

TOWN BOARD OF CHESTER
MARCH 12, 2014
7 PM

Supervisor Jamieson opened the meeting at 7 PM followed by a salute to the flag.

Members present: Supervisor Jamieson, Councilman Murray, Councilwoman Ranni, Councilman Valentine. Councilwoman Smith arrived*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Legislator John Vero announced that Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus will hold the State of the County address on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6 PM.

He also updated the Board on various County matters.

Austin VanDerMeulen and Wasil Ahmed will be video taping the Town Board meetings and Planning Board meeting.

Park and Recreation sign up for summer camp begins March 22 2014. Forms are on the website.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to approve the bills submitted in the following funds. Motion carried 4-0.

General	\$ 65,213.35
Part Town	23,423.79
Highway	50,902.11
Highway Part Town	6,967.00
Walton Lake Estates	1,640.92
Surrey Meadows	540.51
Lake Hill Farms	609.52
Sugar Loaf Hills	635.49
Fieldcrest Water	163.43
Garbage District	46,931.30
Lake Region Sewer District	16,163.16
Consolidated Sewer Fund	460,949.53
King Tract Sewer District	46,532.62
Sewer District IV	107,754.44
Trust & Agency	<u>172.00</u>
TOTAL	\$828,599.17

APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Ranni to appoint Ernest Damiani to the ZBA for a term ending December 31, 2107. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to appoint Thomas Tripadonis as the Town's labor attorney for a term ending December 31, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

*Councilwoman Smith arrived.

EDUCATION REQUESTS

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Ranni to approve the request for John Gargano to attend a Planning Board class on April 11, 2014 at the Harness Racing Museum in Goshen. Said topic "Agricultural Issues in Orange County" at a cost of \$60. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilman Valentine to approve a request from Tom Keller and Bill Keller to attend a seminar on March 13, 2014 hosted by the Hudson Valley Water Works. Cost is \$30 per member. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilman Valentine to approve the request from Joseph Mlcoch and MaryAnn McKenna to attend training on April 29 to May 1, 2014 at the Rockland Fire Training Center. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman Valentine to approve the request for Officer Oppmann to attend the NYS DCJS course entitled "Crime Scene and Evidence Specialist" on May 12 to 23, 2014 in New Windsor. There is no fee for the course. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to approve the request to send Sgt Vitale and Officer Bird to a course entitled "Gangs 101" on March 19, in Mahwah, NJ. The cost per person is \$40. Motion carried 5-0.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE REPLACEMENT DOG TAGS

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Ranni to increase the replacement dog tag cost to \$10 per tag as this is the actual cost of replacement. Motion carried 5-0.

MOODNA CREEK WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Supervisor Jamieson said previously himself and former Councilman Kannon were the representatives to this council. New members are needed.

There was no decision on this matter.

CVAC

Supervisor Jamieson said he has a letter from the Attorney with regard to CVAC. He needs the Boards authorization to sign same.

Councilman Murray said he thought the Board had given precious authorization for the Supervisor to sign necessary documents with retard to this matter.

Attorney Bonacic said this would be handled through attorney/client privilege

Councilman Valentine said he and Councilman Murray assisted CVAC moving their belongings from the building.

GLENMERE LAKE DAM REMEDIATION

Supervisor Jamieson said he attended a meeting at the orange County DPW with the Mayor of the Village of Florida, Orange County representatives and himself regarding the remediation to the Glenmere Lake Dam. Three engineering firms gave presentations.

The cricket frogs are also in this area.

Discussions are continuing.

HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR NYS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS

Supervisor Jamieson said in 2010 the state passed a law that would permit individual firefighters and emergency volunteers to purchase health insurance through their municipality. The Town has received a request.

Councilman Murray said the Town would need to find out how this would impact our costs. He said the Bookkeeper needs to be contacted to determine the cost.

TOWN PLANNER – PERMISSION TO ATTEND WEBINAR

Town Planner Alan Sorensen brought to the Board attention that the NYSDOT grant for trails and recreational facilities is offering training from March 18 and 19, 2014. Applications are due in June, 2014. There are various programs that the town may be able to benefit from. Some are 80% paid by state and 20% paid by municipality. He has worked with other municipalities and has experience with these grants. The training is free.

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Smith authorizing Alan Sorenson, Councilwoman Ranni to take the webinar regarding the NYS DOT grant program. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Ranni said she would also attend the webinar.

PROPOSED POLICE CONSOLIDATION

Two Board members need to be appointed to the police consolidation study. Currently Councilwoman Smith and Supervisor Jamieson are on the Committee. The Board discussed representatives and will keep the same representatives.

Supervisor Jamieson said for this to work, the Village would have to put this out to a referendum for the Village residents to vote on. It is his understanding, the Village has not done this yet. It is also his understanding the Mayor is not interested in this. He will keep the Board posted.

