

DRAFT

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 27, 2020
7:00 PM**

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

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

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was live-streamed via videoconferencing. Public comments were heard and will also be accepted via email or regular mail.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2021 ORANGE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to open the Public Hearing on the matter of the 2021 Community Development Block Grant program. Motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor Valentine read the notice that was published in the Time Herald Record both in English and Spanish on May 10 and May 22, 2020.

**TOWN OF CHESTER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
RESCHEDULED**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on May 27, 2020, at 7:00PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, a Public Hearing will be held before the Town Board of the Town of Chester, New York at the Town Hall, located at 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York 10918 inviting public comments and suggestions regarding projects to be considered for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding under the Orange County Office of Community Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program. Under the CDBG program a variety of projects, including, but not limited to, those listed below can potentially be eligible for funding:

1. Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property
2. Public Works, Public Facilities or Site Improvements
3. Code enforcement (Health Codes)
4. Clearance, Demolition and Rehabilitation for Public Use
5. Special Projects for Elderly and Handicapped
6. Provision of Public Services (Shelters, Clinics, Senior Nutrition, etc.)
7. Payment of Non-Federal Shares of Other Grant Programs

The Town of Chester will be considering projects to be submitted to the Orange County Community Development Office's CDBG Entitlement Program. The deadline for which is Friday, June 26, 2020.

Dated: May 5, 2020

By: Linda A. Zappala, Town Clerk
Town of Chester
Orange County, New York

TOWN OF CHESTER
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
RESCHEDULED

El Town of Chester Invita comentario del public y sugerencias en cuanto a proyectos que seran pagados por los fondos del Orange County Community Development Program. Una Audiencia Publica sers reunida el 27 de Mayo de 2020 ala 7:00PM en the Town of Chester. Bejo este programa hay una variedad de mejoramientos fisicos cuales se alistan abajo y que elegibles para conseguir fondos:

1. Adquisicion y disposician de bienes raices
2. Proyectos publicos, y mejoramientos de sitio o de facilidades publicas
3. Codigo de compulsion (codigos de alojamiento y sanidad)
4. Hacer espacio libre, la demolicion y la rehabilitacion para uso del public o desarrollo economico
5. Prestamos y donaciones para la rehabilitacion de alojamientos
6. Proyectos espaciales para los de edad avanzaday los que tienen una desventaja
7. Provision de servicios publicos (hospedajes, clinicas, nutricion para lose dad avanzada, efeetera)
8. Pago de acciones no-federales de otros programas de donacion
9. Pagos para ayudar en localizarse y pagos y asistencia parsa relocalizarse

El Town of Chester considerara proyectos la fecha tope sometidos al Programa de Orange County Community Development sera el June 26, 2020.

Por: Robert Valentine, Supervisor
Town of Chester

By: Linda A. Zappala, Town Clerk
Town of Chester
Orange County, New York
Dated: May 5, 2020

Supervisor Valentine asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Engineer Al Fusco explained that the grant application would include ADA compliance issues at the lower level of Town Hall.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to close the Public Hearing at 7:05pm. Motion carried 5-0.

STANDARD WORKDAY REPORTING RESOLUTION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to adopt the following Standard Workday Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials.

VOTE: AYES 5: Valentine, Becker, Courtenay, Perez, Smith

ADOPTED

LIBRARY REQUEST TO APPOINT TRUSTEE

Supervisor Valentine said he will speak to the library to co-ordinate the interview of the candidate.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Councilman Courtenay said he is working on putting all the information gathered from Town Clerk Zappala to create a working draft. He recognized the Chief for his input as well.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to place a Request for Proposals for professional services to draft the employee handbook for the Town of Chester and directs Town Clerk Zappala to cause to publish same.

VOTE: AYES 5: Valentine, Becker, Courtenay, Perez, Smith

ADOPTED

WATER OPERATOR POSITION

Councilman Becker said there is a candidate who wants to make a move from another municipality and all applicants will be interviewed by the next meeting.

WATER PROTECTION PLAN

Councilman Becker said he has provided a plan for review of the Town Board. Supervisor Valentine commented that we need something that does not threaten the property rights of the owners.

RE-OPENING PLAN

Supervisor Valentine said the Town's re-opening plan will be in accordance with the Governor and will look to get new directives. He said he thought park re-opening is a good idea to allow people to get out and social distance. He asked the consensus of the Board. Councilman Perez said it was a good idea. Councilwoman Smith said we should open the playgrounds but not the bathrooms as not many kids will not be frequenting the playgrounds now that it is warmer. Councilman Courtenay said we should make sure we have safety protocols in place as well as a plan for the re-opening of Town Hall. Councilwoman Smith said masks should be required as well as guidelines. Supervisor Valentine said Orange County will have guidelines coming out to make the employees comfortable coming back and sharing space so that business can be conducted properly in the Town. He said he will reach out the Orange County. Councilwoman Smith said Elaine is wiping down Town Hall and the courtroom three times per week.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Supervisor Valentine shared the following statistics of the disease.

