

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2014  
7:00 PM

Supervisor Jamieson opened the meeting at 7:00 PM followed by a salute to the flag. Members present: Supervisor Jamieson, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Ranni, Councilman Valentine, Absent: Councilman Murray

Supervisor Jamieson announced that this was the last meeting the Town Clerk, Betty Ann Reilly would officiate in her capacity. Her retirement has been set for September 30, 2014. Supervisor Jamieson said, although the Town has to conduct business, this was a special night for a special person. He showed his notes that he was jotting down and the page was blank. He couldn't find the right words to express how grateful he was to be part of the last seven years and being the last Supervisor she had to work with. He acknowledged the room full of people who came out to congratulate her and her long history of people she has dealt with at the Town. Also, as a candidate who ran in several elections, it was always amazing to see how many votes she would get. She was the most popular and famous person in the Town of Chester.

E-RECYCLABLES

Supervisor Jamieson announced that IWS had agreed to collect e-recyclables again from the Town at their drop-off facility on Black Meadow Road.

HIGHWAY PURCHASE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to accept the lowest bidder in the purchase of a 12-ton trailer by the Highway Department at a cost of \$9,995. Motion carried 4-0.

INSURANCE PURCHASE

Supervisor Jamieson read the request of a part-time worker to purchase health insurance through the Town of Chester at 100% cost. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to approve the purchase of health insurance at a 100% reimbursement by the employee. Motion carried 4-0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilwoman Ranni and seconded by Councilman Valentine to pay dues of \$1,500 to the Association of Towns. Motion carried 4-0.

EDUCATION REQUESTS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilwoman Ranni to approve the training request of Sgt. Eckert by Safe Homes of Orange County, entitled, "Domestic Violence – Beyond the Obvious" for a cost of \$22.00 Motion carried 4-0.

Supervisor Jamieson read the request of the Warwick Valley Humane Society for additional funding from the Town in 2015 for the Spay – Neuter – Return program in the amount of \$600.00 maximum. No motion was brought on this request.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Ranni to transfer \$12,502.56 from the Parkland Fund to 7110.4 (fund a/c corrected per bookkeeper) representing the total of the itemized expenses presented by the Parks and Recreation director.

## BUILDING PERMIT FEE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to reduce the building permit fee to be charged to Rebecca Doderer, 518 Black Meadow Road, Chester from \$3,772.00 to \$250.00 Motion carried 4-0.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Ranni to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss personnel. Motion carried 4-0

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilman Valentine to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the general meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

## LIBRARY EMPLOYEES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilwoman Ranni and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to appoint Barry Weinberger and Nancy Hanson as Part-time Library Clerks and Mrs. Maryann Brand as a Librarian and Head of Circulation. Motion carried 4-0.

## PROCLAMATION AND PRESENTATIONS

Supervisor Jamieson read the proclamation presented to Betty Ann Reilly from the Town of Chester.

**TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CHESTER  
PROCLAMATION HONORING  
ELIZABETH A. REILLY  
UPON HER RETIREMENT AS TOWN CLERK OF THE TOWN OF CHESTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Chester is desirous of recognizing outstanding achievements by citizens of the Chester Community; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth A. Reilly, better known to us as Betty Ann, is an outstanding citizen who has contributed so much to our community during her tenure as Town Clerk of the Town of Chester; and

**WHEREAS**, during her long career in public service, Betty Ann has given most generously of her time to everyone who has come in contact with her; she has been the "face" of the Town of Chester for over 24 years as Town Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, in her capacity as Town Clerk, Betty Ann served as Clerk to the Town Board through six administrations; Registrar of Vital Statistics as well as Records Access Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, Betty Ann's distinguished career in public service began at the Village of Chester where she served as temporary secretary to the Planning Board, Court Clerk to Judge Fred Van Der Meulen, Deputy Clerk under Betty Kreher, and then as the Town of Chester Tax Collector from 1986-1989, Deputy Town