REQUEST FROM SUGAR LOAF METHODIST CHURCH FOR WATER

A letter was received from the Sugar Loaf United Methodist Church requesting permission for their facility to obtain water from the Town's municipal water system. They have deteriorated water quality from their well.

The Town Clerk said back debt, (if any) would have to be paid. Further information must come from the bookkeeper.

STERLING NATIONAL BANK

Councilwoman Smith spoke on the recent letter from Sterling Bank that they would be closing their Chester branch.

Supervisor Jamieson said he would send a letter to the corporate office regarding this closing.

POSSIBLE CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Councilwoman Ranni asked about the Town initiating credit card payments.

Supervisor Jamieson said he wanted to get the website up and running first.

The Town Clerk asked that before any final decisions are made, BAS be contacted for input. This is the vendor that currently has the (Town Clerk program, The Receiver of Taxes and utility billing program). There is already a company in place that BAS uses that is no cost to the Town.

Concerns arose over this type of payment not being available for all summer recreation sign up.

BUILDINGS

Councilman Murray thanked the Bellvale Community for installing the new security door and window in the Town Hall.

PARK AND RECREATION

FIREWORKS: Police Chief Doellinger asked if the Town would be having a fireworks display this year.

Supervisor Jamison replied yes, but a date has not been selected yet.

SUMMER CAMP: Tracy Schuh reported 50% of the summer camp signed up.

POST PROGRAM SURVEY: Tracy Schuh reported the Commission has been asking participants to fill out post program surveys for feedback on the programs.

PRINTER FOR TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Ranni approving the purchase of a printer for the Town Clerk's office at a cost not to exceed \$300.00 Motion carried 5-0.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Councilwoman Smith reported the library is looking to institute a homebound library system for recipients of the Senior Dining Program

Councilwoman Smith asked if the Town would be looking to change banks since Sterling is leaving Chester.

Supervisor Jamieson said discussions would take place with the other banks in Chester.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 7:50 PM by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by councilman Murray to enter into executive session. Motion carried 5-0.

The executive session ended at 8:45 PM on motion by Councilman Murray which was seconded by Councilwoman Smith and carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION: OBJECTION TO DEC RECOVERY PLAN FOR NYS POPULATIONS OF THE NORTHERN CRICKET FROG

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Valentine, seconded by Councilman Murray and passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has drafted and intends to implement a Recovery Plan for New York State Populations of the Northern Cricket Frog (hereinafter "Recovery Plan"); and

WHEREAS, such Recovery Plan identifies the Glenmere Lake Watershed area located in the Town of Chester is one of the breeding grounds for the Northern Cricket Frogs ; and

WHEREAS, such Recovery Plan further states that in an effort to protect and rehabilitate populations of the Northern Cricket Frog in the identified areas, there shall be mandated preservation of areas located within a three-mile radius of known populations of the Northern Cricket Frog; and

WHEREAS, such mandated preservation efforts on the part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will have a dramatic impact upon land owners and economic growth now in the identified areas; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chester disapproves and objects to the Draft Recovery Plan for New York State Populations of the Northern Cricket Frog in the following respects:

1. The Recovery Plan does not identify the reasons as to why the Northern Cricket Frog population has decreased in southeastern New York. The Recovery Plan speculates as to the potential causes of the decrease in population, but contains no definitive reason. Further, there is evidence and information that would lead to reason that New York is at the end of the habitat range suitable for the Northern Cricket Frog. Populations of the Northern Cricket Frog are plentiful in other areas designated as their habitat. As such, any implementation of the DEC's Recovery Plan with respect to mandated preservation of wide areas around such potential habitats would be premature until more research can be conducted as to more concrete reasons why the populations have decreased.
2. The Recovery Plan does not establish whether the Northern Cricket Frog will re-colonize in the areas within the protection zone and is therefore speculative in nature. However, there is no speculation that the implementation of the Recovery Plan, as it is currently drafted, will to affect landowners, economic growth and quality of life in Orange County, and specifically, within the identified areas of the Glenmere Lake Watershed vicinity.
3. The Recovery Plan includes data on the population of the Northern Cricket Frog from the years 1887 through 2011, but fails to address any changes to the landscape and evolving land uses during that period of time. Further, the Recovery Plan does not acknowledge that areas indicated to be part of the Northern Cricket Frog habitat are now, and have long been, areas for residential, agricultural and commercial activities. The Recovery Plan makes no effort to balance these significant competing interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town Board of the Town of Chester shall reconsider its position on and objections to the Recovery Plan as drafted should the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation undertake efforts and conduct further research regarding the issues herein referenced.

There being no further business brought before the Board, a motion was made by 8:50 PM by Councilman Murray, which was seconded by Councilwoman Smith and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Reilly, Town Clerk, 2014-03-12