

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2022
7:00 PM**

Deputy Supervisor Smith opened the meeting at 7:00pm followed by a salute to the flag. Members present: Deputy Supervisor Smith, Councilman Ardisana, Councilman Courtenay, Councilman Holdridge, Absent: Supervisor Valentine

PROJECT HOPE PRESENTATION

Theresa Lewis presented Project Hope, a NYS COVID response project under FEMA, through Access Supports for Living. This service provides 24 hours crisis counselors via zoom or by calling 888-750-2266 option 3, throughout Orange County. They supply support and help during and after the COVID pandemic with housing, food and shelter. She explained how isolation can cause crisis when there is job loss and no family support, and when seniors and caregivers feel overburdened or disabled and young children are stressed. Their service helps to find ways to cope by training and building a plan to make life functional. It was explained that when FEMA declared COVID-19 a pandemic, they chose Project Hope with the NYS Office of Mental Health and the Mental Health Association of Orange County and Independent Living Centers to work with disabled at home. Access Supports for Living is the largest mental health agency in Orange County with walk-in clinics in Middletown, Newburgh and Kingston for addiction and mental health issues. Their counselors who are not therapists are trained in crisis management and work under a big umbrella with other agencies to help with income-based housing for disabled and special education assistance, and peer graduates work in their clinics.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Courtenay and second by Councilman Ardisana to approve payment of the bills from the following accounts:

GENERAL FUND	\$392,060.31
GENERAL - PART TOWN	34,115.09
HIGHWAY – TOWN WIDE	47,540.76
HIGHWAY – OUTSIDE	2,563.59
FIELDCREST WATER	675.91
LAKE HILL FARMS WATER	3,363.30
SUGAR LOAF HILLS WATER	935.99
SURREY MEADOWS WATER	1,452.66
GARBAGE DISTRICT	46,102.30
WALTON LAKE WATER	2,801.70
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>54,738.14</u>
Grand Total	\$586,349.75

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine

ADOPTED

PART-TIME BUILDING INSPECTOR

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Ardisana and second by Councilman Courtenay to authorize the posting for a part-time building inspector and direct Town Clerk Zappala to cause to publish same.

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine

ADOPTED

WALTON LAKE ESTATES WATER DISTRICT WELL STEP TEST

Deputy Supervisor Smith read the request from Water Administrator Becker concerning the inability of contractor Miller to perform the step test previously approved by the Board at \$3,120. The coordinated hydrogeologist expense through WSP remains the same at \$3,500.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to approve a step test to be conducted by Claverack in the amount of \$5,100 for a total project cost of \$8,600.

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine

ADOPTED

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY DISCUSSION

Councilman Holdridge continued the discussion on the matter. He noted two options; either split public comments in two sections, before and after agenda or to the beginning to give people the ability to speak on agenda items before they are voted on. He said this will result with less apathy and voter lack of ability to speak on matters before the Board. He then read the following comments into the minutes.

From: accuraterepair <accuraterepair@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Brandon Holdridge <bholdridge@thetownofchester.org>
Subject: Town board public comment policy

Hello Brandon,

I am definitely in support of the town residents voices to be heard. I voted for you with the hope that you could change things. So whatever else I can do to help let me know.

ANTHONY REINA
139 Beverly Road
917-685-8649

From: Leslie <isoscelesp@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 2:54 PM
To: Brandon Holdridge <bholdridge@thetownofchester.org>
Subject: Public Comments

Dear Brandon,

Fran Harris sent me the link to your Chronicle letter. I agree with you for the most part as long as order can be maintained at meetings. Maybe a 'sign in' to speak on agenda items before the meetings begin or some mechanism to prevent chaos. the same problem exists at all the municipal meetings including in the Village Trustee meeting, Planning board etc.

My own experience has been that I have been recognized by the chairperson, occasionally but not always, if I raised my hand during the discussion.

Thank you for giving thought to this issue.

