

Draft

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**March 9, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

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

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

Following the pledge the Supervisor asked all to remain standing for a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine during this time of war.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

Supervisor Valentine presented a certificate on behalf of the Town Board to Mr. Anthony Guastella in recognition of his good deed to the Chester Community. Mr. Guastella took the time on February 23, 2022 to clean up mattresses and debris that were dumped the day before on a vacant lot near Laroe Road and Bull Mill Road. Mr. Guastella was present to accept the certificate.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Larry Dysinger, Odyssey Drive, addressed the issues with the light at the intersection Leone Lane, Laroe Road and Kings Highway. He said the County changed the timing about 5 years ago and since, the Highway Department has received numerous complaints about problems with the timing. He asked the Town Board to put pressure on the County to address the matter. He also addressed the proposed revisions to the noise ordinance that he forwarded to the Board and asked them to revisit and revise the decibel level of 85 which he said causes ear damage, and the zoning area and time of day discrepancies.

Tracy Shuh, Pickerel Road, directed all to the Orange County Facebook page for information on the NYSERDA program to award up to \$500,000 to municipalities for greenhouse code work. Deadline for submission is April 21<sup>st</sup>. She announced the Orange County Planning Open Space and Climate Resilience Plan updates which asks for public feedback on critical areas to preserve and heavy rain and heat events. She referred to her email on the Orange County Planning Department educational sessions aimed towards reducing waste, solar facilities, and the Community Preservation Act scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Tom Becker provided the Water Administrator's Report.

Due to a lack of an updated Vehicle Use Policy, he explained that the Water Department employees are taking one of the Town vehicles homes to be used for emergency call outs only. Councilman Courtenay said he is working on finalizing the policy.

He met with Tom Cusack at the Sugarloaf District to review possible improvements for the district. There are three possibilities:

- 1) Install additional casing in the E-coli well to stop the infiltration of the E- coli into the well.
- 2) Install a UV system in the plant to enhance the safety of the water produced.
- 3) Develop another well onsite.

We are working on costs to see which would be most cost effective.

He met with Al Fusco to discuss the things we still need to accomplish at Walton Lake Estates. We have received confirmation that the water quality is acceptable for the new well. Approval for the backup well to be drilled is needed now that we have three quotes. Next we will need to complete a 72-hour pump test on each well to certify the pumping rate and determine the safe yield of the wells. It will be important to start the engineering needed to get this source online. This engineering will also allow us to seek additional grants or bonding to move this project forward. Councilman

Courtenay asked if the building could be done as a modular to save on cost. Engineer Fusco commented that since it is located in a remote area, it may be prone to vandalism. Tom suggested moving the filters into the new plant.

Lydia Cuadros, Creamery Pond, asked if the pump was replaced and the well put back in use in Sugar Loaf. The Supervisor replied yes to both.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

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

GENERAL FUND	2,229,029.95
GENERAL - PART TOWN	153,350.79
HIGHWAY – TOWN WIDE	236,411.55
HIGHWAY – OUTSIDE	8,214.73
FIELDCREST WATER	558.85
LAKE HILL FARMS WATER	5,768.98
SEWER 7	22,742.97
Sewer 9	4,872.00
SEWER 1	654,583.52
SEWER 5	23,196.60
SEWR 4	184,677.16
SUGAR LOAF HILLS WATER	14,486.45
SURREY MEADOWS WATER	3,256.52
WALTON LAKE WATER	10,953.81
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>13,148.28</u>
Grand Total	\$3,565,252.16

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Ardisana to accept the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of February 23 2022, as presented by Town Clerk Zappala.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**OAK WOOD SUBDIVISION**

Planning Board Chair Serotta presented the Board with an updated site plan depicting the easement in consideration to the NYNJ Trail Conference. He received a question from the Trail Master about the open space access. They would like to traverse the land to the right of said easement on the conservation area. The Board consensus was to allow. A request will be made to the Town of Monroe to widen the easement to 75ft to accommodate the trail. He added that since this is a realty subdivision it will be under review of the Orange County Health Department and will probably take more than a year for it to come back to the Town’s review.