TOTAL CASES:	10,440
DEATHS:	443
HOSPITALIZATIONS	73
Pending testing	24

He added next week salons and barber shops are due to open.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Councilwoman Smith stated that the refunds for the cancelled trips had been sent out. She said a decision should be made about whether the Town would conduct summer camp. She noted that the Recreation and Parks Department were painting the theater and it looks great. She added that the Highway Department has lengthened the walking trail in the Commons

Park. She said although restaurants are not yet open, we can support them by doing take-out. Councilwoman Smith said her employer, the Lyceun Stage Lighting would be re-opening on Monday. Councilwoman Smith asked Chief Doellinger about plans for the Town's community day in September, which he said no decision has been made as of yet.

CANCELLATION OF SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

Supervisor Valentine said the majority of Towns are cancelling their summer camp programs due to the loss of staff that it takes, and under attended camp can cause financial loss to the Town and would be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. He suggested the Town follow suit.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to cancel the Summer Camp Program for the 2020 season.

VOTE: AYES 5: Valentine, Becker, Courtenay, Perez, Smith

ADOPTED

Councilman Perez congratulated all the graduating season in the Town of Chester and encourages everyone to go out and vote for the school budgets. Supervisor Valentine added that there are three different school districts in the Town.

Councilman Courtenay said he is working with Mayor Tom Bell to talk to restaurants about and outdoor seating and getting a very positive response. He said he things we should suspend any outdoor seating ordinance for the year. He said he has left information at the Tap House about it. It is all in an effort the help businesses out in the community. Attorney Bonacic said we cannot circumvent the Orange County Health Department. Councilman Courtenay said he believes they are helping the restaurants along with that. Supervisor Valentine said we might be able to waive and site plan review of outdoor seating. Chief Doellinger commented that if it were on private property it should be okay. Attorney Bonacic said the Board could take a look at the local law and specify any changes.

Councilman Becker stated he had I helped Bill Keller replace a water service line at a Lake Hill Farms home. He thanked Bill Keller for the great work he does along with Superintendent LaSpina and his highway crew that are always there to help and Jamie from Moodna Basin who assisted with the vac-truck. He said the Town is lucky to have departments that work and help each other out on projects like this. Councilman Becker said for Walton Lake Estates we initiated water restrictions at our last meeting to curb usage because their main well has been experiencing reduced capacity at this time. During the last two weeks usage at this district has increased over 10,000 gallons a day. He has asked Chief Doellinger to have his officers give warnings to residents that are observed using water outdoors to create awareness. He added it is critical that this usage be reduced so we will be able to take this well out of service for remediation of the problem. He thanked the residents at Walton Lake Estates for their patience in this matter. He said he met last week at Walton Lake Estates with Supervisor Valentine, Bill Keller, and John Turnbull to go over options. We have a two-part solution. The quickest option was to frack the existing well to increase capacity, our second is to use property acquired by the Town to create a new source of water to supply for this District. This will take time but we must start this process to creating a new source of water. He said he has forwarded information to Senator James Skoufis for money that may be available for this project, and contacted the Orange County Health Dept. about this. He thanked Councilman Courtenay for his work on the handbook which he has been reviewing and will be forwarding his comments. Concerning our Well Protection Overly, he has received information from Al Fusco on how to proceed and Attorney Bonacic has reviewed the document and has some concerns that need to be addressed. He will continue to work with the attorney to create a viable ordinance. At the Highway Garage, he reported, the roof has been completed and work is continuing. Also, he commented that Keith Myers has requested not to do temperature checks which Superintendent LaSpina feels is worthwhile, and he opined is his call as Department head.

Supervisor Valentine spoke on the Glenmere Lake Dam situation. He said the Town owned road has cost \$1,000,000 and as we are tasked with the job of protecting the benefit of our taxpayers, he has been fighting, back and forth with the County and Village of Florida to acquire the land around the lake to provide lake access. He has asked County Legislator Vero for assistance, to which he recommended a resolution be drawn to appeal to the County, which will be discussed with Attorney Bonacic.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracy Shuh asked about the status of the Ethics Committee members. Supervisor Valentine informed her there had been a couple of replies but the position has not yet been filled. She announced the next Planning Board meeting of June 3, 2020 and the Village of Chester Comprehensive Plan Draft committee meeting on June 25.

Michele Deshler announced the upcoming Salute to Class 2020 by the Town and Village officials, Police Departments and Fire Department on June 23.

Al Fusco commented that the highway garage was coming along and is two weeks away from completion and punch list items. He added we received approval of \$48,000 for fire wall upgrades.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to adjourn the meeting, there being no further business brought before the Town Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2020-05-27