Leslie Smith
117 Brookside Avenue
Village of Chester

From: Reina1118 <reina1118@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 8:35 PM
To: Brandon Holdridge <bholdridge@thetownofchester.org>
Subject: Public Comment Policy

Hello!

I was reading your article in Letters to Editor section of The Chronicle. I definitely agree that the current policy should change. The citizens of Chester should have the right to have their questions answered before any votes take place. I do not feel as a resident of the Town of Chester that our questions or concerns are taken seriously at all. I greatly appreciate you trying to change these policies.

Thank you,
Barbara Reina

From: Mike Telesca <mjtelesca@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 6:20 PM
To: Brandon Holdridge <bholdridge@thetownofchester.org>
Subject: Public comments

Hi Brandon,

Michael Telesca of 35 Greycourt Ave. I support having a public commentary period before any vote and a general comment session at the end.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lissette Quinones <quink2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Brandon Holdridge <bholdridge@thetownofchester.org>
Subject: Two opportunities for public comment - absolutely!

Dear Mr. Holdridge,

I support your suggestion 100%! There absolutely should be two public comment sections available at the town meetings. Being able to speak about an agenda topic (whether to support it or express concern) has little value if you cannot speak about it until after the topic has been voted on. As the saying goes, "the horse has already left the stable" at that point.

Having two public comment opportunities also gives people the chance to speak if they cannot stay for the entire meeting. The times I have been able to either attend a meeting or watch a zoom, the meetings have run very long and I was unable stay to hear public comment. I appreciate your attention to this matter and would like other board members to take this into consideration. Please read my email at the meeting and have it added to the minutes.

Thank you,

Lissette Quinones
50 Harding Way, Monroe NY

From: Lydia Cuadros <lydiacuadros@optonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:56 PM
To: Robert Valentine <rvalentine@thetownofchester.org>
Cc: Robert Courtenay <rcourtenay@thetownofchester.org>; Antonio Ardisana <aardisana@thetownofchester.org>; Brandon Holdridge <bholdridge@thetownofchester.org>; Cindy Smith <csmith@thetownofchester.org>; Linda Zappala <lzappala@thetownofchester.org>
Subject: Comment section at Town Board Meetings

Dear Chester Town Board,

Please read my email at tonight's Town Board Meeting:

I think it is a good idea to add a "comment" section at the beginning of Town Board Meetings and to also keep the "comment" section at the end of your meetings.

The "comment" section at the beginning would allow residents to comment on current topics at that day's meeting before you vote on them. In order for residents to comment on current topics, you would have to post your Board Meeting Agenda at least one or two days prior to each meeting so people can prepare their comments/questions.

I think it is also important that people's questions/comments be answered by the Board at the meeting. If you cannot answer the questions/comments that evening, at least come back with an answer at the next Board meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Lydia Cuadros
Sugar Loaf, NY

94 PICKEREL ROAD □ 845-782-7017 □ KAT_SHOE@YAHOO.COM
February 9, 2022

Linda Zappala, Town Clerk
Town of Chester
1786 Kings Highway
Chester NY 10918

To Town Clerk,

I am responding to the proposal made by Councilman Holdridge under review by the Town Board in regards to adding additional public comment on the monthly agendas.

I support the proposal of including two public participation opportunities on the agenda, which I come to learn is also practiced in at least 10 other municipalities in the County including Town of Warwick, Town of New Windsor, Town of Walkkill, Village of Walden, Village of Woodbury, Village of Florida, Town and Village of Cornwall.

When talking with a Supervisor from one of these towns, he indicated to me that prior to being elected he observed the previous board. They had several contentious issues, and he noticed they only had privilege of the floor early on agenda, which pushed town business late at night, which was not productive. So he felt best to change it and let people speak on an item to be voted on before they vote and again let residents bring up any issue at the end of meeting after town business was concluded. This format has continued to work out well.