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FILING**

Supervisor Valentine presented the Town Board with a copy of the Annual Financial Report for 2021 filed with the State Comptroller on February 24, 2022. He said the fund balances have been brought up to over \$2,000,000 so the Town is in good financial condition.

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to accept the Annual Financial Report for 2021 as filed.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ADOPTED**

**IMA FOR 2022 POLICE REGULAR ENFORCEMENT OVERTIME STOP-DWI PROGRAM**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilman Holdridge to adopt the following resolution.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Robert Valentine, Supervisor of the Town of Chester, New York, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Orange County IMA for 2022 Police Regular Enforcement Overtime STOP-DWI Program for three preset periods from March 12, 2022 through January 11, 2023, with an assignment of up to \$4,514 to be used by the Town during the first enforcement period as listed on Schedule A-1, with award notifications for the second and third periods to follow, reimbursable by the County of Orange.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith ADOPTED**

**CHESTER FIRE DISTRICT SEWER CONNCECTION – TROUT BROOK FIREHOUSE**

Supervisor Valentine addressed the follow-up request from the Chester Fire District to connect to the forced sewer main. The Board had previously approved this request. Town Clerk Zappala explained the request is for allocation from the Town. The matter was tabled for the Supervisor to inquire about guaranteed flow rate from District.

**WELL DRILLING QUOTE – WALTON LAKE ESTATES WATER DISTRICT**

Water Administrator Becker presented the Town Board with the third estimate received from Frey Well Drilling.

Claverack Pump Service LLC	\$14,200.00
Turnbull Well Drilling Assoc	16,470.76
Frey Well Drilling, Inc.	23,700.00

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Ardisana to accept the quote from Claverack Pump Service in the amount of \$14,200 for the well drilling for the Walton Lake Estates Water District.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith ADOPTED**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LETTER**

Councilman Holdridge presented the Town Board with the letter he has written to the Department of Transportation concerning the conditions at the 17M bridge for their consideration. It reiterates the Town Board and residents’ position of dissatisfaction of the roadway condition and bridge integrity and the lack of attention paid to its repair over the years. The letter will be prepared for signature.

Councilman Courtenay added that he is to meet with Senator Martucci to discuss the paving work that has been scheduled to stop at the Chester line along Route 17M.

**EDUCATION REQUESTS**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Holdridge to approve the attendance of Administrative Sergeant Vitale to the Accreditation Program Manager Training workshop to be held in Dutchess County on March 30, 2022 at no cost.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to approve the attendance of Chief Doellinger and Officer Santosky-wright to the Recognizing the Cannabis Impaired Motorist training to be held in Goshen, NY on March 29, 2022 at no cost.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Holdridge to approve the membership of Tanya McPhee to the New York Government Finance Officers Association at an annual cost of \$90, allowing for advanced education opportunities.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to approve the attendance of Tom Becker to the Hudson Valley Water Work Conference to be held in Middletown on April 14, 2022 at a cost of \$40.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**TEMPORARY PUBLIC ASSEMBLE PERMIT**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilwoman Smith to approve the application submitted by Richard Logothetis, President of Lycian Centre, Ltd. to hold concerts at Sugar Loaf Crossing, 1405 Kings Highway, Chester, NY on Thursdays from July 7 to September 1, 2022 from 5:30pm-8:45pm.

This permit is subject to receipt of the required liability insurance.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**REPORTS**

Supervisor Valentine read from the following reports, which appear below in their entirety.

**Engineer’s Development Report**

Greens at Chester: I reminded Project Manager to get us mapping for the Transportation Corporation so we could send it to the County. The SWPPP systems are working well.

Cappelli Sports (Primo Sports): SWPPP working well.

Chester PAC: Specifications for ADA completed. We are working on plans.

Walton Lake Water District: Met with Tom Becker and will review water quality to determine treatment and plans to proceed forward. Also discuss Sugarloaf Water District improvements.

Community Development requesting for projects that are coming up and need to discuss projects.

