

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING
March 13, 2024
7:00 PM**

Supervisor Holdridge opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Attendance Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____
Council Member Ardisana	Present _____	Absent <u>x</u> _____
Council Member Becker	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____
Council Member Courtenay	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____
Council Member Dysinger	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____

Determination of Quorum: Yes X No

Also present: Elizabeth Cassidy, Esq.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING – CHESTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The following notice is as appeared in the Times Herald Record on March 7, 2024 and as posted on the Town Clerk’s signboard and on chester-ny.gov.

TOWN OF CHESTER

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Chester on March 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Chester Town Hall, located at 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York 10918, regarding Emergency Medical Services for the Town of Chester.

At such public hearing, all persons in attendance will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written and oral statements will be taken at that time.

By Order of the Town of Chester Supervisor

Linda Zappala
Town Clerk
March 1, 2024

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to open the Public Hearing at 7:06pm on the Chester Emergency Medical Services matter.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

Supervisor Holdridge welcomed the members from EMS, Police Departments, Fire Departments, Village of Chester Trustees and Mayor Batiatto and thanked them for their attendance.

Assemblyman Brian Maher shared his experience about EMS as former Supervisor of Montgomery.

He spoke on the issue he experienced and offered his perspective after three years of looking into the issue and shared what he learned about the industry, EMS in general and also about the Town and Village's role in terms of delivering those services and how that's changed. He also spoke on state legislation that is coming down the pike that will absolutely affect the municipality and potentially determine decision making on this issue moving forward.

He described one of the first issues when his local town Ambulance Corps was having trouble meeting their bills, the nonprofit Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps made the decision to go to a paid service to provide basic life support services. He explained most nonprofit organizations usually provide advanced life support services. Usually and historically the providers for those services were private industries such as Mobile Life which has now been bought out by Empress. Those organizations were private companies that would come in when someone called 911 and provide the advanced life support services. So right now, because Chester doesn't have that volunteer ambulance corp. or a paid service subsidizing that volunteer ambulance corp. there isn't a dedicated ALS or BLS service in the community. The folks that are responding now are outside agencies or private agencies that answer the calls to serve outside of their own municipality. He added the Supervisor has been researching this and done a lot of due diligence to potentially have some statistics to share. He said the numbers are horrifying, the amount of dropped calls or the amount of wait times, especially advanced life support services. The most serious issues are unacceptable and it's not a unique problem to Chester. What is going on in Chester right now in terms of advanced life support services and the dropped calls or the calls that take 30-40 minutes to respond to is exactly what the Town of Montgomery faced in 2020. He educated himself on the issue which took many months, then brought it to the town board and had conversations with the community about what entity to contract with to provide those services and what the potential cost would be. In Montgomery it made the most sense for the town to work with the existing ambulance corps and provide them the resources they needed to provide advanced life support. Contracting with a private entity traditionally costs substantially more, anywhere from two to three times more, so the best way to fund those services was to create an ambulance taxing district. The reason that worked for the Town of Montgomery is because when you create an ambulance district, Pilots are not exempt from it.

For Chester, this would work more like a sewer district or a water district that the Town Board would have complete control over. They would be able to set the rules for whoever they decided to contract with to provide the EMS services and they would have final say over how those dollars were spent. He said he provided the agreement Montgomery put in place and the RFP put out and has all the information that we spent years and probably \$15-20,000 to give a great starting point for Chester. But the only thing Chester doesn't have is an existing ambulance corps that could be built upon. The thing that is unique about Chester is that when you put the RFP out, a request for proposals for delivering both dedicated ALS and BLS services for the Town, which have an ambulance and or a fly car located in your area in the town or in the village you can make the choice to evaluate the RFP and not accept it. He said we are going to get private companies that will be far more expensive to provide the service than a neighboring municipality that has a nonprofit that provides ALS and BLS services in-house which is already subsidized by the municipality. He said we are in a great position where you have the Town of Wallkill, Town of Montgomery, Town of Newburgh, Town of Blooming Grove and you'll have the private entities so you will likely see interest from several agencies that put you in a position to save a ton of money probably hundreds of thousands of dollars by utilizing one of those companies to provide the service. In general, we have lost volunteers due to a variety of reasons similar to what our fire districts are going through. We have seen that in order to answer the calls for service you had to create paid staff and have not been able to support the paid staff through reimbursements of insurance alone since the reimbursement rate is not high enough to cover the cost of service and you have to wait months to receive the reimbursements. The entity that you decide to contract with is something that you would be able to do on your own terms down to the detail to spend municipal tax dollars so they need to show their balance accounts, and show that their response time is X and if it's not and there's multiple occasions where the response time is off, then reserve the right to not properly fund it and withhold funds. There are plenty of protections that you can negotiate and put in place with the provider to ensure that you are getting the services you need. If there is any concern with spending X amount of dollars and saying it's going to become a bottomless pit, it is different from EMS than it is for fire Services. In the EMS world if you invest money, you have the ability to answer more calls and between private insurance Medicaid, Medicare and those reimbursements you have an ability to not make too much of a profit but have enough cash flow and enough ability to raise money as you spend where it does not become a bottomless pit and you can actually create ways to pay for the increase in salary and health care costs for employees. You can do a traditional 2% or flat some years. If the business is being run correctly you will not see these year-to-year massive increases.

He added it is very possible that as early as this legislative session which ends in June that EMS will be designated an essential service and over the next year or two it would force the Town of Chester to provide EMS Services no different than a municipality is responsible for providing both fire and police services and as much as that is an unfunded mandate there should be a dollar

amount attached to that He is now fighting to make sure there is a bill that would fund \$200 million for the state. EMS always should have been designated as an essential service, no different than fire and police because it is a life-saving service that we should be responsible to provide. He said the legislation has a ton of support both by Republicans and Democrats this year, so you will want to get ahead of it. Another reason why it's important for the Town of Chester to move forward quicker is because there are only a certain number of individuals that are working for these EMS agencies. So, if EMS is declared an essential service and every municipality has to be in a rush to create an EMS service there are not enough employees to staff the number of services that would be required. That is why it is very important to get ahead of this because if you're forced to there may not be a pool of employees to man those rigs to provide that service. He said it is a real issue he is trying to work with colleges with incentives to build up the workforce but that is a very important detail that should be remembered and that by getting ahead of this you'll be guaranteeing coverage and a workforce to cover the municipality. He gave a shout out to the Supervisor, a Democrat, and as a Republican they put party aside and really enjoyed working with someone who really gets it and the need for it. This is just something that crosses party lines.

Supervisor Holdridge said that's exactly why he wanted to work with Assemblyman Maher to be proactive. He said he told many residents on the campaign trail if there's one thing, he would like to get done within his time here as Supervisor is to get proper EMS services up and running. He said he appreciates the Assemblyman working with him and the rest of the Board on this very important issue.

He added, right now we have a handshake deal with Empress which is our EMS provider. Basically, they station a car in the back of the Town Hall and they have a little station downstairs and they are here for calls but if there's another call somewhere else and all their other cars are unavailable to take that call, the car stationed here will leave and go take care of that. That's why sometimes there are dropped calls or 20-30-40 minutes-1 hour plus wait times and that's unacceptable, and that's not the fault of Empress. It is just the deal that we have with them. He has already spoken to their administration about putting out an RFP for services. He said he wants their offer just as much as anybody else's offer, giving everybody a fair shake in this to see what is best for Chester. This is going to cost us in terms of the tax district but it's money well spent. H said it is long past time that we get there so we need a dedicated car here in Chester and that is going to require a contract.

Supervisor Holdridge provided statistics provided by the Orange County Department of Emergency Services for years 2022-2024.

2022 Chester EMS Call Volume and Response Time	
Incidents:	945
Average Response Time	0:17:46
MLSS No Units Avail	16
Incidents w/o Arrival Time	109
Less Than 10 Minute Response	124
10-20 Minute Response	415
20-30 Minute Response	252
30-40 Minute Response	36
40-50 Minute Response	4

50-60 Minute Response	3
60 + Minute Response	2
Total	945

EMS calls in the Town/Village of Chester for 2023:

135 incidents with 0-to-10-minute response time.

422 incidents with 10-to-20-minute response time.

293 incidents with 20-to-30-minute response time.

37 incidents with 30-to-40-minute response time.

8 incidents with 40-to-50-minute response time.

3 incidents with 50-to-60-minute response time.

2 incidents over 1 hour response time.

183 incidents with no on scene time, either because EMS was canceled or the unit never called on scene.

2024 – January – March

0 to 10 minutes - 34

0 to 20 minutes - 97

20 to 30 minutes - 57

30 to 40 minutes 6

40 to 50 minutes 3

50 plus minutes 1

Empress no response 5

no arrival time - 3

cancelled 11

Total 217 incidents with an average of 15 minutes and 8 seconds

He explained that none of these numbers are accounting for whether they are Basic Life Support or Advanced Life Support so some of these numbers, to be fair, don't possibly require 60-second response time as not life-threatening.

He said he wants to be clear he does not mean for any of this to disparage the actual EMTs that are doing the jobs saving lives. They are an essential service and it's ridiculous that they' that they just weren't designated as one in the past. And from his time in state government, he knows that this bill to make it an essential service and unfunded mandate by New York State is coming down the pike. On top of that, the numbers seen here and the stories heard directly from the public over the last three years of his time as a public servant in Chester. this is exactly why he wants to get ahead of this.

Priscilla Stanley, via FB, asked is there was a response time for police response before EMS. Supervisor Holdridge replied that he was not prepared to provide that information at this time.

Written comments from Elizabeth Noselli:

Good evening

I am writing to the Town of Chester in regard to an incident that occurred on March 8th involving my adult daughter. We were eating dinner when she suddenly passed out. We went to her and tried getting her up which took a good 20 plus seconds. Her lips during that time had turned blue and her eyes were rolling back. I ran to dial 911 and let dispatch know the situation. My daughter was in and out but was starting to communicate at this point but wasn't totally coherent at times. The police came in about ten minutes and I am thankful for that as they administered her oxygen as we were still waiting for an ambulance. It was another 20 plus minutes before they finally arrived.