I looked for references on sample agendas and best practices since NY open meetings law is silent with the respect to the right of public participation at meetings. I came across a helpful publication from a non-profit in another State on this topic ([public_comment_brochure_final_jan_2015.pdf](#) ([citizenadvocacycenter.org](#)) to share a couple of applicable excerpts below: A usual practice is public comment placed at the beginning of the agenda, which provides the public an opportunity to make public comment in advance of votes on action items. Additionally, best practices dictate having an opportunity for public comment prior to any executive session.

An example would be three minutes per speaker (with allowance for extra time allocated for special circumstances involving controversial subjects) for a total public comment period of 30 minutes. This allows the public an opportunity to comment but also ensures the public body's ability to conduct the meeting and address other agenda items.

I do not see a downside to add privilege of the floor at the beginning of Board meetings on agenda items. However I hope you keep allowing public comments at the end of meetings for items that were not listed on agenda and/or for anyone that arrived late to the meeting and wants to share a time sensitive matter of concern or a community announcement.

In summary, the two locations on the agenda for public comment as proposed is currently used by several other municipalities in the County presently and prior to 2008, the way the agenda was in the Town of Chester. As you know, the purpose of public comments at meetings is for members of the community to inform the governing body of their views. This is an important function and it is critical for officials to listen with care to the public, and to consider what they hear in their deliberations before they take action as well as welcoming other announcements and feedback. I would respectfully suggest the Town Board try this updated format to include two public comment periods and reevaluate if any negative impact on the meetings.

Thank you for your consideration.
Tracy Schuh

CAMP LAGUARDIA/URBAN GREEN SUPPORT RESOLUTION

Deputy Supervisor Smith read the Resolution for consideration of adoption by the Town Board. Councilman Holdridge opined to add Village of Chester and Town of Blooming Grove to the notification list.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to approve the following resolution with amendments.

TOWN BOARD OF CHESTER RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CHESTER, NEW YORK IN SUPPORT OF A REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE CENTRAL ORANGE DEVELOPMENT AREA (FORMERLY CAMP LAGUARDIA) LOCATED IN THE TOWNS OF BLOOMING GROVE AND CHESTER AND THE VILLAGE OF CHESTER, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Department of General Services of Orange County, New York, issued Request for Proposal RFP-RPT02-20 for proposals for the Sale of Central Orange Development Area (formerly Camp LaGuardia) (“RFP”), which outlined the process and criteria for receiving proposals for the sale and redevelopment of the Central Orange Development Area (“CODA”); and

WHEREAS, CODA comprises parcels 3-1-1 in the Town of Chester consisting of approximately 153.5 acres and 3-1-2 in the Town of Chester consisting of approximately 40.8 acres as well as adjoining parcels in the Town of Blooming Grove and Village of Chester, New York; and

WHEREAS, A. Larovere Consulting and Development and Urban Green Foods, LLC, have submitted to the Department of General Services a joint proposal for the development of CODA into a facility tentatively named Hotel Fiorella and Black Dirt Farms (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project is intended to encompass the preparation of land for small and medium-sized farms; the renovation of a warehouse/garage for farming infrastructure; the development of “glamping” facilities; the construction of public nature trails; the installation of outdoor art; the rehabilitation of the existing Pearl and Zanelli buildings to farmer/artisan rental housing; the development of an athletic venue; and the rehabilitation of the existing prison building into a 150-room hotel, retreat center and housing;

