

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2019
7:00 PM**

Supervisor Valentine opened the meeting at 7:00pm followed by a salute to the flag. Members present: Supervisor Valentine, Councilman Perez, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Wensley, Absent: Councilman Finizia

Also present: Scott Bonacic, Esq., Town Attorney, Al Fusco, Town Engineer

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to approve payment of the bills from the following accounts.

GENERAL FUND	\$121,185.73
GENERAL - PART TOWN	48,447.57
HIGHWAY – TOWN WIDE	7,612.15
HIGHWAY – OUTSIDE	10,002.66
FIELDCREST WATER	1,049.43
LAKE HILL FARMS WATER	340.72
SUGAR LOAF HILLS WATER	4,503.47
SURREY MEADOWS WATER	794.13
GARBAGE DISTRICT	45,775.78
WALTON LAKE WATER	8,575.82
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>5,733.50</u>
Grand Total	\$254,020.96

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to accept the Town Board Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2019 as presented by Town Clerk Zappala.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

CANCEL TOWN BOARD MEETING

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to cancel the December 24, 2019 Town Board Meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 8, 2020.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

LEHIGH AVENUE STREETLIGHT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilwoman Smith to approve the streetlight at Lehigh Avenue and Route 17, Exit 127 Ramp at a cost of \$147.72 per year.

COUNTYWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO NETWORK

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilwoman Smith to approve the Public Safety Emergency Radio Communications System Interoperability Agreement with the County of Orange and direct the Supervisor to execute same.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Valentine explained that it is a new digital system and the contract has been approved by the Town Attorney.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to appoint Kristin Palmer to the position of Entry Level Account Clerk, effective immediately.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

PBA CONTRACT

Supervisor Valentine explained that contract negotiations between the PBA and Councilman Perez and himself will benefit both the Town and the officers.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to approve the contract with the Town of Chester PBA and direct the Supervisor to execute same, subject to labor attorney review.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

POLICE SARGENT APPOINTMENT

ON A MOTION BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilwoman Smith appoint Josh Dugan and Police Sargent for the Town of Chester, effective immediately.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

WATER MAIN EXTENSION

Supervisor Valentine advised the Board on the potential water main extension and outside user agreement being negotiated with the proposed distillery in Sugar Loaf. The potential tie-in would allow the Town the opportunity to link the Hamlet into the Sugar Loaf Water District. The extension could be installed through an easement between two lots on Creamery Pond Road from the SLPAC to the center of the Hamlet providing for a 10” water main that could be used for fire suppression of the SLPAC and the distillery. He added the lion’s share of the expense could be paid by applicant, Broccoli Patch. He asked the Board’s consensus to consider.

SET RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to set the Re-Organization Meeting of the Town of Chester on January 8, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Chester Town Hall Meeting Room and direct Town Clerk Zappala to cause to publish same.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

APPROVE ANNUAL PAYROLL

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilman Wensley to approve the payment of the annual payroll for the Town of Chester.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Wensley and second by Councilman Perez to accept the Independent Audit Report of the Town of Chester for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

WATER BILLING SOFTWARE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilwoman Smith to approve the purchase of the Edmunds MCSJ Utility Billing Module for the Water Department at a cost of \$13,915.00. Cost to be prorated between all water districts out of the 2020 budget.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

APPROVE ON-LINE ACCESS FOR SHOPRITE ACCOUNT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilwoman Smith to approve the online access of the ShopRite account by Michele Deshler and Sharon Conklin for the Recreation Department and allow the Supervisor to sign the agreement.

VOTE AYES 4: Perez, Smith, Valentine, Wensley

ADOPTED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to enter into an Executive Session at 7:30pm to discuss matters of litigation. Motion carried 4-0.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:15pm. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Supervisor Valentine read the following reports into the Minutes.

Engineer's Report

CHESTERDALE:

Getting ready for dedication.

HILLS OF CHESTER:

They have requested bond; working with Town Attorney.

RIDGEVIEW:

Pending bond reduction. No current action.

WOODRIDGE:

Getting ready for dedication.

ASHFORD:

Dedicated.

GREENS AT CHESTER:

Continuing to inspect infrastructure and SWPPP

HIGHWAY GARAGE:

Redevelopment to begin with ordered steel after insurance company approved. Spoke with insurance; we have viable direction from them. Met with the insurance company, sent deposit to fabricator. Steel to arrive 3-4 weeks. Talked to insurance company; should have their answer this week.

SENIOR PARK:

Being designed and grant for \$150,000 in contract with DASNY. Meet on site and are finalizing design.

MS4 OUTFALL:

Studies and mapping continuing, public participation ongoing.