Police Department – February 2022

During the month of February, 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 February, the police department responded to 224 calls for service. Officers patrolled for 13,309 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:

- 10 charged with Suspended Driver License or Vehicle Registration misdemeanors
- 1 charged with Criminal Contempt in the first degree and Harassment in the second degree
- 1 charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Leaving the Scene of a Personal Injury Crash
- 1 taken into custody for an active arrest warrant from town court

*Please refer to Attachment A for complete details.*

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:

- 21 medical calls
- 17 residential, commercial and automatic fire alarms
- 12 animal complaints
- 7 reports of suspicious conditions, people and/or vehicles
- 6 domestic disputes, family court matters and other disputes
- 2 motor vehicle crashes with injuries
- 6 motor vehicle crashes without injuries
- 3 motor vehicle crashes involving deer

*Please refer to Attachment B for complete details.*

Officers also issued 109 uniform traffic tickets during the month.

SEX OFFENDERS

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

LEVEL	BEGINNING OF MONTH	END OF MONTH
1	1	1
2	1	1
3	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 30 house security checks and 1201 business security checks.

Sergeant Dugan and Officers Bird, Weinstein, and Stack continue to remain available for child passenger safety seat

checks and installations.

Officer Santosky-Wright reached out to the Sugar Loaf Chamber of Commerce regarding the possibility of a Spring Festival. No information has been received yet.

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.

Chief Doellinger attended the Bellvale Bruderhof's Upper School presentation of Annie Jr. on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Chief Doellinger attended a Kiryas Joel EMS meeting to liaison with their members on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at their main headquarters in Palm Tree.

## TRAINING

Chief Doellinger attended a presentation on February 17<sup>th</sup> in Poughkeepsie from the Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System. This was followed by a presentation from the Chief Investigator of the NYS Attorney General's Law Enforcement Misconduct Office.

Administrative Sergeant Vitale attended Use of Force Update training in Rockland County on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Officer Bird attended training on Child Passenger Safety Seats in School Buses in Albany on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. PO Stack attended Taser Instructor training in Middletown on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Monthly training was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> in our training room. All officers were in attendance except PO Stack (maximum hours worked) and PO Maglione (other employment conflict). The training was our annual Use of Force refresher.

Chief Doellinger attended a webinar on February 10<sup>th</sup> on Improving Police Decision-making Under Stress.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Commercial vehicle enforcement details were held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the NYS Department of Transportation. Fifteen vehicles were inspected and six unsafe vehicles were taken out of service with major violations.

Officers Calderone and Deluca attended with the joint Tactical Response Unit to provide over watch security during wake services in Newburgh for a Town of Newburgh detective on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

## SCHEDULING

- There were 170.25 hours of overtime paid in February.

Part-time police officers were used for 170 hours of patrol coverage (168 regular hours and 2 overtime hours).

Shift Coverage	122
Departmental Monthly Training	18
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Detail	7
Late Calls/Arrests	6.5
Town Court Security Details	5.25
Tactical Response Unit Detail	5
Investigations	3.75
Stop DWI Patrols	2
School Resource Officer Overtime	0.75

ARRESTS - FEBRUARY 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Offenses</u>
2/1/2022	22	M	Garnerville, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV-3RD
2/2/2022	48	M	Philadelphia, PA	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV-3RD
2/2/2022	37	M	Chester, NY	VTL 051101a AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
2/2/2022	29	M	Bronx, NY	VTL 051101a AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
2/3/2022	54	M	Middletown, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV-3RD
2/9/2022	28	M	Middletown, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV-3RD
2/9/2022	20	F	Wurtsboro, NY	VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV-3RD
2/11/2022	31	M	Rockaway, NJ	VTL 051101a AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
2/12/2022	43	M	Staten Island, NY	VTL 0600 02AA LEAVE INJURY ACCIDENT-1st OFF VTL 1192 03 DWI- 1ST OFFENSE
2/15/2022	40	M	Goshen, NY	VTL051102A4 AGG UNLIC OPER-2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV'3RD
2/20/2022	41	M	Chester, NY	CPL 120.60 01 EXECUTE WARRANT OF ARREST
2/21/2022	58	F	Ellenville, NY	VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED VTL 051101 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV-3RD
2/25/2022	41	M	Chester, NY	PI 215.51 BV CRIM CONTEMPT-1st:PHY CONTACT PL 240.26 01 HARASSMENT-2ND:PHYSICAL CNTACT