We of course didn't know what was wrong and it was a very scary situation for us. I feel if it was a different situation or the police weren't able to provide oxygen, she would have struggled waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

Thank you for listening to our story. I feel as a resident of Chester we should be provided better EMS services for the care and protection of our residents. We were fortunate that all worked out. Others may not be

Elizabeth S

Brian Boone, Village of Chester Trustee, discussed an experience on a Friday night at the Cancun Inn where an elderly lady collapsed. Fortunately, there was a doctor in the house and Chester PD responded in 10 minutes but the ambulance came from Warwick, which took 55 minutes.

Chris Maurer, Creamery Pond Road, discussed her life-threatening emergency in April last year. The PD came fast but waited 40 minutes for an ambulance. Mobile Life was somewhere else so Blooming Grove responded. She spent a week in ICU and a month in the hospital. She said if she had received care earlier, she wouldn't have suffered as much. She said this could happen to anyone and she urged the Town Board to take the matter seriously.

Jeff Hawthorne, Walton Lake Estates resident and retired Policeman was involved in EMS, Fire Department and paramedic for 20 years. In two hospitalizations in the past year, he just went by car since the nearest ambulance was in Tuxedo. He said EMS is a necessary service. He said in Rockland they have contracted with an agency for a dedicated flight car with first responder medic.

Jeff Payton, Lake Hill Farms, thanked the members of the PD, FD and EMS. He asked if there was a contract in place with Mobile Life, if it had an expiration or rolling, as that would affect the RFP. He asked who operates the certificate of need for ALS, who takes over the paramedic and ALS and if we need a CON. Supervisor Holdridge said he has been in touch with the County Health Department and the Town would file for a Muni-con certificate, but the first step is to go out for an RFP.

Brad Ellins, Lake Hill Farms resident and Chester Fire District Commissioner thanked his brothers and sisters and asked if there was a short-term time frame to address the problem now. Supervisor Holdridge said for the short-term communication with Empress is needed to see if they can do more and the long-term is the RFP. He added the tax district can't move forward until January. Any contract this year would have to come out of the budget or reserves. Supervisor Holdridge said the handshake deal will discontinue when the RFP and BLS and ALS contract with a car here for Chester is agreed upon. He said he would like to see the Board agree with him on this.

Council Member Becker said would like to reach out to Empress to say we are happy to have them. He worked on the downstairs area of Town Hall to make it comfortable for them. He would like to keep who we have and improve on the service. He said he is looking for the best possible outcome for the community.

Council Member Dysinger explained he has used EMS recently, and PD came quickly but the ambulance took 40 minutes. On the other occasion he was taken to the hospital and heard the EMT waited for 10 minutes or more to be released. He said it's a multi-pronged process and needs the County or Town to co-ordinate with hospitals to minimize wait time. He said he is open to all options but thought that having multiple buses available to the Town would be best, maybe through a collective solution with other Towns.

Doug DiBlasi addressed the Board. He discussed his association with the Ambulance Corp which had money issues. He said they didn't get funding from the Town. He said something needs to get done. He said we need something good for the Town. He has no issues with people who work for Empress.

Phil Camerlingo, Lieutenant, Empress EMS was a supervisor for 17 years out of Chester. He said there are concerns that need to be addressed. He said the Supervisor has done his homework. Empress is out of Chester, but have CON for the entire County. Once you go to RFP, Empress would be a dedicated unit. He discussed how calls would be responded to. The crew could come out of Middletown if the Chester crew is out on a call. Empress has 110 cars in the system, paramedics and 350 EMT's. If the Town creates its own corps the resources can be stretched really thin if they go to mutual aid. He added the hospitals have a staffing problem causing a 45-1 hour wait to get a patient off the stretcher. He said he couldn't provide any additional information on behalf of the administration until the RFP goes out.

Council Member Courtenay asked if there is a lapse in time from when the 911 call goes out as he had an experience with the alarm at Town Hall. Brian Williams, OCEMS Deputy Coordinator said it all depends on how the alarm company is set up, but as soon as the call pops up in Chester, there shouldn't be a delay. As far as CAD calls, Empress would see the call live on their screen. Council Member Courtenay asked about the calls not responded to. Phil Camerlingo replied if there is a call in another Town, a car in Middletown or mutual aid would respond. He added the liability would be on the Town if the ambulance corps. versus a company provided services. Brian Williams said handshake agreements are not uncommon. Now that ambulance costs have gone up, the units have gone down drastically. He said you have a great commercial service and the County is here to answer questions. He said other agencies use a tax district, which is the way to go on a county level, or take it out of the A fund, which could be cut by a future administration.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Courtenay to close the Public Hearing at 8:24pm on the Chester Emergency Medical Services matter.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

PUBLIC HEARING - INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 8 OF 2023 - A LOCAL LAW INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY AND APPROVALS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF FIVE (5) OR MORE RESIDENTIAL LOTS OR MULTI-FAMILY OR MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS CONTAINING FIVE (5) OR MORE DWELLING UNITS

The following notice is as appeared in the Times Herald Record on December 21, 2023, January 3, 2024, and January 19, 2024, and as posted on the Town Clerk's signboard and chester-ny.gov.

TOWN OF CHESTER
1786 KINGS HIGHWAY
CHESTER, NY 10918

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 8 OF 2023

A LOCAL LAW INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY AND APPROVALS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF FIVE (5) OR MORE RESIDENTIAL

LOTS OR MULTI-FAMILY OR MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS CONTAINING FIVE (5) OR MORE DWELLING UNITS

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Chester will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY. Said public hearing is to hear comments on the above captioned proposed local law.

Section 1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Local Law is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Chester and to maintain the *status quo* of certain residential development in the Town of Chester that consist of five (5) or more residential lots or Multifamily or Multi-Unit dwellings containing five (5) or more dwelling units. This Local Law will allow the Town Board a reasonable opportunity to complete its comprehensive zoning review, including the adoption of zoning regulations consistent with the Town’s recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. The moratorium shall be for a period of six (6) months, which is considered to be adequate time to consider such zoning regulations and amendments.

A copy of the proposed local law is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office and is available for inspection during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm).

Any person interested in the proposed local law may appear in person or by agent. All written communications should be addressed to the Board at the above address.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF CHESTER

LINDA A. ZAPPALA
TOWN CLERK

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2023

The following notice is as appeared in the Times Herald Record on March 7, 2024 and as posted on the Town Clerk’s signboard and chester-ny.gov.

TOWN OF CHESTER
1786 KINGS HIGHWAY
CHESTER, NY 10918

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 8 OF 2023

A LOCAL LAW INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY AND APPROVALS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF FIVE (5) OR MORE RESIDENTIAL LOTS OR MULTI-FAMILY OR MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS CONTAINING FIVE (5) OR MORE DWELLING UNITS

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Chester will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 7 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY. Said public hearing is to hear comments on the above captioned proposed local law.

Section 1. Purpose and Intent

The Town of Chester finds and determines that the current comprehensive plan, subdivision and zoning laws do not adequately protect the Town's unique character and significant natural and cultural resources while accommodating appropriate and complementary growth. As such the Town Board recognizes the need to review and amend the Town's Comprehensive Plan and conform its zoning and subdivision regulations to that comprehensive plan and also to the New York State laws governing land use.

A copy of the proposed local law is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for inspection during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm).

Any person interested in the proposed local law may appear in person or by agent. All written communications should be addressed to the Board at the above address.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF CHESTER

LINDA A. ZAPPALA
TOWN CLERK

DATED: MARCH 1, 2024

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Courtenay to open the Public Hearing at 8:25pm on Introductory Local Law No. 8 Of 2023 - A Local Law Instituting a Moratorium on Certain Permits, Certificates of Occupancy and Approvals for Residential Development Consisting of Five (5) Or More Residential Lots or Multi-Family or Multi-Unit Dwellings Containing Five (5) Or More Dwelling Units.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

Written comments received:

Tom Lawrence
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 10:54 AM
Linda Zappala
Building Moratorium

Good morning,

I am a Monroe resident residing on Walton Lake. I am astonished to think the Town of Chester would jeopardize the water source of the Village of Chester with sewer treatment facilities and we'll drilling for an unnecessary housing development.

Please add my name to the list of people in favor of a moratorium.

Thank you,
Tom Lawrence

B.J. Mendelson
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:56 AM
Linda Zappala
Public Comment Submission For 2/28/24 Town Board Meeting

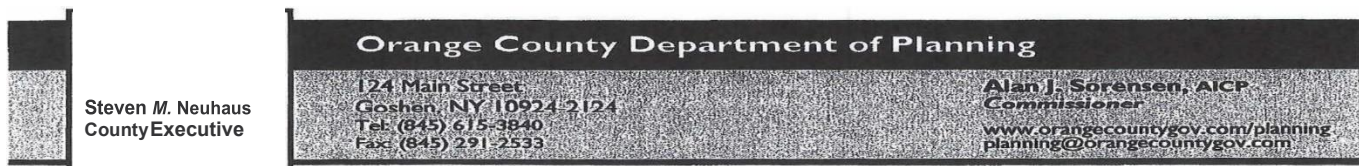
Hi Linda,

I'd like to submit this letter for public comment concerning tonight's Town Board meeting. I live two houses away from the Town of Chester in Monroe (I can see the border sign from my window.)

I'm writing in support of the building moratorium. I would like to encourage the Chester Town Board to apply the longest, legally allowable time period for the moratorium. I know there is a discussion for 6 months to 9 months, but I believe at least a year should be the minimum, not the maximum for this moratorium.

Thank you for taking the time to read and share this letter with the Town Board.

-BJ Mendelson



County Reply - Mandatory Review of Local Planning Action as per NYS General Municipal Law §239-1, m, &n

Local Referring Board: Chester (Town) Planning Board **Referral ID#:** CHT15-23M

Applicant: Town of Chester **Tax Map#:** town wide

Project Name: Local Law 8 Moratorium **Local File#:** none provided.

Proposed Action: Local Law 8 of 2023 institutes a moratorium on certain permits, certificates of occupancy and approvals for residential development consisting of five or more residential lots or multi-family or multi-unit dwellings containing five or more dwelling units.

Reason for County Review: Amendment of Local Law, as per §239 M.

Date of Full Statement: 12/18/2023

Comments:

The Department has received the above-referenced local law and has found no evidence that significant intermunicipal or countywide impacts would result from its approval. We have no advisory comments regarding this application.

County Recommendation: Local Determination

Date: 1/4/2024

Prepared by: V. Fernandez-Rogers
Planner Trainee

Alan J. Sorensen, AICP Commissioner of Planning

As per NYS General Municipal Law 239-m & n, within 30 days of municipal final action on the above referred project, the referring board must file a report of the final action taken with the County Planning Department. For such filing, please use the final action report form attached to this review or available on-line at www.orangecountygov.com/planning.

