

**TOWN OF CHATHAM TOWN BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 17, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Town of Chatham, Town Board was held on Thursday December 17, 2009 at 7:00 pm. Present were: Supervisor – Jesse DeGroot, Councilman – Beth Anne Rippel, Councilman – Bob Balcom, Councilman – Don Hegeman, Councilman – Jean Rohde, Town Clerk – Carol Gregg, Town Attorney – Tal Rappleyea, Comptroller – Earl Kelsey, Highway Supt. – Joe Rickert, and others.

Supervisor DeGroot opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Hegeman.

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:01pm for the Addendum to the Tri-Village Fire Co. contract for 2010. There was no comment and the hearing was closed at 7:02 pm.

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:03 pm for the 2010 East Chatham Fire Co. contract in the amount of \$61,872.00. There was no comment and the hearing was closed at 7:04 pm.

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 pm for the 2010 Niverville Fire Co. contract in the amount of \$17,300.00. There was no comment and the hearing was closed at 7:06 pm.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS**, regarding 2010 rates.

**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS & RECREATION** regarding New Concord Historic District.

**NYSDA&M** regarding Municipal Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

Motion was made by Supervisor DeGroot, seconded by Councilman Rippel and carried to go into executive session at 7:07 pm to discuss negotiations. Motion was made by Supervisor DeGroot, seconded by Councilman Rohde to come out of executive session at 7:40 pm.

**REPORTS**

**HIGHWAY** report on file.

**RECREATION DIRECTOR** report is on file.

**JUSTICE** report is on file.

**COMPTROLLER** report on file.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT** gave a presentation to the Town Board about what the school vote that is coming up Jan. 12, 2010 from 9am to 9pm is about.

**DEIRDRE HENDERSON** member of the Cty. EMC spoke to the Town Board about the problem with outside wood boilers. She would like the town to adopt a law concerning this as did the County.

**RES. #106-09** to support the right of second home owners to choose to vote in the county where they maintain a residence.

Councilman Balcom offered Res. #106 and moved its adoption that

WHEREAS, litigation is currently under way in the New York Supreme Court in Hudson challenging the right of second home owners to choose which home they may select as their residence for voting purposes; and

WHEREAS, the plaintiffs in that litigation are attempting to suppress votes cast by absentee ballots from second home owners on the theory that their second home is not their residence,

WHEREAS, many of the residences in the Town of Chatham are owned and occupied by second home owners; and

WHEREAS, a high percentage of the Town and School taxes collected from properties in the Town of Chatham are paid by other than full time residents; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

1. The Chatham Town Board supports the right of second home owners to choose to vote in the county where they maintain a residence.
2. The Chatham Town Board opposes the attempt to disqualify voters on the basis that their second home is not a residence.

Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Balcom, Rippel, Hegeman, Rohde

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

**RES. #107-09** to make changes to the Personnel Policy for the Town of Chatham employees.

Supervisor DeGroot offered Res. #107 and moved its adoption to make the following changes to page 24 of the Personnel Policy:

Paragraph at top of page: change “a buy-back of \$2,000.00 to “buy –back amount in effect”.

Under Town Retirees

*Third paragraph currently in effect states:*

Individuals retired from full-time positions and retired elected officials with more than 25 years service with the Town shall be entitled to receive their individual health insurance premium for the Town's group healthcare policy, provided however that the Town's contribution shall be capped at the premium amount in effect at the time the individual retires and any future increases shall be borne by the retiree together with any deductible and amount attributable to family coverage.

*Change to read:*

Fulltime town employees and retired elected officials with more than 25 years of service and below the age of 65 shall be entitled to receive individual health insurance selected from the plans offered by the Town. Any deductibles and amounts attributable to dependent coverage shall be fully borne by the retiree (minus the cost of the individual plan). Those employees and elected officials with more than 25 years of service and at or above age 65 shall be offered the cost equivalent of the Town individual plan to be applied toward the insurance plan of their choice. Plan changes may only occur during an open enrollment period and/or during a major life changing event.

*Eliminate last paragraph on the page, which reads:*

The foregoing provisions shall not apply to retirees receiving healthcare coverage at cost prior to December 31, 1992; provided however that the Town's contribution shall be capped at the premium amount in effect on December 31, 1992 and any future increase shall be borne by the retiree together with any deductible.

Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Rippel, Balcom, Hegeman, Rohde

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

**RES. #108-09** to adopt minutes.

Councilman Balcom offered Res. #108 and moved its adoption to accept the minutes of Nov. 19, 2009 town board meeting as written. Councilman Rippel seconded the motion.\

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Rippel, Balcom, Hegeman Rohde abstained.

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

**RES. #109-09** to make amendments to budget appropriations.

Supervisor DeGroot offered Res. #109 and moved its adoption to make the following amendments to budget appropriations:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
A1990.4	A1110.1	\$7,000.00
A1220.4	A1220.1	\$ 400.00
A1620.4	A1620.1	\$ 500.00
A7140.4	A7140.1	\$1,000.00
A1990.4	A5010.1	\$1,300.00
A1990.4	A5010.4	\$ 500.00
A1990.4	A9030.8	\$4,900.00
A1990.4	A9060.8	\$8,000.00
DB5130.4	DB5142.1	\$20,000.00
DB5130.4	DB9060.8	\$3,000.00
DB9010.8	DB9060.8	\$5,000.00

Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

Vote; ayes, DeGroot, Rippel, Balcom, Hegeman, Rohde

Nays, none and resolution was adopted.

The Town Board thanked Councilman Balcom and Councilman Hegeman for their years of service to the town.

The Town Board presented Carol Gregg, Town Clerk a plaque for her 30 years of service to the Town of Chatham

Motion was made by Councilman Rohde, seconded by Councilman Balcom and carried to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Carol Gregg, Town Clerk

