a petition with residents' signatures received to save dirt roads in Chatham.
2. Code Enforcement/Zoning Enforcement. Supervisor DeGroot informed the Board that Walt Simonsmeier recently had surgery and would be out of commission for some time.
3. Justice Court. (On file)
4. Supervisor. (County Business) Supervisor DeGroot stated that the County had been dealing with the issues of moving various facilities.
5. Recreation Department. (On file)

NEW BUSINESS: Town leash law

The Board gave Monica Farragher a chance to discuss her situation with an aggressive dog in her neighborhood. She stated that she would like to see the Town put out some guidelines so problems would be ended. Erin Carroll, Dog Control Officer, had been asked by the Supervisor to attend the meeting and gave her input regarding laws and aggressive dog problems. Several other members of the public were also given the opportunity to introduce their point of view including Randy Hahn, who also had an aggressive dog situation on his road. The Board requested that the Town Attorney provide some information about laws in surrounding towns and villages so that they could review what options exist and open it to further discussion.

OLD BUSINESS: Comprehensive Plan

Councilwoman Rippel and Councilman Hegeman stated that they had been meeting to discuss and edit the plan. They agreed that they will probably have something definite to present before the Board at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION #58-09 to approve the Town Clerk's minutes.

Offered by Councilwoman Rohde, moved adoption to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009, regular Town Board meeting.

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 #59-09 to approve seminar attendance.

Offered by Councilwoman Rippel, moved adoption to approve ICLEI seminar attendance for Karla Kavanaugh at the cost of \$150.00.

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 #60-09 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

Randy Hahn from Loomis Road explained his situation with his neighbor Donna Lewin's German Shepherd dog who is aggressive and dangerous. He stated that while he is able to defend himself from attacks, small children should not have to be hurt or maimed before something is done about such a problem. Hahn emphasized that he does not want to see the dog destroyed and especially does not want the situation to come to the point where someone is hurt and the dog consequently must be destroyed.

Deirdre Henderson gave the Board an update regarding the Environmental Management Council.

Randi Walker asked the Board how they would get Nan Stolzenburg involved with the comprehensive plan once it was finished being edited. She also asked if the content was changed at all. Councilman Hegeman and Councilwoman Rippel explained that they had not discussed what they would do with the plan in the future but that the content was not being changed. Additionally, they stated that they are making the plan more readable and rearranging the format so that the general idea can be understood from such an outlined summary.

Jim Temple addressed the problem of costs in the plan and encouraged the Board to think about it more. He mentioned the highway superintendent's concern with road maintenance costs when residences wish to keep dirt roads. Additionally, he mentioned the invisible costs of building and engineering in regards to housing prices and that the Board needs to consider those things. Several other members of the public spoke in regards to this issue and the example of plain inexpensive or fancy prefabricated housing options.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING: Councilwoman Rohde moved, Councilman Hegeman seconded, and it was carried to adjourn the May 21, 2009, Town Board meeting at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Horst
Deputy Town Clerk