Martine DiPasquale, Pine Hill Road, commented that she is in support of the moratorium and it is alarming that the Town of Chester is vulnerable to over-development. She opined that cluster subdivision allowance needs attention. She said it makes no sense to blast on hillsides with flooding a more common problem along with infrastructure demand on roads, EMS, schools, police, fire, water, sewer, air, land and wetlands. She asked that the ruralism be protected.

Dominic DePasquale, Pine Hill Road commented he was in favor of the moratorium. As a resident who moved from Brooklyn in 2019, he said Chester doesn't know what they have. He didn't see a benefit to development, when the developers are here to make money and go home, but we live here.

Alec Glad of Cuddy and Feder representing Oak Woods 6-lot cluster subdivision on 27 acres in the AR3 District with one 13-acre conservation parcel dedicated to the Town with public trail easement to the Highlands and Appalachian Trail which will offer public benefit and safety benefit by pulling hikers off Lakes Road. He asked the board to take a look at the moratorium applicability unintentionally capturing this small project. He said they offer suggestions such as the exemption of smaller cluster projects up to a 5-10 lot count with approved yield plan as this has been pending on and off for four years in front of the Planning Board or as implied by language of the moratorium to be subject to temporary halt of development of certain residential but presently stops all residential development or allow projects to proceed at-risk up to final approval for the 9-month period when a lot of could be done. The project is in the most restrictive zoning district surrounded by 1-acre SR2 and is providing half of the acreage to the town as a conservation parcel and public easement.

Written comments received from Cuddy & Feder:

Anthony F. Morando, Esq. amorando@cuddyfeder.com
March 12, 2024

BY EMAIL

Hon. Brandon Holdridge, Supervisor And Members of the Town Board
1786 Kings Highway Chester, New York 10918
Email: Lzappala@thetownofchester.org
:
Oak Woods Subdivision, LLC
Proposed Local Law No.8 of 2023 (revised 2-28-24)

Consideration of a Moratorium on Certain Permits, COs and Approvals

Dear Supervisor Holdridge and Members of the Town Board:

I am writing on behalf of Oak Woods Subdivision, LLC (Oak Woods) regarding the pending moratorium under evaluation by your Board and respectfully submit the following for your consideration. We understand the Town Board is familiar with the Oak Woods Subdivision.

Oak Woods Background

Oak Woods is small, 6-lot cluster subdivision¹ of an existing 27 acre parcel that also proposes to create and dedicate an approximately 13-acre portion of the overall 27 acre site to the Town of Chester as conservation open space.² In addition, Oak Woods is offering a trail easement to the NY-NJ Trail Conference to assist in connecting the Highlands Trail to the Appalachian Trail, which connection was offered during a thorough Planning Board review process and coordinated through the Town Board. Indeed, Oak Woods previously appeared before the Town Board on the conservation lot dedication and public trail easement. As you know, the trail connection provides a significant public benefit as well as safety benefits in general by removing a portion of the existing trail off Lakes Road, which we understand can present dangers for hikers to traverse.

Oak Woods has been under review and pending for over four (4) years. Both the Applicant and the Town, including the Planning Board and its consultants have devoted a substantial amount of time and work to vetting this reasonably scaled proposal. Oak Woods first appeared before the Planning Board on February 5, 2020, appeared at eight (8) Planning Board meetings, including the most recent of March 6, 2024, and participated in a duly noticed public hearing process.

¹ The Oak Woods cluster development proposes 6 residential lots and a separate 13-acre conservation area. Please refer to the Subdivision Plan Set prepared by MNTM, dated October 3, 2023, on file with the Town.

² Located south of the intersection of Camp Monroe Road and Pickerel Road in the AR3 (Agricultural-Residential) District (SBL: 15-1-27.41). Surrounding area contains existing subdivisions, is zoned SR2 in density than the AR3 District, more than proposed by Oak Woods.

Furthermore, the Planning Board performed County and intermunicipal referrals, and approved the subdivision's Yield Plan on December 2, 2020³, deeming the project a "cluster development" and finding that the Oak Woods proposed density and site location is suitable as proposed in accordance with Town Code Section 98-25. Recall the Town Board adopted the cluster subdivision provisions for, among other reasons, "to promote the most appropriate use of land, and to further the goals of the Town of Chester Comprehensive Plan, including preserving the scenic and open quality of the Town's rural landscape and protecting historical and agricultural resources."⁴

As part of the Planning Board's process Oak Woods also received signoff from SHPO and was subject to a site visit by the DPW. All of this is not to say that the Planning Board has completed its review of Oak Woods. The applicant is currently engaged with the Board and its Consultants, and intends to be subject to additional comment and review in the coming months. However, it is evident from the town record that the Oak Woods project is not the type or scale of residential project that should be prevented from completing its site-specific review with the Planning Board.

We respectfully submit that the Planning Board should be permitted to complete its process and issue a decision for this relatively small, 6-lot conservation subdivision, that offers public benefits to the Town and its residents. Such public benefits may no longer be feasible if a moratorium is adopted, delaying the project. Accordingly, we request that the Board refrain from adopting the Draft Moratorium in its current form and incorporate the following practical edits, to avoid intentionally or unintentionally preventing the approval of similar residential housing projects.⁵

Requested edits to "Exemptions" of the Draft Moratorium Local Law

We request the Board include the following text in Section 3.E. of the Moratorium Local Law:

The following types of approvals shall be exempt from the moratorium and may be considered and acted upon during the moratorium:

...

9. Consideration of cluster development applications for residential dwellings of more than five (5) units or lots, but less than ten (10) units or lots and the

³ The Oak Woods Yield Plan was rigorously tested by the Planning Board, including requiring the Applicant to complete soil percolation tests to justify the lot yield.

⁴ Town Code Section 98-25B (Purpose of regulations).

⁵ The agency records, along with additional materials for the proposed Oak Woods subdivision are on file with the Town Planning Board Office and are hereby incorporated in the Town Board's record by reference. We are happy to provide additional copies of the Planning Board record for the Town Board, upon request.

issuance of any building permits in relation thereto that have an approved Yield Plan in accordance with Section 98-25C of the Town of Chester Code.

We reiterate that a cluster development encourages flexibility of design and the development of land in such a manner as to promote the most appropriate use of land, and to further the goals of the Town of Chester Comprehensive Plan. Oak Woods is proposing to do just that. The number of lots permitted may not exceed the number otherwise allowed as a conventional subdivision layout that complies with all applicable laws and regulations. Accordingly, the Planning Board reviewed and confirmed over the course of its ongoing review process that Oak Woods proposed lot density is appropriate and a cluster subdivision design is allowed for the 27-acre project site.

Concurrently, or in the alternative to editing the Draft Local Law to include the above new subsection 3.E.(9), the Town Board should consider editing proposed Section 3.E.1 as follows:

1. Consideration of subdivision and/or site plan applications for residential dwellings of fewer than ~~five (5)~~ eight (8) units or lots, and the issuance of any building permits in relation thereto.

. . . [or]

2. Consideration of subdivision and/or site plan applications for residential dwellings of fewer than five (5) units or lots, or fewer than eight (8) units or lots when the application offers open space permanently restricted by covenant or other device, and the issuance of any building permits in relation thereto.

These suggested changes in the Draft Moratorium Local Law are necessary for the proposed moratorium to achieve its explicitly stated purpose, i.e., “halt . . . *certain* residential permits, certificates of occupancy and approvals for development more appropriately.” (emphasis supplied). As drafted, the current law is overly broad and halts nearly all residential development.

A Moratorium Is Not Warranted

The Town does not need a moratorium to evaluate and update the Comprehensive Plan or to amend the existing zoning laws of the Town, nor is one legally warranted in this case. There are strict legal limits on a municipality’s ability to impose a moratorium on the processing of land development applications. As summarized by the New York Courts:

For the enactment of the moratorium to be upheld, the municipality must show that its actions were:

1. in response to a dire necessity;
2. reasonably calculated to alleviate or prevent a **crisis condition; and**
3. that the municipality is presently taking steps to rectify the problem.⁶

All three standards must be met. The present proposed Draft Moratorium Local Law does not meet the legal test. There is no proof of “dire necessity” or “crisis condition” to justify the moratorium, and certainly not as it relates to Oak Woods. The purpose of temporarily prohibiting development to preserve the status quo to afford the Town Board sufficient time to evaluate and update the comprehensive plan and amend its zoning laws does evidence either necessity or crisis.

This Moratorium Will Have Adverse Effects that the Town Should Want to Avoid

No reasonable decision can be made on the moratorium without also considering problems that a moratorium may cause. The Town Board should discuss all of the following potential problems:

1. The Town will lose new ratables. An advantage of new development is that it shares in the costs of town-wide improvements to be paid for by the taxpayers. While it is not legal to assign to developers the full costs of upgrading existing infrastructure, there is no question that developers make substantial public infrastructure improvements at no cost to the taxpayer.

2. The Town will lose all the public benefits provided by developers, including parks and other publicly available amenities. Specifically with respect to Oak Woods, the Town will delay and/or lose the opportunity for the public trail connection that partially solves a public safety issue of the public traversing along the shoulder of Lakes Road.

3. The Town will lose the benefit of the provision of housing by developers at a critical time where available housing inventory is low and housing costs are at an all-time high.⁷

4. The moratorium will cause significant financial damage to developers with projects in development and in particular, Oak Woods, which application remains pending and has been thoroughly vetted by the Town's Planning Board and associated agencies.

Requested edits to "Applicability" of the Draft Moratorium Local Law

If the Board proceeds with adopting a Moratorium on residential subdivisions, the Board should edit Sections 3.C and 3.F of the Local Law to allow an applicant to at least continue with its site- specific review before the Planning Board. This could be achieved by making the following edits

⁶ Jeffrey v. Ryan, 37 Misc.3d 1204(A), 961 N.Y.S.2d 358 (Sup. Ct. 2012) (citing Matter of Belle Harbor Realty Corp. v. Kerr, 35 N.Y.2d 507, 512 (1974)) (emphasis added).

⁷ See e.g., New York Housing Compact: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/new-york-housing-compact>.

(among others), which are particularly warranted and reasonable to those applications, like Oak Woods, that have invested substantial resources in evaluating a project with the Planning Board.