WHEREAS, the anticipated public benefits of the Project include \$80 to \$90 million in investment in Orange County; the creation of approximately 230 permanent jobs and 300 construction jobs; an increase of \$18 million in tax revenue over the period 2022 to 2032 (in addition to real estate taxes); investment in Orange County’s agricultural economy; the expansion of Orange County’s hospitality and convention offerings; the creation of a sports hub for athletes at area schools and universities; increased tourism and traffic for small businesses in the Town; additional green space; and the preservation of Orange County’s historic fabric; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Chester has discussed and considered the various issues related to the Project and use of CODA, and recognizes the substantial benefits to the Town from the Project, including significant local job opportunities, increased local spending, associated local and regional economic development, and community benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in furtherance of the above goals, the Town of Chester fully supports the submission of the joint proposal of A. Larovere Consulting and Development and Urban Green Foods LLC to the Department of General Services of Orange County, New York for the development of CODA, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to also send any further letters of support consistent with this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to (1) the Department of General Services of Orange County, New York; (2) A. Larovere Consulting and Development and Urban Green Foods LLC, (3) the Trustees of the Village of Chester, (4) the Town Board of the Town of Blooming Grove; and (5) the Town Board of the Town of Chester.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cindy Smith	AYE
Robert Courtenay	AYE
Antonio Ardisana	AYE
Brandon Holdridge	AYE
Robert Valentine	ABSENT

The foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on February 9, 2022.

LIBRARY TAX DISCUSSION

Councilman Holdridge discussed his efforts concerning the double taxation of Warwick School District residents paying both Warwick and Chester library taxes, which he said Senator Skoufis had tried to tackle. He has spoken with the legislative director who is excited by the new Governor and members of the Assembly to move the ball and to lobby members.

MUNICIPAL ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE (ZEV) INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Deputy Supervisor Smith read the letter from the DEC regarding the awarded grant in the amount of \$44,965.60 for electric vehicle charging stations. Contracts will be forthcoming.

EDUCATION REQUESTS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Courtenay and second by Councilman Ardisana to approve the attendance Sergeant Vitale to a Division of Criminal Justice Services Use of Force Updates course in Rockland County on February 22nd and 23rd. There is no fee for the course.

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Courtenay and second by Councilman Ardisana to approve the attendance of Officer Stack to the Taser Instructor course sponsored by Axon. The course will be held in Middletown on February 23rd. The cost is \$375

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to approve the attendance of Officer Bird to a National Highway Traffic Safety Association approved Child Passenger Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses training. The class will be held on February 23rd in Albany.

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine

ADOPTED

POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE PURCHASE

Deputy Supervisor Smith read the request from Chief Doellinger to replace two 2017 Police Interceptors with over 120,000 miles on each vehicle. Purchase of the new patrol vehicles were included in the 2022 Town Budget.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Courtenay and second by Councilman Ardisana to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford F-150 Police Responder at \$42,230 and 2022 Ford Police Interceptor at \$39,730 through Whitmoyer Ford, Mount, Joy PA at state bid pricing.

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine

ADOPTED

REPORTS

Deputy Supervisor Smith read the following reports into the Minutes.

Engineer's Development Report

Greens at Chester: SWPPP inspections continuing. Reviewed Transportation Corporations for water and sewer. We are awaiting updated plans and will supply to OCWA and OCPD for 10-day review. I spoke to engineer last week.

Cappelli Sports (Primo Sports): SWPPP inspections continuing.

Chester PAC: we are preparing ADA plans for spring work CDBG grant \$125,000.00.

Dog Park and Playground: Proposed locations look good and we suggest a site visit soon. Weather permitting.

MS4: working on annual report.

Completed water report for Sugarloaf Hills Water District.

Water Department - January 2022

The Water Department processed and distributed 5,492,746 gallons of water for the month of February. The districts daily average ranged from 398 to 76,000 gallons. The breakdown is:

Lake Hill Farms- 2,357,000 gal.

Sugar Loaf- 1,520,400 gal.

Surrey Meadows- 1,317,700 gal.

Walton Lake Estates- 1,089,000 gal.

Fieldcrest- 176,405 gal. (Distribution only)

Town Hall- 12,341 gal.

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

Monthly DOH 360 forms and test results for 12/2021 on all districts were submitted to DOH on 1/7/2022.

Laboratory testing dates were 1/5 & 1/19.

Snow cleanup dates at the plants were 1/7, 1/15, 1/30.

Chemicals were delivered on 1/13.