*Clerk under Barbara Spina from 1989-1990, and Town of Chester Town Clerk from January, 1990 through September, 2014; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Betty Ann has been the volunteer coordinator for the Orange County Office for the Aging Senior Dining Program since 1990, sponsored the Santa's Toy Box Drive for the Orange County Parks Department since 1990, sponsored free rabies clinics in the 1990's, sponsored children for the Town of Chester Summer Recreation; assisted the Orange County Board of Elections; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Betty Ann has been bestowed many honors including the distinction of New York State District 2 Town Clerk of the Year 2009, the Kiwanis Everyday Hero 2010; recipient of the Girl State Award in 1971; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Betty Ann's professional memberships include the New York State Town Clerk's Association, the Orange/Sullivan Town Clerk's Association, New York Association of Local Records Officers, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks; and*

**WHEREAS** *Betty Ann has served as Secretary and Vice President to the Orange/Sullivan Town Clerk's Association, District Director for the New York State Town Clerk's Association; and*

**WHEREAS** *Betty Ann's interest in public service began with Youth in Government in High School, where she was the office girl considered so trustworthy as to be allowed to type final exams, served as summer secretary to the Guidance Counselor and volunteer secretary to the Athletic Director, served as summer counselor of arts & crafts and swimming for the Town of Chester Parks & Recreation; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Betty Ann supports local organizations and businesses as a current member of the Chester Republican Party Committee, Chester Cemetery Association Trustee, previous Trustee to the Chester Presbyterian Nursery School, previous Deacon and Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Chester; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Betty Ann has assisted families in times of need as a volunteer coordinator for the Hurricane Katrina financial drive for the New York State Town Clerk's Association and the Town of Chester which filled a 55 ft. tractor trailer bound for the affected Parishes of Louisiana; and*

**WHEREAS**, *of particular note Betty Ann was most proud to be a participant in the Kiwanis 911 Memorial planning, fundraising and dedication event; and*

**WHEREAS**, *members of the community are grateful for her dedication, knowledge and service to all Chester residents; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Betty Ann will be greatly missed but never forgotten, as she retires as Town Clerk from the Town of Chester on September 30, 2014.*

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, *that the Town Board joins the members of the Chester community in extending their congratulations and best wishes to Betty Ann Reilly upon her retirement.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** *that this Proclamation be spread upon the minutes of the official proceedings of the Town Board meeting this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014.*

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD**

**TOWN OF CHESTER**

**Alexander Jamieson**

**Supervisor**

Supervisor Jamieson added that all the offices of the Town would miss Betty Ann, not only for her knowledge but for her friendship as well. There is a reason she was named the "face" of the Town. Her office was the first place the people of the Town would turn when they entered Town Hall. If you accomplished just some of what is in the proclamation you could be very proud. As Supervisor Jamieson

said he was at a loss of words, he presented Betty Ann with the Proclamation. Supervisor Jamieson then presented Betty Ann Reilly with a plaque that read, "Elizabeth A. Reilly, "Betty Ann", Town Clerk, 1990-2014. In appreciation of your dedication, commitment and generosity to all the citizens of the Town of Chester, may your retirement be joyful and may you have the time to do all the things of which you've dreamed.

Presented by the Town of Chester Town Board."

Betty Ann addressed the Board and the audience. She said she would not miss the minutes. She said although not ready to retire, her health issues have not let go. She feels well now, but doesn't think she has the stamina or felt it fair to the constituents for her to stay on. She thanked her family, first and foremost, not "last but not least" as she acknowledged their continuous support. She said this felt like this was the end of a book and she will start another book. She thanked all, and offered her help to anyone who might need it.

#### APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

Supervisor Jamieson acknowledged the work of Deputy Town Clerk, Linda Zappala for all the times she has filled in during Betty Ann's absence. He commented that she has both Betty Ann's support as well as the Board in her appointment as Town Clerk. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilwoman Ranni and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to appoint Linda Zappala as Town Clerk, Town Registrar and Records Access Officer for the Town of Chester, effective October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015. Motion carried 4-0.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Jamieson announced the consideration of changing the name of the Chester Commons to the "Charles Shaughnessy Park".

Supervisor Jamieson commented that the Town is still waiting for comments from the County with regard to the proposed billboard law.

Supervisor Jamieson announced that the Comprehensive Plan public hearing should be scheduled for a date sometime in November, 2014.

Councilman Valentine commented that when he moved to Chester 17 years ago, Betty Ann Reilly was the first person he met. He said she always made people feel comfortable.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Justice Janet Haslip commented that the Court will miss Betty Ann Reilly. She said she was always well prepared, quick and efficient; all hallmarks of a good public servant. She added the staff of the clerk's office has been an integral part of a great team. She thanked Betty Ann professionally and personally, as she recalled early on when there was an opening in family court and she received the encouragement from Betty Ann to propel her forward. She wished her much happiness in her retirement.

Supervisor Jamieson acknowledged Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Sabados and Pat DeBlasio, who are part of the Town Clerk's team for all their hard work.

County Executive Steve Neuhaus added that Simone Klopff of the Police Department has also been an asset to the Clerk's team. He then commented that he worked with Betty Ann as a councilman for 4

years and then as Supervisor for 6 years. He said there is no one like her. He said many elected officials would not be where they were without her. He said Chester is so much better off with all that she has done. Every major issue impacting the Town or County was brought to his attention by Betty Ann. He acknowledged her support to the Allen family. At 9/11, she helped to organize the memorial tribute. He recounted the Louisiana hurricane effort, when the police assembled to load up trucks. The County Executive presented Betty Ann Reilly with a Certificate of Appreciation from the County of Orange.

Barbara Decker commented how Betty Ann Reilly was loved in the Town of Chester. As part of the Towns Clerks' Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties, she was a respected for her professionalism and loving and caring ways. She is loved throughout the State of New York. She expressed her happiness and sadness, knowing Betty Ann was retiring for health reasons. She wished her all the happiness and good health and said she will be missed.

John Berolson of the Bellvale Community said he appreciated the welcome Betty Ann gave them when they moved into Town and the opportunity to work together. She kept him posted of the needs in the neighborhood and community. He stated that the Bellvale Community looks forward to working with the new Town Clerk, Linda Zappala and the members of the Town Board in collaborating in the future. John wished Betty Ann all the best.

Ms. Patricia Langton addressed the Board. She said she recalled attending the meeting of September 25, 2013 in which she thought the Board voted on the proposed local law regarding Minimum Attendance and Training following the public hearing, but was not reflected in the minutes of that meeting. She asked why the Board approved the minutes of that meeting.

Attorney Scott Bonacic addressed Betty Ann and wished her the best. He said Betty Ann made everyone a better public servant. She cared for the Board members and residents. She was always accessible, even on weekends. Upon a request for information, she would provide within 24 hours. He said the accolades resonated that she truly cared for those she represented and will be sorely missed.

Supervisor Jamieson added that although the show must go on, his sentiment is that having Betty Ann be part of his political life, as well as the employees and residents of the Town of Chester to the extent she has is rare. There was never a complaint and even when she had a rough day she refused to let the people down. He said, her "Irish toughness" will not allow the illness that she has to let her down. Supervisor Jamieson said he is grateful to have come across someone who means a lot to him and the people he represents. He said she was the best Town Clerk. He wished her the best. He said she has a great family and grandkids and that she needs to get better for them. Supervisor Jamieson noted that Linda Zappala would have to fill Bozo's shoes, but as a group, the people at Town Hall are always willing to provide teamwork, and he committed himself and his office to help.

There being no other business brought before the Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Councilman Valentine and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala  
Deputy Town Clerk  
2014.09.24