C. Scope: Other than as excepted in subsection (E) below, no Town board, agency or department shall ~~process, hear,~~ approve or sign any new or pending ...

F. Any applications for approvals or permits filed after the Effective Date, and not otherwise exempted from this moratorium, shall be filed at the risk of the applicants and shall not be ~~processed,~~ granted or issued until this moratorium is lifted.

Allowing the Planning Board and other town boards and agencies to process new or pending applications at risk would not alleviate the concerns or address the comments raised in this letter. However, these edits would at least give an applicant the opportunity to try to minimize the delay in the local land use review process that will otherwise be caused by adopting this Local Law.

Summary:

The Town does not need a moratorium to evaluate and revise the Comprehensive Plan or to amend the existing zoning laws of the Town. This can and should be done outside of the strict time constraints and emergency purpose of a moratorium. The proposed Draft Moratorium Local Law is far too broad and captures projects like Oak Woods that are in-line with the Town's unique character and cluster development goals. Based on the foregoing, we request that the Town Board continue the public hearing and consider further changes, including those suggested in this letter.

The Draft Moratorium Local Law should be edited to exempt unique, cluster development proposals, like Oak Woods. Oak Woods is a reasonable proposal with a Yield Plan that has been reviewed and accepted by the Planning Board. It will create 6 residential lots of appropriate scale on a 27-acre site, conserve 13 acres of land for open space and grant a trail easement to the NY- NJ Trail Conference to assist in connecting the Highlands Trail to the Appalachian Trail. Adopting the Local Law as proposed will adversely affect the Town, the Applicant, and the public.

We thank the Town Board for its thoughtful consideration of this request, and we look forward to appearing and commenting at the March 13, 2024 public hearing session.

Very truly yours,

Anthony F. Morando

cc: Elizabeth K. Cassidy, Esq., Town Attorney
Oak Woods Subdivision, LLC
Alec Gladd, Esq.

Lydia Cuadros, Creamery Pond, asked if the moratorium will affect multi-unit and warehouses near Sugar Loaf and LSR. Supervisor Holdridge said it already applies.

Thomas, Odyssey Drive, had concern for the well water with a 28-house development as Black Meadow Road that has problems with drainage and flooding. He opined possible liability on the Town and the traffic on the roads.

Susan Miller was in strong support of the moratorium for 9 months with 2-3 extensions and asked about zoning changes. She noted Davidson Drive was back to requesting tractor trailer access on Lake Station Road.

Jane Rizzo, 44 Paradise, supports the moratorium. As a former Chair of the Orange County Partnership who supports eco-development, she said the strategy has gone too far with too many tractor trailers through the area. She thanked the Board for making it happen.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to close the Public Hearing at 8:45pm on Introductory Local Law No. 8 Of 2023 - A Local Law Instituting a Moratorium on Certain Permits, Certificates of Occupancy and Approvals for Residential Development Consisting of Five (5) Or More Residential Lots or Multi-Family or Multi-Unit Dwellings Containing Five (5) Or More Dwelling Units.

ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024 A LOCAL LAW INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY AND APPROVALS FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT

TOWN OF CHESTER
TOWN BOARD

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 8 OF 2023
A LOCAL LAW INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF
OCCUPANCY AND APPROVALS FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Chester is in the process of preparing a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chester has appointed Lanc & Tully to prepare a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has appointed a Comprehensive Plan Committee to evaluate the needs of the Town and develop a comprehensive plan;

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Committee together with Lanc & Tully has made significant efforts toward developing a comprehensive plan and anticipates that draft documents will be ready in approximately six to nine months;

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to avoid land use applications that would be inconsistent with the proposed comprehensive plan;

WHEREAS, the Town Board, in consultation with its consultants, has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to impose a moratorium on certain land use and building permit applications;

WHEREAS, Introductory Local Law 8 of 2023 was duly introduced by the Town Board on December 13, 2023;

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held on January 24, 2024 and continued on February 14, 2024 and February 28, 2024 and

WHEREAS, on the basis of public comment and comment of Town consultants, the Town Board revised the introductory local law by resolution dated February 28, 2024;

WHEREAS, the public hearing was continued until March 13, 2024 to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the revisions;

WHEREAS, a land use moratorium is a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and no further environmental review is required

WHEREAS, Introductory Local Law 8 of 2023 and the revisions thereto were referred to the Orange County Department of Planning, the Village of Chester, the Town of Blooming Grove, the Town of Monroe, the Town of Warwick and Town of Goshen pursuant to General Municipal Law 239 et seq.;

WHEREAS, the Orange County Department of Planning issued a letter indicating local determination.

WHEREAS, the Town of Chester Planning Board has reviewed both Introductory Local Law 8 of 2023 and the revisions thereto and provided comment; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, after considering the public comment, the comments of the planning board and Orange County Department of Planning, that Introductory Local Law 8 of 2023, A LOCAL LAW INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY AND APPROVALS FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT is hereby adopted by the Town Board as Local Law 1 of 2024;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall cause said local law to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2024 A Local Law Instituting a Moratorium on Certain Permits, Certificates of Occupancy and Approvals for Certain Development.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>	Absent <u> </u>
Council Member Ardisana	Yes <u> </u>	No <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>	Absent <u> X </u>
Council Member Becker	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>	Absent <u> </u>
Council Member Courtenay	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>	Absent <u> </u>
Council Member Dysinger	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>	Abstain <u> </u>	Absent <u> </u>

ADOPTED

PUBLIC HEARING – WARD DISTRICTS

The following notice as it appeared on the Town Clerk’s signboard and on chester-ny.gov.

TOWN OF CHESTER

**PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED
WARD DISTRICTS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing continuance will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Chester on March 13, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Chester Town Hall, located at 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York 10918, regarding the creation of Ward District boundaries.

At such public hearing, all persons in attendance will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written and oral statements will be taken at that time and in advance, in writing, to Attention: Linda A. Zappala, Town Clerk, Town of Chester, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York or by email to lzappala@thetownofchester.org.

By Order of the Town of Chester Town Supervisor:

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
Dtd: March 5, 2024

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Courtenay to open the Public Hearing at 8:46pm on the matter of the Ward Districts.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana **ADOPTED**

There were no public comments.

Supervisor Holdridge stated the Board has reviewed all the information provided and there will be some housekeeping and administration matters before the maps are adopted and process implement. He said the Board of Elections has informed him if there is no candidate in the Ward District, there could be a write-in candidate on the general ballot or the incumbent sits as holdover. He believes the ward districts will increase the interest in residents running for office since there is less work to campaign and will be more of a tie to their area of Town.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Dysinger to close the Public Hearing at 8:50pm on the matter of the Ward Districts.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana **ADOPTED**

ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to accept the Minutes of the Town Board Meetings of February 14, 2024 and February 28, 2024 as presented by Town Clerk Zappala.

VOTE AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT (1):Ardisana **ADOPTED**

TOWN REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

Water Department - February

The water department processed and distributed 6,128,611 gallons of water for the month of February. The districts daily average ranged from 162 to 77,000 gallons. The breakdown is:

Lake Hill Farms- 2,234,000 gal.
Sugar Loaf- 1,186,700 gal.
Surrey Meadows- 1,510,800 gal.
Walton Lake Estates- 1,068,100 gal.
Fieldcrest- 124,300 gal. (Distribution only)
Town Hall- 4,711 gal.

Distribution sampling by us as well as random sampling by Orange County DOH showed adequate disinfection levels, and tested negative for any type of bacteria.

Monthly DOH 360 forms and test results for January 2024 on all districts were submitted to DOH on 2/5/2024.

Laboratory testing dates were 2/7 & 2/21.

The mandated PFOS testing for the first quarter was done on 2/28.

The annual water Quality Reports were completed and sent to the County Health Sept for approval on 2/28.

Snow cleanup dates at the plants were 2/13.

Chemical deliveries 2/22.

Connor Went to Morrisville College for class from 2/19-2/23 to get his Water Operators license.

On 2/20 Ford F-150 was dropped off to Chester Collision for repair from Deer hit.

Other Business:

Sugar Loaf was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance. On 2/22 Roarke Well drilling came to set up Drill Rig for opening of old well back up. On 2/23 Roarke drilled out old well from being sealed off for future hook up and it still produces 100gpm. On 2/28 we did a BAC test from the old well that was just drilled out and results came back negative on E.coli and Total Coliforms.

Surrey Meadows was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance.

Lake Hill Farms was mostly quiet with normal operations and maintenance.

Walton Lake Estates was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance. On 2/1 we installed two new Gate valves int the intersection of Poplar and Maple to further upgrade system. On 2/7 We replaced gate valve on Tulip and Hickory. On 2/8 we mounted new PH/Chlorine monitoring system at the plant. On 2/14 TAM Enterprise came and powered up the new Monitoring system. On 2/15 ATI came in to start up new Monitoring system and train us how to operate properly. On 2/29 PN Alarm came and installed new alarm system at the plant to acquire addition of PH/Chlorine monitoring system to alert us of low readings.

Fieldcrest was quiet with routine operations and maintenance. On 2/14 Village Water Dept came and did Backflow testing at required locations in district.

Historian - January-February

Below, please find a summary of my year-to-date activity as Town of Chester Historian Clif Patrick.