Received pricing on new Ram 1500 on 1/19 Ordered new truck from Robert Green on 1/31.

Other Business:

Sugar Loaf was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance. Updated plumbing for the sick and chlorine tank.

Surrey Meadows was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance. Delfino came to look at pump panel on 1/10. On 1/14 Delfino came and repaired panel for the pumps.

Lake Hill Farms was mostly quiet with normal operations and maintenance. Put a new sink in and ran plumbing and updated the chemical lines. Attempted to fix hydrant in Windridge 1/25 but have to replace in the spring time.

Walton Lake Estates was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance.

Fieldcrest was quiet with routine operations and maintenance. Kinsley Company serviced the stand by generator on the 1/19.

Police Department – January 2022

During the month of January, the Town of Chester Police Department remained 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 January, the police department responded to 234 calls for service. Officers patrolled for 13,181 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 15 arrests during the month. A summary of the arrests is as follows:

- 9 charged with Suspended Driver License or Vehicle Registration misdemeanors
- 1 charged with Burglary, Criminal Mischief and Endangering the Welfare of a Child
- 1 charged with Harassment
- 1 charged with Trespass
- 1 taken into custody for an active warrant from NYS Parole
- 1 taken into custody for Emergency Admission of the Mentally Ill

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:

- 36 medical calls
- 23 residential, commercial and automatic fire alarms
- 12 animal complaints
- 10 reports of suspicious conditions, people and/or vehicles
- 7 domestic disputes, family court matters and other disputes

- 2 motor vehicle crashes with injuries
- 6 motor vehicle crashes without injuries
- 4 motor vehicle crashes involving deer

Officers also issued 101 uniform traffic tickets during the month.

SEX OFFENDERS

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

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 13 house security checks and 1271 business security checks.

Officer Bird conducted a short safety presentation for several classes at the Preschool Solutions School in Sugar Loaf on January 19th.

There was one child safety seat inspection completed in January. Sergeant Dugan and Officers Bird, Weinstein, and Stack continue to remain available for child passenger safety seat checks and installations.

Officers Chambers and Calderone continued visiting stores and meeting with businesses in the town to update our contact info as needed and added missing or new businesses as necessary.

Officer Dunlop maintained contact with a representative from the Bellvale Bruderhof Community. Officer Grahn met with the Chester Cub Scout Pack at the station on January 14th.

Chief Doellinger, Sgt. D'Agnes and Officer Grahn conducted a police station tour and fingerprinting activity with a Girl Scout troop on January 26th.

TRAINING

PO Bird attended online training in Detecting Financial Exploitation: Identification Strategies and Resources for Law Enforcement on January 11th.

Monthly training was held on January 11th in our training room. All officers were in attendance except PO Perez and PO Grahn (COVID quarantine). The training was a presentation from the Orange County Sexual Assault Response Team leader and a review of Naloxone use and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commercial vehicle enforcement details were held on January 5th and 19th in conjunction with the NYS Department of Transportation. The January 5th detail was ended in the first hour due to inclement winter weather. Six vehicles were inspected and three unsafe vehicles were taken out of service with major violations.

Sgt. Slowik worked his last shift on January 11th before going on terminal leave until his retirement. A walkout ceremony was held at the PD at 3pm when his shift ended.

Officers assisted with traffic control during a COVID test kit distribution at the Chester Academy on January 13th.

Part-time Officer Antonio Stenta continued his field training in January.

Two thank you letters were received in January. One was from the Village of Chester PD commending Officer Chambers for his actions at a call involving a person in mental health crisis. The second was from the Florida Union Free School District thanking us for our assistance with a dual threat evacuation at their high school on January 10th. Chief Doellinger, Admin Sergeant Vitale and Officer Maglione responded to the emergency to assist Florida PD. Copies of both letters are attached.

SCHEDULING

There were 82 hours of overtime paid in January.

Part-time police officers were used for 217.5 hours of patrol coverage (216 regular hours and 1.5 overtime hours).

