

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
JUNE 24, 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 held in-person with social distancing and live-streamed via Chester Rec FB page. Public comments were heard and will also be accepted via email or regular mail.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to accept the bid of \$16,800 for a 1991 Ford Backhoe through Auctions International.

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

ADOPTED

SURESKI BOND REFUND

Supervisor Valentine read the request from Esposito & Associates requesting the return of bond in satisfaction of 3-year term for plantings. Both the Engineer and Building Inspection are okay with the project results.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to refund \$20,086 to Sureski & Sons.

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

ADOPTED

APPOINTMENTS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Becker and second by Councilman Perez to appoint Chris Cox to the position of Water Operator.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Becker explained that Chris applied, interviewed and met all the qualifications.

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

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilman Courtenay to appoint Maria Arias as a Republican member of the Ethics Committee.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Valentine opined that Maria had a nice resume and unbiased attitude.

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

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Perez and second by Councilman Courtenay to hire Stephen Smith, Jr and Matthew Popailo as seasonal laborers for field maintenance.

VOTE: AYES 4: Valentine, Becker, Courtenay, Perez, ABSTAINED 1: Smith

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Becker and second by Councilwoman Smith to appoint Daniel Mahoney as Library Trustee.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Valentine said after the Library placed an official posting, the candidate was interviewed by Councilmembers Becker and Smith.

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

ADOPTED

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Councilman Becker spoke on the current issue at Walton Lake Estates with regard to water restrictions put in place due to inadequate supply. He said it was reported that, due to lack of rain, the water districts are exceeding the 60% benchmark of expected supply from these Districts' wells. He suggests a restriction on all outside usage except in the Surrey Meadows Water District where a voluntary measure would be taken, as they have not reached the threshold. He added that the Village of Chester is utilizing other sources besides the lake at this time, but may have to consider restrictions in the future.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Becker and second by Councilman Courtenay to place mandatory restrictions on the Lake Hill Farms Water District, Sugar Loaf Hills Water District, Fieldcrest Water District and request voluntary restrictions on the Surrey Meadows Water District and direct the Town Clerk to notify residents.

DISCUSSION: Engineer Fusco commented that the water usage may have peaked as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and that monies may become available to cover related expenses.

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

ADOPTED

RE-OPENING PLAN

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to add the following policy to the Employee Handbook.

Communicable Disease Policy

During any Communicable Disease (CD) emergency declared by either New York State, Orange County or the Town of Chester, the following procedures will be instituted:

- 1) If you exhibit any CD identified symptoms, you should stay home from work, notify your supervisor you are staying home and contact your physician.
- 2) If asymptomatic, you are to report to work, follow the Town of Chester and safe practices guidelines, as well as any state and local states of emergency.
- 3) The Town will provide PPE required by the safe practices guidelines, as required by any state or local emergency order for the workplace.
- 4) Non-contact temperature checks will be logged for each employee reporting to work while any state or local emergency order remains in place.

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

ADOPTED

Supervisor announced the reopening of Town Hall to the public on June 29, 2020. He said the Town has implemented the NY Forward policy to provide safety. There will be postings on the door to the buildings and throughout from the CDC with information to remind everyone. The Town will continue to do remote business as much as possible and use the drop box in the vestibule. Court is still closed until a later date.

He gave the following update on the COVID-19 pandemic

Orange County hospitalizations: 6
Investigations: 16
Deaths: 478
Total Cases: 10,744

He said things look good and everybody is happy with the numbers.

REPORTS

Supervisor Valentine read the Engineer Report which appears below.

Engineer's Development Report

GREENS AT CHESTER:

Infrastructure inspections continuing, SWPPP inspections reviewed and SWPPP systems checked daily.

HILLS OF CHESTER:

Maps were to be filed, park fees, bonds and escrow paid.

CHESTERDALE:

Waiting for paperwork.

RIDGEVIEW:

SWPPP inspections.

HIGHWAY GARAGE:

Structure, insulation and some MEP completed. Project at about 90% completion, working on finalization of MEP, completion of bollards, etc.

WELL FOR WALTON LAKE WATER SYSTEM:

Received OCDOH approval of proposed well location. We will begin public water supply application along with plans, specifications and engineers report. Supervisor Valentine, Councilman Becker, Bill Keller and Anthony have been instrumental in moving a resolution to this water issue forward.

MS4:

Annual report completed beginning new outfall mapping for next year's report as well as public educational program for Town residents.

CDBG 2021

Application complete for basement of Town Hall ADA upgrades.

WALTON LAKE ESTATES WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Councilman Becker gave the following update on the Walton Lake Estates Water District well rehabilitation. He said the well rehabilitation on the primary well did not increase the volume of water necessary to adequately serve the needs of the district. The Town owned property has been surveyed and a location 200ft within the property lines has been chosen for a test well to be drilled. This location has been looked at by the well drilling company and we have OCHD approval for the site. The test well will enable us to determine if this well will produce an adequate supply of water for the future. Councilman Becker has arranged with Highway Superintendent LaSpina for his department's help to clear a roadway through the woods for access to the proposed well site. An excavating machine will need to be rented for this work. Once the road has been completed and well drilled, a 72-hour pump test can be done. Then the water must be tested to make sure all Part 5 Sanitary Code testing requirements are met. If all goes well with the testing the well casing size will be increased. In addition, 14 steps required by DEC to receive a Water Taking Permit for this well must be completed. He said he will work with Water Operator Keller and Engineer Fusco to get through all of these steps and requests a motion be made to proceed as an emergency with the process to develop a new source of water supply for this district as far as budgetary restraints will allow.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Becker to declare the Walton Lake Estates Water District water supply an emergency situation.

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

ADOPTED

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Councilwoman Smith announced that Orange County Motor Sports has agreed to sign on in 2021 at the SLPAC. She announced curbside pick-up at the Library. Councilwoman Smith said the senior center will reopen in Phase 4 and Little League will open next month with games scheduled to start July 25th.

Councilman Courtenay said he is working on the timeclock system for Town Hall and other Departments, and more information will be forthcoming as he is in contact with other companies. He added that he accompanied Councilman Becker to view the well location at the Walton Lake Water District site and gain more insight. He thanked everyone involved in the Chester School District graduates drive-by, including Town and Village Police Departments and Chief Doellinger for the well-drawn route. He said he was happy to provide something different to the graduates, which was well received.

Councilman Perez thanked the Police, Fire, Highway, and town employees for their participation in the drive-by.

Supervisor Valentine thanked Councilman Courtenay for his donation of signs, placed around Town, representing the Town Board.

Councilman Becker added that two billboards have the congratulations to the Class of 2020 in place. He asked about the State guidelines for employee use of time due to COVID-19.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to follow State guidelines in covering time for any employee of the Town who may have used time due to COVID-19.

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

ADOPTED

PDR DISCUSSION

Councilman Becker said he was reached by Senator Skoufis inquiring if the Town wants to have legislation passed concerning the transfer tax. He said the County also has something they are looking to have passed. Supervisor Valentine added that Chester modeled their plan after Warwick's and would endeavor to get whatever we can to get it done. Councilman Courtenay said he would speak with Assemblyman Schmitt.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to enter into an Executive Session at 7:35pm regarding contract negotiations and matter of attorney/client privilege.

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

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Perez to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:20pm.

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

ADOPTED

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm, there being no further business brought before the Town Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2020-06-24