- Continued pursuing the property damage claim against the car that destroyed the “Welcome to Chester” historic marker on Rt. 17M at the Chester-Goshen border on December 22, 2023 in cooperation with the Supervisor’s office, Town Police and Highway Departments. The Town’s insurance administrator, Tokio Marine HCC, has filed a demand against the driver’s insurance company.
- Made these presentations:
"2023 year in review slide show" at Chester Historical Society Annual meeting.
Recorded by Caleb Grauer for background on his "Maple Avenue Remembered | A Short Documentary."
“Celebrating the Black History of Your Community” Balancing Life's Issues podcast with Chester residents Leslie Smith & Kai M. Sorensen in February.
- Provided researched materials and accompanied Tabitha O’Connell from National Register Unit of the New York State Historic Preservation Office, consultant Neil Larson and others on an in-person evaluation of the proposed “Sugar Loaf Historic District.”
- Responded to inquiries from the public on a variety of subjects, including: Nathaniel Knapp's stone grave marker, historic tree inventories, reputed Indian burial sites, early names of buildings, location of the Marvin/Helme Cemetery, several historic designation inquiries, Chester families (Baird, Jayne, Kinner, Knapp, Lawrence).
- Submitted a revised History section to the updated Town's Comprehensive Plan Committee.
- Meetings:
Museum Association of New York's Virtual Annual Meeting. Maple Ave School - several groups.
Several municipal meetings (in-person & recordings)
- Attended “Will the last person leaving Newburgh please turn out the lights?” Presented by Johanna Yaun, Orange County Historian, an in-person program.
- York State Historic Preservation Office, consultant Neil Larson and others on an in-person evaluation of the proposed “Sugar Loaf Historic District.”
- Responded to inquiries from the public on a variety of subjects, including: Nathaniel Knapp's stone grave marker, historic tree inventories, reputed Indian burial sites, early names of buildings, location of the Marvin/Helme Cemetery, several historic designation inquiries, Chester families (Baird, Jayne, Kinner, Knapp, Lawrence).
- Submitted a revised History section to the updated Town's Comprehensive Plan Committee.
- Meetings:
Museum Association of New York's Virtual Annual Meeting. Maple Ave School - several groups.
Several municipal meetings (in-person & recordings)
- Attended “Will the last person leaving Newburgh please turn out the lights?” Presented by Johanna Yaun, Orange County Historian, an in-person program.
- Disseminated information about local historical programs, grants and internships.
- Participated in the following continuing educational webinars at no cost to the Town:
Foundation for Advancement in Conservation’s Connecting to Collections Care “Care of Geological Collections” webinar.
Museum Association of New York “Success in School Partnerships” webinar.
Digital Communications Engagement Best Practices “Digital Communications Engagement Best Practices” webinar.

American Association for State and Local History “History Hour,” a networking event that brings the history community together for an informal discussion of important topics in the field.

Annual Report 2023

Number of phone/email/mail inquiries: 118±

Exhibits:

Booked and set up three traveling exhibits loaned by the Southeastern New York Library Resource Council: “Immigration in New York” followed by “Women’s Right to Vote in New York State” and finally, “200 Years on the Erie Canal”. These exhibits ran from April 7th through June 2nd at 93 Brookside Ave. as it was being prepared for occupancy for the Chester Historical Society's office and archives.



I helped build the Chester Historical Society's 2023 exhibit on Sugar Loaf, tracing the hamlet’s history, including the geology, flora and fauna; its first Paleo-Indian and Lenape inhabitants; the arrival of Europeans; development of a community; and life in Sugar Loaf today where crafters and business owners continue to thrive. The exhibit ran from May 6th until December 5th at the 1915 Erie Station, 19 Winkler Place, Chester.

Public Lectures/Presentations:

I assisted with these programs and presentations:

- 1/4/2023 “What Makes A Historic District?” Presented by Jennifer Mac-Leod of the Orange County Planning Department at the Annual Meeting of the Chester Historical Society.
- 4/3/2023 "The Reinvention, Revival and Transformation of Sugar Loaf Hamlet and Mountain from the 20th Century to Present: An Orange County

Village of Chester Arts
and the Chester Historical Society presents

Chester

HUNT FOR ART

UNITED!

Did you miss this summer's exhibit of local artist paintings throughout Downtown Chester, celebrating our rich history? Now is your chance to see all twelve of them, collected in one place for two weeks only at

THE 1915 ERIE STATION MUSEUM
19 WINKLER PLACE, CHESTER

EXHIBIT: OCT. 14-28

COME JOIN US FOR A CLOSING RECEPTION:
OCT. 28, 10 AM - 2 PM
FREE REFRESHMENTS

Saga." Presented by Professor Richard W. Hull at the Loaf Performing Arts Center Pavilion.

- 2023-04-21-23 I assisted in running the plenary sessions of the "104th Annual Conference of the New York State Archaeological Association," at Suffern, NY.
- 8/26/2023 "The Lenape: Our Early Inhabitants." Primary speakers were: Dennis "Windtalker" DeFreeze, Peter "Wetgakil N' Lishuwaah M'axkwak" DeGroat, and Joyce "Mwisa chulen" Gamble at the 1915 Erie Station.
- 9/15/2023 "Black Archaeology Sites in the Middle Atlantic, Famous and Obscure." Presented by Bill Sandy, Associate Prof. Montclair State University and Fairleigh Dickinson University. At Mulbury House Senior Center, Middletown, NY.

Historical Research:

- There were minimal Cultural Resource Management consultant inquiries in 2023. The primary one being providing material to Neil Larson & Associates for the Sugar Loaf Craft Village Historic District National Register nomination. (32 hrs)
- Help redirect people to appropriate resources, such as inquiries about other places in Orange County and other Chesters - like those in Warren County, Virginia, Vermont New Hampshire, etc.
- Researched inquiries from the general public, and agencies on numerous subjects. A few examples: archaeology questions; burial grounds & cemeteries; a fugitive gravestone; cheese; the 1906 Chester Academy fire; house and family histories; status of former family farms; renowned horseman Guy Miller; how to obtain records regarding Camp LaGuardia; volunteers for the Revolutionary War volunteers; WWI & WWII service flags; when and why various Street acquired their names.
- Assisted several authors in locating additional sources of information, in addition to supplying information on their subjects, such as: providing circa 1955 to 1965 photos and maps of the Chester area to the West Island model RR club for their HO. scale layout project. Provide historical details for the Village of Chester Arts mini-mural "Hunt of Art United!" Project. Daniel Mack, DIRT magazine inquired about WWII Prisoners of War assigned to local work camps.
- Assisted students, such David Zhang, a graduate architecture student at Columbia GSAPP, by providing a historic soil map of our area.
- Researched possible links between President Taft and DeWinter, Mildred Eva Taft, 1897?- for "media guy at Chester High School." Didn't find any
- Survey local Ceremonial Landscapes under New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Research Permit #2021-MP15-011 issued to Principal Investigator David Johnson. (25 hrs)
- I supplied back issues of Chester Historical Society newsletters to Emily A. Wager, Senior Librarian, Acquisitions Unit, New York State Library.

Historical Events/Celebrations:

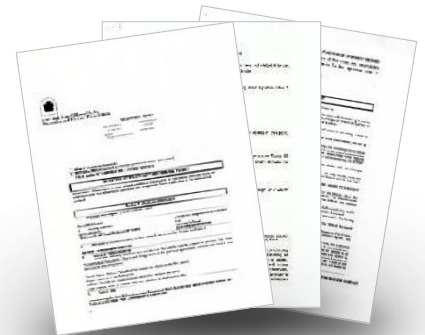
I attended OCGS Emire Conklin Room Dedication at the 1841 Courthouse, Goshen.

Historic Preservation Projects:

- Preserved records held by the Chester Historical Society, Orange County Historical Society and several family archives dating from the late 1700s to date [names withheld at the request of the families].
- I served on a Maple Avenue School citizen's group.
- The Welcome to Chester Historical Marker at the Goshen-Chester Town border that was destroyed in the previous winter was replaced with updated text and installed the first week of December. This new marker was destroyed by a documented motor vehicle accident on December 22nd. Resolution to this property damage continues into 2024.

Conferences, Continuing Education and Workshops:

- "104th Annual Conference of the New York State Archaeological Association," at Suffern, NY.
- Other conferences, continuing education and workshops I attended remotely using electronic means, including ten Special Interest Group sessions; 3 workshops; 16 webinars; 6 virtual tours; and 2 conferences.



Historical Publications:

- Edit and layout of "IOCCNYSAA Occasional Papers #5"
- Assemble & distribute 12 issues of "The Archaeologist" IOCCNYSAA newsletter.
- Edit, layout, and publish the 2023 New York State Archaeological Association Conference Program.
- Layout two issues of the Chester Historical Society newsletter.
- Webmaster of the Chester Historical Society website <<https://www.chesterhistoricalsociety.com>>

Other:

- I prepared an update draft of the History section of the Town's Comprehensive Plan for Town of Chester Comprehensive Plan Committee Chair, Matthew Woods. I maintained databases of Chester's history including:
- CHS Collection Database: 19,706
- Biographical notes: 38,139
- Chester Trade names/companies: 4,329
- Chester Servicemen & Women: 880

Summary of time devoted to Town of Chester Historian duties in 2023:

Task	Time (hours)
Administrative	29
Commemorations, Create Exhibits	45
Continuing Education/Conferences & preparation/follow-up	94
Advisory Services	14
Cultural Resource inventory	31
FOIL Response	3
History Promotion	182
Inquiries, Author	48
Inquiries, Cultural Resource Management Consultants	1
Inquiries, general public	102
Inquiries, students/teachers	5
Meetings - Municipal	40
Meetings, other	34
Meetings - Planning Boards	22
Presentation	3
Presentation preparation	1
Preserve Records	473
Projects	5
Publications	11
Total (hours)	1143

Animal Control – February 2024

During the month of February 2024, the Town of Chester Police Department responded to 10 animal complaints and investigated 4 motor vehicle crashes involving a deer. A breakdown of the complaints for the month is included below:

4 of the calls for service were for loose, lost or found dogs
2 of the calls for service were for injured or deceased deer
1 of the calls for service was for a barking dog
1 of the calls for service was for coyotes in the area
1 of the calls for service was for a welfare check on dogs
1 of the calls for service was for loose chickens

Warwick Valley Humane Society – February 2024

The monthly report for February from the Warwick Valley Humane Society follows.

All totals include calls from the Town of Chester, Village of Chester, Village of Sugar Loaf and Orange County 911 Center for calls located with the geographic are of the Town of Chester

Number of calls received:	16	1 Police, 15 others
Number of times ACO dispatched to calls:	1	2/26 – stray dog at the Village PD station #21598
Number of dogs impounded by ACO:	1	#21598
Number of dogs impounded by Police:	0	
Number of dogs returned to owner:	1	#21598
Number of after hour call-outs:	1	#21598
Amount of impoundment fees collected:	\$50.00	#21598
Amount of license fees collected:	\$10.00	#21598
Amount of impoundment fees paid to town:	\$50.00	check #17686
Number of license fees paid to town:	\$10.00	check #17687
Number of hours of enumeration:	8 hrs.	
Number of bite reports received:	0	
Number of appearance tickets issued:	0	
Number of unlicensed dogs:	17	
Status of unlicensed dogs:	16 notice to comply, 1 licensed upon redemption	
Number of Chester cats admitted to shelter	0	

Notes: Preparation and delivery of 16 notices to comply for failure to license (various locations), 10 of which were previously enumerated per list provided by Town Clerk.

