

TOWN OF CHATHAM - COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: Finance and Planning Committee

MEETING CHAIR: David Levow

DATE: 12-11-2020 **TIME:** 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Virtual meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: David Levow (chair), Donal Collins (Supervisor), Maurice Bowerman, Tammy Shaw, Deborah Pierce, John Breault

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 1:03 PM by Chairman David Levow

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: minutes of 9-11-20 approved unanimously

AGENDA/DISCUSSIONS:

Reviewed Tim's analysis of the fire and lighting districts. Noted the 5 fire districts' annual increases approximate inflation. East Chatham and North Chatham lighting costs have decreased, Kinderhook Lake steady. The town has received a proposal from NYPA (New York Power Authority) regarding replacement of street lights in the 3 lighting districts. Donal will forward to the committee for analysis and review.

Discussed our meeting with Sara from the Chatham Rescue Squad particularly as to how town residents are billed for their services. Currently based on relative assessed values of the towns served. Chatham's percentage is going up. The committee expressed concern if this is an equitable method. David will follow up with Sara regarding when the change to this method was made and the reasoning behind it. She will be sending details of EMS calls by town. Mentioned that the operating deficit in 2018 became a surplus in 2019.

Valatie Rescue Squad meeting set for Wednesday, December 16, 1PM (virtual)

Long discussion regarding the Recreation program and budget. The camp fees, which were last raised in 2018, do not cover the cost of running the program. Chatham's charges appear low relative to New Lebanon's based on information furnished by Deborah. See if we can compare with other summer programs. Discussion about fund raising. Discussion about the process for changing the fees if it is decided to do so. Also to include the park rental fees. Maurice suggested ensuring concession supplies are bought in bulk at a discount store rather than as needed at a local store.

David had asked Mike for detailed information about camp registrations, revenues, expenses which Mike will provide. The committee will meet with Mike after receiving the data.

Spoke about camp scholarships provided by CARP (Chatham Area Recreation Project). Deborah suggested scholarship recipients might volunteer time to the camp.

Kevin will send the Park Plan when complete for integration into our review as appropriate.

John will continue to follow grant opportunities related to the town overall.

Gabriella raised questions regarding solar installations as a possible revenue source for the town. John and Gabriella will act as an *ad hoc* subcommittee and research the options. Will need to connect with Kevin, Angus and the Climate Smart Committee.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:02 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: David Levow