Attachment A

CALLS FOR SERVICE - FEBRUARY 2022

911 HANGUP CALL	3	HARASSMENT	2
ABANDONED VEHICLE	1	HAZARDOUS CONDITION	1
ALARM-COMMERCIAL	6	HOUSE SECURITY CHECK	30
ALARM-RESIDENTIAL	9	IDENTITY THEFT	1
AMBULANCE ASSIST	21	ILLEGAL DUMPING	2
ANIMAL COMPL(WILDLIFE)	2	INFORMATION ONLY	14
ANIMAL COMPLAINT(DOG)	10	JUVENILE COMPLAINT	1

ARREST/CRIMINAL	1	LOCKOUT	5
ARREST/DWI	1	LOST PROPERTY	1
ARREST/TRAFFIC	11	MISSING PERSON	2
ARREST/WARRANT	1	MVC/CAR/DEER	2
ASSAULT	1	MVC/NO REPORT	1
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	10	MVC/PERSONAL INJURY	2
ASSIST FIRE DEPT	3	MVC/PROPERTY DAMAGE	5
ASSIST WATER DEPARTMENT	1	NEIGHBOR DISPUTE	1
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	1	NOISE COMPLAINT	1
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	2	OPEN DOOR	1
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION	7	ORDER OF PROTECTION	1
BURGLARY/IN PROGRESS	1	RECKLESS DRIVER	3
CIVIL MATTER	2	SHOTS FIRED	1
COMM VEHICLE ENF DETAIL	2	SUBPOENA SERVICE	1
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	3	SUSPICIOUS COND/MV/PERSON	7
DEPARTMENT DETAIL	2	TAC TEAM ACTIVITY	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	8	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	2
DOMESTIC COMPLAINT	4	TREE DOWN	5
EMOT DISTURBED PERSON	3	TRESPASS	1
EQUIPMENT CHECK	1	VEHICLE OFF ROADWAY	1
FAMILY COURT MATTER	1	WARRANT RECALLED	1
FIRE	1	WELFARE CHECK	4
FOUND PROPERTY	2	WIRES DOWN	2

Building Dept. February 2022 Summary Report

Permits Issued - 34 (printout submitted)

CO & COC's Issued- 19 (printout Submitted) Municipal

Searches - 6

Deposits - \$8,379.50

Letters went out to 13 property owners conducting short-term rentals. All Town Board members have received copies of the draft proposed Local Law for short-term rentals. Town attorney has reviewed and put in the proper format. Hoping we can introduce soon.

There are 2 active court cases and possibly a third coming up.

An ad was placed regarding a part-time inspector. To date I have not received any responses or interests.



We are in the process of incorporating the Planning/Zoning Department in the Building Department. For the time being it will be reconfiguration of the current space and computers/phones etc. to be able to bring Melissa downstairs.

Letters will start going out for the Fire Inspections around May.

1203 Report is due April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be done in the next week or two.

### Senior Center and Recreation

#### Trips:

- 2 casino trips scheduled (3/19/22 Mohegan Sun and 3/21/22 Wind Creek Bethlehem)
- Mohegan Sun has open seats
- 3 seats remain for Wind Creek
- Villa Roma 5/3/22 Jersey Boys Tribute
- Completely full at present seeing if Villa Roma can accommodate more people (have second bus reserved if necessary)
- Niagara Falls 5/31/22-6/4/22
- 9 seats remain
- Kruckers 7/14/22 sign up will begin soon
- Working on future trips for the year

#### Town Events:

- Youth paint event 3/10/22 at Senior Center
- We had scheduled for an adult and senior paint event at the Senior Center with no sign ups - will try again for something in April or May.

#### Senior Events:

- New program added for once-a-month Senior Arts and Crafts
- First class is Bunny Wreath on Tuesday 4/5/22 1-3pm (cost is for supplies only).
- Senior Casino Night 4-9pm at Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center (table play with "funny money", prizes, food and music).
- Valet parking will be available
- Planning future senior activities and events for the year.