SNR certificates sold in December: 0

Note: SNR certificates are available by appointment only

Note: Shelter is open by appointment only, Monday through Sunday, 12-4pm for pre-approved adoptions, return to owners and SNR certificates, visitors and volunteers.

Police Department – February 2024

The Town of Chester Police Department continued to remain active in the community in February. We maintained our objective of community commitment and took a proactive stance towards detecting crime and enforcing the laws. In February, the police department responded to 281 calls for service. Officers patrolled for 15,490 miles during the month.

A breakdown of the criminal and non-criminal activity for the month is included below:

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

The Town of Chester Police Department made 21 arrests during the month. A summary of the arrests is as follows:

- 15 charged with Operating a Vehicle with a Suspended Driver License or Registration misdemeanors
- 1 charged with felony Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the third degree
- 1 charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the fourth degree
- 1 charged with Criminal Mischief, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Harassment second degree
- 1 charged with Harassment
- 2 arrested on outstanding arrest warrants

Please refer to Attachment A for complete details.

NON-CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

In addition to the arrests listed above, officers also responded to other calls for service in February. A summary of those calls for service is as follows:

- 32 medical calls
- 21 residential, commercial or automatic fire alarms
- 9 disturbances, disputes or domestic complaints
- 6 reports of suspicious persons, vehicles or activity

- 2 motor vehicle crashes with injuries
- 11 motor vehicle crashes without injuries
- 4 motor vehicle crashes involving deer

Please refer to Attachment B for complete details.

Officers also issued 218 uniform traffic tickets during the month.

SEX OFFENDERS

There were no changes to the sex offender registrations for our residents in February.

LEVEL	BEGINNING OF MONTH	END OF MONTH
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	0	. 0
TOTAL	3	3

COMMUNITY POLICING

During the month, Town of Chester police officers assisted members of the community in many ways. Some of the community policing activity is listed below.

Officers completed 14 house security checks and 999 business security checks.

Sergeant Dugan and Officers Bird, Weinstein, Stack and Narain continue to remain available for child passenger safety seat checks and installations.

Officers were assigned to sporting events at the Chester Academy on February 5th and 8th •

We continued to assign School Resource Officers to the Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School during each school day. Officers Perez, Deluca and Donato are fulfilling this assignment.

TRAINING

We held a roundtable exercise in our training room on February 20th with all department supervisors, school resource officers and on-duty personnel on the topic of an active shooter incident at the Chester Academy.

Our department monthly training session for February was cancelled due to inclement weather.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commercial vehicle enforcement details were held on February 7th and 21st with the NYS Department of Transportation. Eight vehicles were inspected and four unsafe vehicles were taken out of service with major violations.

Chief Doellinger attended the Orange County Police Academy graduation ceremony in Middletown on February 2nd.

Officer Perez was injured in a fall on the stairs at the school on February 5th and remains out of work. He is expected to return in March.

SCHEDULING

There were 98.5 hours of overtime paid in February.

Part-time police officers were used for 120.5 hours of patrol coverage (120 regular hours and 0.5 overtime hours).

Shift Coverage	63
HS Basketball Games	12
Special Event Coverage	8
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Detail	7
Late Calls/Arrests	4
Court Officer Details	3
K9 Details	1.5

ARRESTS - FEBRUARY 2024

TC-00028-24	2/1/2024	51M Warwick, NY	VTL 051102A4 AGG UNL/C OPER- 2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00027-24	2/1/2024	45M Monroe, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNL/C OPER MV- 3RD
TC-00030-24	2/5/2024	39M Monroe, NY	VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00029-24	2/5/2024	48M New Hampton, NY	VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00032-24	2/7/2024	28M Middletown, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNL/C OPER MV- 3RD
TC-00031-24	2/7/2024	33M Chester, NY	VTL 051102A4 AGG UNLIC OPER- 2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
TC-00033-24	2/9/2024	28M Warwick, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNL/C OPER MV- 3RD
TC-00034-24	2/10/2024	21M Monroe, NY	PL 240.2601 HARASSMENT-2ND:PHYSICAL CNTACT MHY 9.41 CUSTODY OF MENTALLY ILL PERSON
TC-00035-24	2/11/2024	24F Warwick, NY	VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00039-24	2/17/2024	52M Monroe, NY	VTL051102A4AGGUNLICOPER- 2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00036-24	2/17/2024	52M Monroe, NY	PL 240.2603 HARASSMENT-2ND ALARM OR ANNOY PL 145.0001 CRIM M15:INTENT DAMAGE PROPRTY PL 260.10 01 ACT IN MANNER INJUR CHILD< 17
TC-00037-24	2/19/2024	25M West Haverstraw, NY	VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00038-24	2/20/2024	40M Warwick, NY	PL 220.16 01 CPCS-3RD:NARC DRUG I NT/SELL VTL 051102A2 AGG UNLICENSED OPERATION- 2ND VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNL/C OPER MV- 3RD VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED

TC-00040-24	2/22/2024	42M Warwick, NY	CPL 120.60 01 EXECUTE WARRANT OF ARREST
TC-00043-24	2/23/2024	31F Warwick, NY	VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
TC-00042-24	2/23/2024	29M Middletown, NY	VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00041-24	2/23/2024	18M Bloomingburg, NY	PL 265.0102 CRIM POSS WEAP-4TH:INT TO USE VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00047-24	2/29/2024	28F Rock Tavern, NY	VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00045-24	2/29/2024	29F New Windsor, NY	CPL 120.60 01 EXECUTE WARRANT OF ARREST
TC-00044-24	2/29/2024	49M Greenwood Lake, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNL/C OPER MV-3RD
TC-00046-24	2/29/2024	21M New Windsor, NY	PL 190.25 01 CRIM IMPERS-2ND:OTHER PERSON

Attachment A

CALLS FOR SERVICE - FEBRUARY 2024

911 HANGUP CALL	1	INFORMATION ONLY	33
ALARM-COMMERCIAL	7	K-9 DEPLOYMENT	2
ALARM-RESIDENTIAL	2	LARCENY	1
AMBULANCE ASSIST	32	LOCKOUT	2
ANIMAL COMPL(WILDLIFE)	5	LOST PROPERTY	2
ANIMAL COMPLAINT(DOG)	5	MV/TRAFFIC STOP	1
ARREST/CRIMINAL	3	MVC/CAR/DEER	3
ARREST/MHL	1	MVC/HIT AND RUN	2
ARREST/TRAFFIC	14	MVC/NO REPORT	1
ARREST/WARRANT	2	MVC/PERSONAL INJURY	2
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	17	MVC/PROPERTY DAMAGE	8
ASSIST FIRE DEPT	2	NOISE COMPLAINT	2
ASSIST WATER DEPARTMENT	1	OFFICER INJURY	2
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	2	OPEN DOOR	2
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	12	PARKING PROBLEM	1
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION	13	PATROL REQUEST	1
CITIZEN SERVICE	2	PROPERTY SAFEKEEPING	1
CIVIL MATTER	7	RECKLESS DRIVER	1
COMM VEHICLE ENF DETAIL	2	SCHOOL SAFETY	8
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	3	SEXUAL ASSAULT	1
DEBRIS IN ROADWAY	1	SUSPICIOUS COND/MV/PERSON	6
DEPARTMENT DETAIL	2	TAC TEAM ACTIVITY	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	8	TOWED VEHICLE	1
DOMESTIC COMPLAINT	9	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	2
EMOT DISTURBED PERSON	4	TRAFFIC ENFORCENMT DETAIL	1
EQUIPMENT CHECK	5	TREE DOWN	2
FIRE	1	TRESPASS	1
FRAUD	3	VANDALISM	1
HARASSMENT	1	VEHICLE OFF ROADWAY	1
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	5	VERBAL DISPUTE	1
HOUSE SECURITY CHECK	12	WELFARE CHECK	4

TOTAL 281

SLPAC /P&R

Monthly Report: Kristin Palmer Account Clerk (SLPAC & PARKS/REC)

2/26/24 chaperoned a Casino Bus trip

Worked shows at the SLPAC (Broadway show, Wayne Newton, Rhythm of the Dance) & managed volunteer coverage

3/2/24 TOC Rec basketball had the last games of the season. Collected and stored all equipment. Season recap went out to all participating families

Several correspondences to continue adult basketball program through March

Met with all emergency services for preliminary mtg to coordinate coverage for the town fireworks show on Sat 7/13/24 with a rain date of 7/14/24

Secured a company and half the sponsorship to add a drone show to the fireworks event

Attended a planning meeting and further assisted Rolling Thunder with event in September

Submitted all paperwork to the dept of health for snack stand permit renewal

Working with a Playground company to get quotes for Carpenter Park playground.

Dispatched all maintenance requests

Assisted with information and quotes for possible grants

Working with Little League, Town PD, Village PD, and FD on annual softball game

Worked on incoming permits ... Kiwanis club annual Memorial Day weekend 5K race is set for Saturday 5/25/24 starting at Carpenter Park (flyer to be shared when available)

Normal daily operations, answering phones, ordering supplies, invoicing, filing, etc....

Planning Board

The following discussions and actions took place at the Planning Board meeting:

Architectural Approval - Sign

Laura Bonet / Whimsy & Willow

62 Wood Road Sugar Loaf, Unit D3 &D4

Approved

Architectural Approval - Sign

Florence Zaitoun / Jimmy'Z Jewelry

62 Wood Road Sugar Loaf

Approved

Revised Site Plan Approval - Basement Office and Revised Parking

Jeffrey Sapanaro

1351 Kings Highway Sugar Loaf

Approved

Board Discussion - Site Plan

VA Lake Station Holding LLC

Lake Station Road

102,750 SF light industrial use building situated on 17.56 acres

No action taken

Board Discussion – 6 Lot cluster subdivision

Oak Woods Subdivision LLC

Camp Monroe Road

No action taken

Next Meeting – April 3, 2024

Excavating and filling discussion with the planning board engineer and the building inspector. The goal will be to make code recommendations to the town board.

Accounting Department – February 2024

The Accounting Department Continues to dig itself out of its hole.

In 2022 the Town attempted to convert from Cash Basis Accounting to Generally Accepted Governmental Standards of Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting as well as implement GASB 85 which eliminated Trust and Agency Accounts. Unfortunately, this process was not done correctly and remains incomplete. As a result, the Town has yet to complete its Financial Statement Audit for 2022 and continues to reconcile accounts and fulfil requests from our auditors at RBT.