Shift Coverage	50.5
Departmental Training (Firearms, Monthly Training)	12
Late Calls/Arrests	11.5
Commercial Vehicle- Enforcement Detail	4.5
School Resource Officer Overtime	1.5
Investigations	1
COVID Test Distribution Detail	1

Animal Control Report – January 2022

During the month of January 2022, the Town of Chester Police Department responded to 12 animal complaints and investigated 4 motor vehicle crashes involving a deer. A breakdown of the complaints for the month is included below:

- 6 of the calls for service were for loose, lost or found dogs
- 3 of the calls for service were for deceased or injured deer
- 2 of the calls for service were for a person bitten by a dog
- 1 of the calls for service was for a person bitten by a cat

Warwick Valley Humane Society – January 2022

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:	6	0 Police, 6 other
Number of times ACO dispatched to calls:	0	
Number of dogs impounded by ACO:	1	1/28 stray dog Dear Trail – #20872
Number of dogs impounded by police	1	1/27 stray dog Surrey Road - #20971
Number of dogs returned to owner	2	
Number of after hour call-outs	0	

Amount of impoundment fees collected:	\$100	
Amount of license fees collected:	\$30	
Amount of impoundment fees paid to Town:	\$100	paid check #16815
Amount of license fees paid to Town:	\$30	paid check #16816
Number of hours of enumeration:	6.75 hrs.	
Number of bite reports received:	0	
Number of appearance tickets issued	5	
Number of unlicensed dogs	27	

Status of unlicensed dogs: - 22 Notices to Comply prepared for delivery+ 5 failure to license summonses prepared

Number of Chester cats admitted to shelter: 0

Location of enumeration: Preparation of 22 Notices to Comply and delivery of 14 to various addresses; Preparation of 5 delinquent dog summonses with pickup of summonses at Police Dept. and delivery to Town Clerk.

Other: ACO responded to a stray dog reported by concerned citizen on 1/28/22 and met Police at temporary shelter in Monroe on 1/27/22

SNR certificates sold in January: 1

NOTE: SNR certificates are available by appointment only.

Note: Shelter is open by appointment only Monday through Sunday, 12-4pm for pre-approved adoptions, return to owners and SNR certificates, visitors and volunteers!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Supervisor Smith announced that the Library Trustee candidate Hema Easley will be scheduled for interview at the next Town Board meeting.

MOODNA SEWER COMMISSION

Deputy Supervisor Smith recapped the last meeting of the Moodna Sewer Commission at which a new compressor and a new vehicle to be registered to the Town was discussed. The pumps in the Lake Hill Farms district is down and while waiting for repair is being run by two somewhat noisy diesel pumps. They are looking into grant money options for the Surrey Meadows Sewer District pump station rebuild work. They will put out a request for proposals (RVP) on the septic tank pumping and discussed the phase out to outsource or discontinue this service. A notice will be sent to member residents.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Councilman Courtenay announced the Knights of Columbus Blue Mass for 1st Responders to be held on Sunday, February 12th, at St. Columba's. Councilman Courtenay said a meeting was held with the OC Council for the Arts regarding the film festival to be held at the SLPAC in September. A second meeting is planned.

Councilman Ardisana announced, due to attrition resulting from the COVID pandemic, the Sugar Loaf Engine Company is seeking member volunteers over the age of 16. They meet on Wednesday nights.

Councilman Holdridge announced he has met with the grant writers and is now working on 12 other grants. He said he is in pursuit of our State Representatives on the land preservation bill and an email will be finalized to send out. Councilman Courtenay added that he is looking at local options, possibly self-funded. Councilman Holdridge proposes to invite Governor Hochul and State Representatives to visit Chester to discuss the matter. With regard to the Route 17M bridge, he has been in contact with the Hudson Valley DOT commissioner in Poughkeepsie who has hope that the Build Back Better plan will speed up the construction seasons. He said they will be doing some patch work over the next few weeks. Councilman Holdridge addressed the video, audio issues. He said there is an option to provide a direct line to boost connectivity. The new equipment is expected around mid-March. He asked that appointments be coordinated to meet with the Ethics Committee candidates. On the public comments issue, he said 10 towns entertain comments before the agenda, 16 after the agenda and 12 both before and after. He will forward all public comments received to the Town Board members.