#### Recreation:

- New Yoga instructor started (3/8/22) for class on Tuesdays 11:30-12:30 - first class well attended - 7 people
  - Received inquiries for an evening class instructor looking at her availability.
- New program added Music and Movement started 3/4/22 and will currently run first and third Fridays of the month 10-11am.
  - First class well attended with 10 people. I believe the program will grow and "chatter" has started already.
- Working on children's events for the year, examining all possibilities. Working events at the SLPAC as needed.

### Parks Report:

- Save the date: Town of Chester fireworks Sat July 9 with rain date of July 10. Show is with Fireworks Extravaganza, Communication with all emergency services PD, FD, & EMS has been established, bands booked, food trucks booked, working on an activity before the fireworks & during the music. Secured donations from Suburban Propane for the

fireworks and Capelli Sports for the Musical entertainment. Richard Logothetis has again generously donated the use of his stage and sound engineer. Bruderhof community is donating generators and volunteers.

- Ongoing meetings with Spotz to tailor the online scheduling program for the parks.
- Beginning talks with Little League for the 2022 season. Opening Day is slated for 4/9/22.
- Working with TOC PBA on Community Day June 4, 2022 at Chester Commons.
- Planning for Parks reopening in April, ordering supplies, bringing back seasonal employees, going over projects that will take priority when the weather allows.
- Working in conjunction with Walter and Michele in all department functions from shows at the SLPAC (see SLPAC report) and programs and bus trips for recreation (see Rec report).

#### Maintenance & Parks:

- Snow removal at town bldgs.
- Weekly set up at senior/rec center.
- Annual maintenance of power equipment, mowers, and tractors.
- Weekly garbage removal at the 4 town parks.
- Upgrading and organizing the garage at Knapp's View (built new shelving and work benches).
- Respond to maintenance requests from town departments dispatched through Kristin.

#### Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center

We just had the first big show of the year "Big Band of Brothers". Great show that people enjoyed.

Coming up in the Month of March/April:

March 12: The PreZence: Led Zeppelin Experience

March 13: Devon Allman & Samantha Fish

March 25 & 26: "Matilda" performed by Warwick Dance

March 31: Rocking Dueling Pianos at the "Live Lounge" (in the pavilion)

April 1: Souldown to Motown w/The Fabulous Soul Cruisers

April 2: Jim Kirk & Conviction (All 80's Music)

April 14: Rocking Dueling Pianos at the "Live Lounge" (in the pavilion)

Apr 6, 13, 20 & 27: Actors Ensemble Workshop (through a grant received). Contact Paul Ellis at 845-978-1776.

Working on Fall Concert Series to start after the downtown series and the "On the Lawn" concert series. The Town Free Concert Series will pick up after "On the Lawn" series finishes on Thursdays.

Met with Al Fusco & engineers about the grant to pave front parking lot. Lot should be paved as soon as weather is better.

You can also "rent" the pavilion for your next party. Please call the Sugar loaf PAC for details at 845-610-3485.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Pursuant to the Town's Procurement Policy, three verbal quotes were obtained for the installation of the new audio and visual equipment at Town Hall.

Diamond Grade Media	\$6,648
Electric City Pictures	7,146
Fresh Bean, LLC	7,450

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilman Courtenay and second by Councilman Holdridge to approve the quote by

Diamond Grade Media in the amount of \$6,648 for the installation of the new audio and visual equipment at the Town Hall.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Valentine announced the grant received by the Justice Court in the amount of \$5,398 to include a walkthrough metal detector and calibration device.

Supervisor Valentine announced the plan to add a new area code to the (845) due to exhaustive supply.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to enter into an Executive Session at 8:00pm on matters of attorney-client and labor negotiations.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:30pm.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

### **COUNTY UPDATE**

County Legislator Ehlers gave the Board the following update.

A meeting will be held with the Assistant County Executive and County Highway Commissioner concerning the Kings Highway road acquisition in Sugar Loaf. If all goes well, it will then go in front of the Fiscal Services Committee on March 28, 2022 at 3:30pm during a live public meeting via zoom.