The Accounting Department has hired a consultant to help assist in catching up with the bank reconciliations which are now over 9 months behind. In this process it was discovered that many of the budget modifications for 2023 have not been properly recorded and for expenses where ARPA was applied those entries have not been properly recorded either. Although Trust and Agency was eliminated through the implementation of GASB 85 the Accounting System utilized by the Town was not updated. The Comptroller is working with Edmunds to assist in updating the system to fit the needs to the town and to ensure items are being recorded properly into the correct accounts.

In summary, the Town Comptroller is working hard to complete the 2022 Audit, Reconcile the 2023 books and records and ensure everything was recorded properly to the correct accounts and ensuring that bills continue to be paid moving forward.

The Accounting Department continues to also find errors within the 2024 budget which needs correcting.

The Comptroller has identified numerous policies that need to be created/updated and will be coming to the board for approval once complete.

Given the state of the Town's recordkeeping over the past year the Town will be asking for extensions on its reporting deadlines to the State Comptroller's Office.

Building Department

Expired Permits from 2022: down to double digits – 98

Expired 2020-2021

Down to 12 from 14

Of the 12:

1 summons issued

1 summons going out

6 going to violations on 3/15

3 going to violations on 3/27

1 working with building inspector

** 2 permits have been renewed with 6 months to complete**

Expired 2022

Down to 100 from 125

79 issued letters

5 Violations

16 working to close

** 25 permits either renewed with 6 months to close or closed **

2 other summonses issued for building permits prior to system

Council Member Becker:

At the Sugarloaf water district, the water department took water samples to the lab from the recently opened well for bacteria. They had a Standard Plate Count and a basic bacteria test done; each test was negative for bacteria. We are still working on getting prices to install a new Baker pit less adapter and pump.

In would like to let residents of Ashford Estates that the Solar project on Town owned property by them will be starting in the near future.

I have been looking into pricing of materials needed to renovate one of the bathrooms located in the basement of Town Hall.

With doing this project inhouse the materials needed would be under \$6,000.00. The bathrooms as they exist are positioned on a platform that we need to remove to make them handicap accessible.

The plans for the water main extension into the Performing Arts Center are close to being completed.

I was recently in touch with the County about the fencing that exists on both sides of the Heritage Trail by Camp LaGuardia, there is a possibility that some of the fencing could be removed in the future, making the use of the trail in that area more pleasurable.

Council Member Dysinger reported that the 911 Memorial work that was approved last year for sand-blasting and material is complete and expects installation by May.

Council Member Courtenay had no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cindy Smith stated that Town Code 7-4.4 speaks to the Ethics Board having five individuals not employees or elected officials of the Town. She asked why Council Member Becker was on the Ethics Board. Supervisor Holdridge said both the former and current Attorney has opined to the contrary but we will review the Town Code and correct if need be. He noted there have not been any meetings of the Ethics Board since the last Town Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sugar Loaf Engine Company's Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner – March 16th at 6:30pm - \$25.00 All you can eat and Drink. Eat in or take out. Tickets – 845-469-4400.

PBA Annual Easter Egg Hunt – March 30th at 10:00am sharp, Chester Commons Park.

Bellvale Spring Open House – April 20th, rain date April 27th, 359 Gibson Hill Road.

Mortgage Tax Receipts – February - \$105,427.97

SUMMARY OF BILLS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Becker to accept the Minutes of the Summary of bills in the amount of \$190,726.95 as submitted by the Comptroller.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

BUDGET MODIFICATION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to accept the Minutes of the budget modification for \$697.91 from DA5130.4 to DA5130.2 to cover Skid Steer purchase from Amazon.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Becker to enter into Executive Session at 9:10pm on the matter of personnel.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Becker to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:15pm.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

NEW HIRE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Courtenay to hire as a Part-time Police Officer Johnny Motz at \$29.69 p/hour.

Discussion: Supervisor Holdridge explained the salary has been budgeted for 2024.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

IMA FOR 2024 STOP DWI REGULAR ENFORCEMENT OVERTIME

TOWN BOARD OF CHESTER

**IMA FOR 2024
STOP DWI REGULAR ENFORCEMENT OVERTIME**

RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Council Member Courtenay and seconded by Council Member Becker and passed 4-0.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Brandon Holdridge, Supervisor of the Town of Chester, New York, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Orange County IMA for 2024 STOP DWI Regular Enforcement Overtime Program for the period from March 10, 2024 through January 1, 2025, with an assignment of up to \$5,702 to be used by the Town Police Department during the first enforcement period listed on Schedule A-1, reimbursable by the County of Orange.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

WATER DEPARTMENT TRUCK PURCHASE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Dysinger to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-150 at state bid in the amount of \$53,982.50 budgeted for the Water Department.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENTS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to approve the appointment of Beth Pekham as Library Board of Trustee for the term ending 12/31/25.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Becker to approve the appointment of Noreen Stevenson as Library Board of Trustee for the term 1/1/24-12/31/28.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRUCK PURCHASE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to approve the purchase of a 2023 Chevy 3500 dump truck from Robert Conklin in the amount of \$55,000 as budgeted for the Highway Department.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**TOWN OF CHESTER
TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF DEPUTY COMPTROLLER**

March 13, 2024

TITLE: A Resolution to Establish the Position of Deputy Comptroller

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on the March 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT: Brandon Holdridge
Tom Becker
Robert Courtenay
Larry Dysinger

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Member Becker, to wit:

WHEREAS, the TOWN BOARD desires to establish the position of deputy comptroller for the purpose of improving efficiency and accuracy of financial accounting; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chester Town Board hereby establishes the position of deputy town comptroller as defined by Title 1217 Job Classification set forth by the Orange County Department of Human Resources (herein after "Civil Service"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Chester, in coordination with Civil Service shall add said title to the list of positions for the Town of Chester; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon creation of said position, the Town of Chester is hereby authorized to canvass qualified candidates in accordance with the Orange County Rules for the Classified Service and the New York State Civil Service Laws.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

VOTE: Yes(3): Holdridge, Becker, Dysinger No: (0) Abstain (1): Courtenay Absent (1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC

**TOWN OF CHESTER
TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC**

March 13, 2024

TITLE: A Resolution to Establish the Position of Automotive Mechanic

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on the March 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT: Brandon Holdridge
Tom Becker
Robert Courtenay
Larry Dysinger

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Member Becker, to wit:

WHEREAS, the TOWN BOARD desires to establish the position of Automotive Mechanic; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chester Town Board hereby establishes the position of Automotive Mechanic.0 as defined by Title 1070 Job Classification set forth by the Orange County Department of Human Resources (herein after "Civil Service"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Chester, in coordination with Civil Service shall add said title to the list of positions for the Town of Chester; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon creation of said position, the Town of Chester is hereby authorized to canvass qualified candidates in accordance with the Orange County Rules for the Classified Service and the New York State Civil Service Laws.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Discussion: Supervisor Holdridge said the position will provide a \$1p/hour increase in pay.

Yes(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger No: (0) Abstain: (0) Absent (1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2024 - A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

TOWN OF CHESTER
RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2024
A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Chester is responsible for administering and enforcing the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code) and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (the Energy Code) within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, 19 NYCRR Part 1203 contains the “minimum standards” established by the Department of State pursuant to Executive Law § 381(1). Part 1203 requires each local government that administers and enforces the Uniform Code and Energy Code to establish a code enforcement program and to include certain features within that program. The Uniform Code and Energy Code were amended and became effective on May 12, 2020. Based on the new versions of the Uniform Code and Energy Code, corresponding changes were necessary to 19 NYCRR Part 1203 to coordinate these rules and regulations for administration and enforcement of the Uniform Code and Energy Code

WHEREAS, these amendments necessitate that the Town of Chester revise and update Chapter 50 of the Town of Chester Code as it relates to administration of the Uniform Code and Energy Code;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2024, A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Chester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the aforesaid introductory local law be laid upon the desk of each member of the Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after comparing the thresholds in 6 NYCRR 617.4 and 617.5, the Board hereby determines that the proposed action is a Type II action for purposes of SEQR and that no further environmental review is required;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing shall be held on April 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be heard at Town of Chester Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY 10918. The Town Clerk shall cause to be published public notice in the official newspaper as is required by law.

SET PUBLIC HEARING - INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2024, A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to set a Public Hearing on April 10, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Town of Chester Town Hall Meeting Room on the matter of Introductory Local Law 2 Of 2024, A Local Law Establishing a Local Government Code Enforcement Program.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

SUGAR LOAF WELL TEST

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Becker to approve the Part 5 requirement of testing of the Sugar Loaf Water District well by lowest responsible bidder Environmental Labworks in the amount of \$3,013.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 3 OF 2024 - A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 239-X.

TOWN OF CHESTER
A RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 3 OF 2024
A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 239-X.

WHEREAS, Article 12, § 239-x of the General Municipal Law authorizes a Town Board to establish a Conservation Advisory Council for purposes of advising the Town in the development management and protection of its natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to establish such council and set forth the powers and duties of the Chester Conservation Advisory Council; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 3 OF 2024, A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 239-X is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Chester,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the aforesaid introductory local law be laid upon the desk of each member of the Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after comparing the thresholds in 6 NYCRR 617.4 and 617.5, the Board hereby determines that the proposed action is a Type II action for purposes of SEQR and that no further environmental review is required;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing shall be held on April 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be heard at Town of Chester Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, NY 10918. The Town Clerk shall cause to be published public notice in the official newspaper as is required by law.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to adopt Becker to adopt A Resolution to Introduce Introductory Local Law 3 Of 2024 A Local Law to Establish a Conservation Advisory Council Pursuant to General Municipal Law § 239-X and set a public hearing on the matter to be held on April 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Discussion: Supervisor Holdridge remarked that a resolution to create the Conservation Advisory Council was adopted but the local law will establish the duties and formalize the council within the code of the Town of Chester.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

TOWN OF CHESTER
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW 3 OF 2024
A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 239-X.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Chester, County of Orange State of New York, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter xx, entitled "Conservation Advisory Council" is hereby adopted to read as follows:

§ xx-1. Legislative intent.