Police Department – November 2019

During the month of November, the Town of Chester Police Department remained highly active in the community, we continued to take a proactive stance towards detecting crime and enforcing the laws, while maintaining our overall objective of community commitment. In November, the police department responded to 256 calls for service. Officers patrolled for 13,154 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 13 arrests during the month, a summary of the arrests is as follows:

- 7 arrests for Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors
- 1 arrest for felony Assault in the second degree
- 1 arrest for Aggravated Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Forcible Touching
- 2 arrests for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the seventh degree
- 1 arrest for Driving While Intoxicated
- 1 arrest for Unlawful Possession of Marihuana

NON-CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

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

- 22 medical calls
- 17 animal complaints
- 17 residential & commercial alarms
- 9 reports of suspicious conditions, people and/or vehicles
- 6 911 hang-up calls
- 4 domestic disputes & family court matters

- 2 motor vehicle crashes with injuries
- 6 motor vehicle crashes without injuries
- 12 motor vehicle crash involving deer

Officers also issued 169 uniform traffic tickets during the month.

MIDNIGHT SHIFT

- 30 Vehicle & Traffic Stops
- 13 UTTs Issued
- 60 Calls for Service

SEX OFFENDERS

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

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

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 51 house security checks and 1132 business security checks.

Officer Perez continued his assignment as a school resource officer in the Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School.

There were no child safety seat installations conducted at the station in November. Officers Bird, Weinstein, Stack and Dugan continue to remain available for child passenger safety seat checks and installations.

Officer Monsees provided a tour of the police station to a local Girl Scout unit on November 8th. He also made plans to assist another Girl Scout unit with a merit badge in 2020.

TRAINING

Detective Slaughter attended the Basic Criminal Investigator course from November 14th to 27th in New Windsor. Chief Doellinger attended a presentation on Police Officer Suicides in Middletown on November 21st.

All officers attended monthly training on November 21st at the old Chester High School with the Tactical Response Unit for an active shooter response refresher.

Officer Pavese and Officer Calderone continued in the department field-training program in November.

MISCELLANEOUS

Officers were present for a Chester Academy varsity football game at the Chester Commons Park on November 1st.

Officers checked the polling places in the town throughout the day on November 5th and assisted with the transport of the election bags to the Board of Elections after the polls closed.

Chief Doellinger attended the Orange County Leadership Prayer Breakfast in New Windsor on November 13th.

Commercial vehicle enforcement details were held with the NYS DOT on November 13th and 27th. Twelve commercial vehicles were inspected and eight unsafe vehicles were taken out of service.

Chief Doellinger attended a press conference on November 21st in Goshen about the problems that may occur

with the new bail and discovery reforms laws in 2020.

Five officers participated in the Holiday Lights Parade in the Village of Chester on November 30th. The armored vehicle was entered with a trailer display and two patrol cars were also entered.

One letter of thanks was received during the month. A copy is attached.

SCHEDULING

There were 112.5 hours of overtime paid in November.

Shift Coverage	61
Monthly Training	18.5
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Detail	18
Late Calls/Arrests	5.5
AM Traffic Enforcement Details	4.5
Police Traffic Services Grant Enforcement	3
Daylight Savings Time	2

Part-time police officers were used to fill 112 hours of patrol shift coverage (112 regular hours and no overtime hours).

Animal Control Report – November 2019

During the month of November 2019, the Town of Chester Police Department responded to 17 animal complaints and investigated 12 motor vehicle crashes involving deer. A breakdown of the complaints for the month is included below:

- 7 of the calls for service were for injured or deceased deer
- 6 of the calls for service were for barking dogs
- 2 of the calls for service were for loose or lost dogs
- 2 of the calls for service were for dog welfare checks

Warwick Valley Humane Society – November 2019

The monthly report for November from the Warwick Valley Humane Society is attached. All totals include calls from the Town of Chester, Village of Chester, Village of Sugar Loaf, and Orange County 911 Center for calls located within the geographic area of the Town of Chester.

Number of calls received:	0 Police, 8 other
Number of times ACO dispatched to calls:	0
Number of dogs impounded by ACO:	0
Number of dogs impounded by police:	0
Number of dogs returned to owner:	0

Number of after hour call-outs:	0
Amount of impoundment fees collected:	\$ 0.00
Amount of license fees collected:	\$ 0.00
Amount of impoundment fees paid to Town:	\$ 0.00
Amount of license fees paid to Town:	\$10.00
Number of hours of enumeration	4.5 hrs. (+10 hrs. owed into Dec.)
Number of bite reports received:	0
Number of appearance tickets issued:	0
Number of unlicensed dogs:	per Town Clerk notices
Status of unlicensed dogs:	4 notices delivered per Town Clerk
Number of Chester cats admitted to shelter:	0

Location of enumeration: Enumeration of Ridgefield Drive, Sunrise Pointe plus delivery of 4 Notices to Comply per Town Clerk.