On the Ward system matter, Attorney Bonacic opined that a formal proposal should be obtained before the Town Board adopt any resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry Dysinger, Odyssey Drive, agrees the 17M bridge needs replacement and the intersection reconfigured. He asked that pressure be put on the County and State representatives. Larry explained that the two library taxes include the Warwick School District Library and Chester Town Library. He asked that upon hiring a part-time building inspector that the lighting ordinance be enforced. Councilman Holdridge said it was his understanding that the Building Inspector doesn't have the proper equipment to measure. Larry stated that the problem is the outward facing and not covered lighting as it is light trespass. He opined that the noise ordinance is lengthy and non-descript and there is no distinction between commercial and residential and time of day. He said 60 decibels is conversation noise and 85 decibels in the code is too high. He suggested looking at the Town of Monroe's ordinance since our local law needs improvement.

Tracy Shuh asked if the Camp LaGuardia project is binding and zoning agreeable. She questioned whether the Greens of Chester Water and Sewer works formation should have been done before construction and whether there were further water tower discussions and the application status of the water withdrawal submitted to the DEC. She said there may be connection issues post acquisition by the Town. She announced the Moodna Creek Water Shed Municipal Council quarterly meeting last month. Formed in 2010 with the Town of Chester and 14 other municipalities as members, the Council work on water shed planning and flooding issues and projects that include the kiosks along the Heritage Trail. She said the Board should look out for notice of yearly dues, voting representatives, and give feedback for agenda items such as codes for well-head and water source protection affecting the Village and Town drinking water overlay. She thanked the Board for the discussion on the public comments policy and understands it is a privilege and not a requirement. A stated, she would want it to be positioned both before and at the end of the agenda. She suggested reconvening the Comprehensive Plan Committee to implement suggestions.

Tom Becker presented the Water Administrator report:

For the step test at Walton Lake Estates new well the estimated cost was \$6,620.00 and was approved by the board. The actual price quote from Claverack Well drilling increased the cost to \$8,600.00. We were unable to get a second quote from Miller well drilling.

I met with Chris and John last week to review the Sugarloaf pump house and I have started to put together the operation and maintenance program.

I have reached out to Delfino Electric to get pricing on installing well level monitoring transducers in the well casing at Sugarloaf and Surrey Meadows water districts. We would also install a chart recorder at each location to record the data for the future. This will allow the water operators valuable information in making decisions for the districts.

I have contacted two Excavating companies to get pricing for installing the water main at the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center.

Lydian Cuadros, Sugar Loaf asked for the bill number for residents to write to their representatives. Councilman Holdridge announced that it is Bill #57857.

Bonnie Katz, Stevens Place said that for over 50 years her septic tank has been pumped by Moodna as a free service. She said she was not aware that this is going to change and asked if residents will be notified. Deputy Supervisor Smith said all will be notified.

SKYHAWKS ACADEMY

Deputy Supervisor read the request from the Parks Department to forego the summer rec program, which was stated has lost money in the past, in lieu of having Skyhawks Academy use our facilities to run their sports programs. At the start, there may be a toddler program to run May through June. There would be no tax burden and only user fees would apply. Councilman Courtenay wanted to know if they would indemnify the Town, which was confirmed. Councilman Ardisana asked about field maintenance, which will continue to be done by the Town. There is no contract requirement.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to allow Skyhawks Academy to operate a sports program and the Town’s park facilities.

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine **ADOPTED**

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to adjourn the meeting, there being no further business brought before the Board.

VOTE: AYES (4): Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT (1): Valentine **ADOPTED**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2020-02-09