The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Town of Chester, in the face of population growth, urbanization and technologic change with their accompanying demands on natural resources, are found to be of increasing and vital importance to the health, welfare and economic well-being of present and future inhabitants and require forthright action by the governing body of the Town of Chester. It is recognized that the biologic integrity of the natural environment on which man is dependent for survival and the natural and functional beauty of our surroundings which condition the quality of our life experience cannot be protected without the full cooperation and participation of all the people of the Town working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies and organizations. Establishment of a Conservation Board is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems.

§ xx-2. Conservation Advisory Council Established.

Pursuant to the powers granted in Article 12-F, § 239-x, of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, the Town of Chester Town Board hereby establishes the Town of Chester Conservation Advisory Council, hereinafter called the "Council" to advise in the development, management and protection of the Town's natural resources.

§ x-3. Membership.

The Conservation Advisory Council shall consist of no less than three (3) and no more than nine (9) members who shall be appointed by the Town Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Board for a term not exceeding two years. The Town Board may appoint up to two (2) members to the council who are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. Persons residing within the Town of Chester who are interested in the improvement and preservation of environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as members of the Conservation Advisory Council. Vacancies on the Conservation Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

The Town Board shall set the membership number of the Council by resolution.

§ x-4. Officers; rules of procedure; records.

The Town Board shall designate a chairman of the Council from among the members appointed to the Council. At the first meeting of the Council, its members shall elect from among themselves a recording secretary.

Vacancies on the Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of term of office shall be filled only for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the appropriations made available thereof.

The Council shall adopt rules and procedures for its meetings. It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report with the Town Board on or before the 31st day of December of each and every year. Once approved, the Town Board shall forward a copy of the report to the State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

§ x-5. Powers and duties.

Within its advisory capacity, the Council shall have the responsibility to:

- A. Provide input, assistance, comments and recommendations regarding environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for proposed actions.
- B. Advise the Town Board on matters affecting the preservation, development and use of the natural and physical features and conditions of the Town insofar as beauty, quality, ecologic integrity and other environmental factors are concerned and, in the case of human activities and developments, with regard to any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the long-range value of the environment to the people of the Town.
- C. Develop and, after receiving general approval by resolution of the Town Board, conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.

D. Conduct studies, surveys and inventories of the natural and physical features within the Town and such other studies and surveys as may be necessary to ensure the wise use of natural resources and to enhance and protect the environment and otherwise to carry out the general purposes of this chapter.

E. Advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work.

F. Maintain an up-to-date inventory or index of all open areas within the Town in public or private ownership, including but not limited to natural landmarks, streams and their floodplains, swamps, marshlands and other wetlands, unique biotic communities, scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value, and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas, so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the Council for their preservation and/or ecologically suitable use.

G. Maintain liaison and communications with public and private agencies and organizations of local, state and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or who can be of assistance to the Council.

H. Seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes and cooperate with other municipal official bodies active in the area of community planning.

I. Working in cooperation with the Town of Chester Planning Board, recommend from time to time to the Town Board features, plans and programs relating to environmental improvement for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Chester and, similarly, recommend to the Town Board appropriate and desirable changes in existing local laws and ordinances relating to environmental control or recommend new local laws and ordinances.

J. Obtain and maintain in an orderly fashion maps, reports, books and other publications to support the necessary research of the Council into local environmental conditions.

K. When authorized by resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, accept, by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise, property, both real and personal, in the name of the Town as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Town. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights or as any lesser interest, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right, including conveyance with limitations or reversions.

L. Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by resolution of the Town Board that are consistent with the objectives of this chapter.

§ x-9. Assistance from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

To assist the Council in carrying out its functions, powers and duties, the Council may request the Department of Conservation to:

A. Prepare reports outlining objectives, priorities and proposed relationships of the Council to the local legislative body;

B. Prepare description of work to be undertaken, advantageous techniques to be used and suggested roles of Council members;

C. Provide research on conservation facts and procedures;

D. Provide, on a consulting basis, technical and research assistance as may be required to assist the Council in carrying out its work and to enable the Council to offer recommendations to the local legislative body; and

E. Describe particular areas of natural resources within the city, Town or village, as the case may be, which require particular attention by the Council.

§ x-10 Interpretation.

This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the Town of Chester to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environment on behalf of the present and future in habitants thereof. This chapter is not intended and shall not be deemed to impair the powers of any other public corporation.

Section 2. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 3. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to Section 10 of the Statute of Local Governments and is further authorized by Article 12-F, § 239-x, of the General Municipal Law.

Section 4. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

FEDERAL HIGHLANDS BOUNDARY FOR HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT GRANT PROGRAM

TOWN OF CHESTER

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE TOWN OF CHESTER BE OFFICIALLY INCLUDED IN THE FEDERAL HIGHLANDS BOUNDARY AS MAINTAINED BY THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR THE HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT GRANT PROGRAM, THEREBY QUALIFYING FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY CONGRESS

March 13, 2024

TITLE: A resolution to request that the Town of Chester be officially included in the Federal Highlands Boundary as maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program, thereby qualifying for financial and technical assistance provided by Congress

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on the 13th of March, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT: Brandon Holdridge
 Tom Becker
 Robert Courtenay
 Larry Dysinger

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member Courtenay, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Highlands region, encompasses more than three million acres of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands region is an area of national significance, possessing substantial natural beauty, containing contiguous forest and productive farmland, numerous cultural and historic sites, plentiful recreation opportunities, and the protection and supply of important drinking water sources for over fifteen million people; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress, in bipartisanship, passed the Highlands Conservation Act, Public Law 10-421 that was signed into law by the President of the United States on November 30, 2004, designating the Highlands as a significant national conservation priority region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Conservation Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages a voluntary grant program to assist Highlands States, local units of government, and private forest and farm landowners in the conservation of land and natural resources in the Highlands region in coordination with willing sellers; and

WHEREAS, land preservation efforts in the Highlands region should link the parks, historic sites, wetlands, wildlife habitats, streams, rivers, reservoirs, watershed, trails, scenic and natural lands and other protected areas unique to the region for the enjoyment of future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Board of the Town of Chester, supports being officially included in the federal Highlands boundary, as maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Highlands Conservation Act grant program, thereby qualifying for financial and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Congress.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Yes(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger No: (0) Abstain: (0) Absent (1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT TO BUILDING INSPECTOR

TOWN OF CHESTER TOWN BOARD

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT TO BUILDING INSPECTOR

March 13, 2024

TITLE: A Resolution to Establish the Position of Assistant to Building Inspector

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on the March 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT: Brandon Holdridge
Tom Becker
Robert Courtenay
Larry Dysinger

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Member Courtenay, to wit:

WHEREAS, the TOWN BOARD desires to establish the position of Assistant to the Building Inspector; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chester Town Board hereby establishes the position of Assistant to the Building Inspector as defined by Title 1041 Job Classification set forth by the Orange County Department of Human Resources (herein after “Civil Service”); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Chester, in coordination with Civil Service shall add said title to the list of positions for the Town of Chester; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon creation of said position, the Town of Chester is hereby authorized to canvass qualified candidates in accordance with the Orange County Rules for the Classified Service and the New York State Civil Service Laws.

Discussion: Supervisor Holdridge explained this position is to replace the vacancy in a position within the Building Department.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Yes(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger No: (0) Abstain: (0) Absent (1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO CREATE A SUGAR LOAF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD TOWN OF CHESTER

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A SUGAR LOAF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

March 13, 2024

TITLE: A resolution to create a Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center Advisory Board

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on the 13th day of March, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT: Brandon Holdridge
Tom Becker
Robert Courtenay
Larry Dysinger

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member Courtenay, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center (SLPAC) is owned by the Town of Chester; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Chester is interested in seeking advisory opinions on matters related to the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center from members of the community that are experienced / interested in its various functions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Chester would like there to be a board of three to five members in order to have a diverse but cohesive membership; and

WHEREAS, the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center Advisory Board will meet at least once a month to discuss current SLPAC subjects and plan for the future; and

WHEREAS, the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center Advisory Board will have access to the building and its related documents if necessary and will work closely with all SLPAC related town employees to improve its overall quality; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Chester will have full appointing authority for all members of the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center Advisory Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Board of the Town of Chester, creates a Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center Advisory Board and will post for letters of interest from the public immediately.

Discussion: Supervisor Holdridge commented that the Advisory Board would not have binding power but we need a team of people to assist the employees to help us to improve.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Yes(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger No: (0) Abstain: (0) Absent (1): Ardisana ADOPTED

EDUCATION REQUESTS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Dysinger to approve the attendance of John Schuler to the web-based assessor continuing education class on April 12, 2024 at a cost of \$110.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Dysinger to approve the attendance of Neil Meyer and Brandon Holdridge to AOT Finance School in Albany from May14-15, 2024 at a cost of \$428 p/person plus tolls and travel.

VOTE: AYES(3): Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSTAIN(1) Holdridge, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lydia Cuadros asked why well #3 is being used when it was closed over the past year. Council Member Becker replied that the baker's seal that was removed may have been the cause of bacteria if water was getting in, but the well is currently not being treated with any chemicals and is E-coli free and will be continually monitored once the well is back on-line.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by to Council Member Dysinger to enter into an Executive Session at 9:40pm on a matter of personnel, contracts, Planning Board interviews, ethics complaint.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to adjourn the Executive session at 10:15pm.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

New Business:

ATTORNEY – RPTL ARTICLE 7 TAX CERTIORARI

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to appoint Charles Bazydlo as attorney to represent the Town in matters of RPTL Article 7 Tax Certiorari at \$200 p/hour.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

LETTER OF SUPPORT – SUGAR LOAF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to approve the letter of support for the Sugar Loaf Historical Society placement of a marker in a certain location and direct the Supervisor to sign.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

EARTH DAY EVENT – SUGAR LOAF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to approve the use of the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center by the Sugar Loaf Historical Society on April 21, 2024, and waive the fee, pending availability and certificate of liability insurance.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

COMMUNITY PARK (CARPENTER FIELD) SLIDE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to approve the replacement of the slide at Community Park (Carpenter Field) and cordon off the area.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Doellinger addressed the Board concerning PD response times and indicated the County EMS can provide that information. He added the contract provides a stipend for certified EMT's which the Department currently has one but the six or seven which are expired are still capable. All members are CPR and AED certified and Narcan trained. Although not a substitute for EMS, the Department is able to provide immediate lifesaving and relief to provide peace of mind.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to adjourn the meeting at 10:25pm, there being no further business brought before the Town Board.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2024-03-13