SNR certificates sold in November 4

Water Department Monthly Report – November 2019

The water department processed and distributed 6,013,615 gallons of water for the month of November. The districts daily average ranged from 283 gallons to 110,000 gallons. The monthly breakdown is:

- Lake Hill Farms- 2,322,000 gal.
- Sugar Loaf- 1,377,400 gal.
- Surrey Meadows- 1,148,000 gal.
- Walton Lake Estates- 1,016,500 gal.
- Fieldcrest- 140,399 gal. (Distribution only)
- Town Hall- 9,316 gal.

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

Monthly DOH 360 forms and test results for October were submitted on 11/8/19.

Laboratory testing dates were the 6th and the 20th.

Winter hydrant marker flags were put up on the week of the 11th.

Leaf clean up at the water plants was done on the 6th & 7th.

Other Business:

Walton Lake Estates was mostly quiet with routine operation and maintenance. There was one water main break at 38 Maple on the 22nd. The highway dept. assisted with excavating and trucking. The pump failed in well #4 and had to be replaced. Work was done by Quackenbush pumps on the 19th. The plant computer was out on the 27th. We were able to reboot and reset.

Sugar Loaf was quiet with normal operation and maintenance. Leak detection spot checks continue on Pewter Circle. There was another failed water main saddle at 12 Pewter on the 21st. It was repaired by TAM. Highway dept. assisted with trucking

and back-fill.

Surrey Meadows was mostly quiet with normal operation and maintenance. We repaired a service line leak at 38 Surrey on the 21st. Highway dept. assisted with excavating and trucking.

Lake Hill Farms was quiet with regular operations and maintenance. We received a cover letter and testing results from NYS DOH on the 6th. It was about testing they did a few months earlier checking for PFOS contamination. Test results were clean with no issues found.

Fieldcrest was mostly quiet with normal operation and maintenance. The water was turned off for the season at Chester Commons Park.

Supervisor Valentine read the locations of the Smart Meter Installations for January 2020:

BELLVALE RD	KINGS HWY	RENIES RD
CAMBRIDGE CIR	LAKE-REGION BLVD	SOUTHSIDE DR
DUG RD	LAKES RD	
FERNGLADE CT	MAPLE LN	
FERN-GLADE CT	OAK DR	
HEATON RD	POPLAR DR	

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Councilman Perez wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Smith reported the Snowball Dance having been a great success and the Children's Holiday Party well attended. She said Michele is working on trips for 2020 and that Walter, Kristen and Michele all work together to make the programs successful. Councilwoman Smith announced the following upcoming events:

December 13 – Bellvale Community Christmas Sing-a-long

December 15 – Walton Fire Engine & Hose Breakfast with Santa – 7:30am-noon

Councilman Wensley said this will be his last meeting and that it has been a tremendous three years and he has made great friends. He said his leaving is bittersweet and that with his current job responsibilities he has just not able to devote more time, but it has been an honor to serve the Town of Chester.

Supervisor Valentine said the Town Board wanted to thank Ryan for his time and always making himself available. He also mentioned that Councilman Finizia couldn't attend tonight's meeting since he was busy bringing in new firefighters.

Councilman Finizia wanted to congratulate all the members elect. Supervisor Valentine thanked him for his service to the Town and his help with the Highway Department fire. He added he always asked good questions and brought up good ideas that otherwise might not have been thought of. Supervisor Valentine also congratulated the Councilmen elect, Tom Becker and Bob Courtenay.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victoria Whittaker, 40 Jules Drive, asked the status of her proposal to purchase certain lots owned by the Town, which are vacant and adjacent to her own property. Supervisor Valentine said the Board has to do their homework before putting any parcels up for sale, but it is open for discussion.

Rabbi Joel Loeb, Blooming Grove, represents the KJ Committee for Peace and Harmony, said the Town is not anti-Semites. He said he understands the people want to keep the rural character and not suffer the pain of the block vote that takes over communities. He said the block vote contradicts the Torah to be humble in exile as it is against human relationships and he pleads with the developer to take this issue seriously, and he hopes and prays to live in peace and harmony without the issue of taking over.

Moses Hirsch, Woodbury, spoke about the Satmar starting in KJ to live humbly in peace but was forgotten as the village and block vote was created. He said anti-Semitism and discrimination is a great tool to make everyone quiet, but he condemns it with the strongest terms. He said he would like to live in peace and harmony.

Tracy Shuh, Preservation Collection thanked Ryan for starting the Engineer's Report, and wished him well. She said she hoped the engineer would be here but this is the second time he has managed to dodge her questions. She said the buck stops at the Town Board, and has an issue with her FOIL appeal to get data that has not been provided. She said she finds the outcome troubling that the maps were signed after her appeal and correspondence to the Planning Board concerning this project. She said the Planning Board needs to look at the code and conduct site visits and in-house training from the DEC, since the ecosystem is important and accuracy affects all projects.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Wensley to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm there being no further business brought before the Board. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2019-12-11