Sales tax is reported to be 20% higher than in 2021.

County Sewer District #1 will undergo a 3,000,000 gpd expansion costing \$50,000,000, which will be looked at for AARPA eligibility and odor testing will be done to investigate issues for the Town of Blooming Grove, with any required remediation to be done at their expense.

A new Medical Examiner's building planned on Wells Farm Road is planned to be paid for by federal funds in the amount of \$20,000,000.

Three stations will be added to the 311 and update to the 911 phone system at a bonded cost of \$3,000,000.

Body cams will be purchased for Sheriff's Deputies and Probations Officers that will activate all when one is in use.

Councilman Holdridge asked Legislator Ehlers to speak with other County Legislators to advance the Town's desire to implore the Governor and other Albany officials to come down to Chester and speak with the Board about the PDR legislation. Councilman Courtenay said he will also pursue Senator Martucci in this regard.

### **TOWN BOARD COMMENTS**

Councilman Holdridge commented he called the Democratic Legislators in regards to the PDR bill, and has received some

positive feedback. He reached out to the Palisades Park Commission about their property on Laroe Rd where the dumping occurred. If rangers assess it is their property, they will look into a barrier installation there. He asked if anyone knows of other good deeds to inform the Board so they can be acknowledged. Councilman Holdridge announced the PBA Easter Egg Hunt on April 9<sup>th</sup>. He said a playground and dog park walk-through is to be conducted this Sunday. He read the following written comments submitted concerning public comment.

**From:** Edward M. Lynch <emlynch1@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 4:45 PM  
**To:** Brandon Holdridge <bholdridge@thetownofchester.org>  
**Subject:** Public comments at Board meetings

Brandon - I fully support your proposal to the Board, on scheduling public comments BOTH at the front end of the meeting and the back end of the meeting.

It is only logical for the public to have input into the proceedings of a Board meeting, and in particular, that those public comments be properly considered by our elected officials for any important decision-making that our Board is planning to vote on. That is democracy at its best! To do otherwise just makes no sense.

Further, I support the idea of scheduling public comments both in the beginning of the meeting and at the end. This would give due consideration to public attendees who may not be able to attend an entire meeting, and would like to offer comment at the beginning of a meeting. And as sometimes public attendees are commuters whom may not arrive in time for the start of a Board meeting, permitting public at the end of the meeting as well would afford them this opportunity as well. The more public comment the better, for our elected officials to more effectively represent their constituents.

Please read this in the minutes at your next Board meeting, and put it in the public record.

Thank You,  
Edward M. Lynch  
Chester resident

Councilwoman Smith said she prepared a vendor application to be used for the Farmer's Market for Town Board review. She asked the Board to consider a request for proposals (RFP) for attorney services for the Ward System.

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Courtenay to submit a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Special Attorney for legal services in connection with the establishment of a Town Ward System of Government.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Summer Rec program will now be contracted out to reach a wider age group. She asked if the Oak Street Park could be lined for a pickle ball court as there is great demand. She added that the senior trips are filling up and a day trip for kids and parents will be planned in the future.

Councilman Courtenay said the Film Festival is being planned for September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. He will be announcing a press conference shortly on the event. Councilman Courtenay said he met with the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent to walk the one mile stretch of roadway in Sugar Loaf. He thanked the Departments for their reports. He plans on developing a committee with Councilman Holdridge for the PDR to establish a budget. Councilman Courtenay will be working on getting the 911 Memorial repaired.

Councilman Ardisana announced the Corn Beef Dinner this Saturday at the Sugar Loaf Fire House. He asked about the situation with the water at Sugar Loaf Hills Water District and notification of emergency situations. Tom Becker replied that there are two chlorination systems in place and in an emergency the phone dialer contacts the operator. He said there is no concern to the public with the issue as it sets off protocol instituted by the County for resident notification. If

necessary, the system is flushed at the closest hydrant to the plant. Councilman Ardisana asked about the security of the plant. Tom replied that the building is barbed-wired fenced and the Police Department makes rounds. He suggested possibly adding an alarm system for burglary and fire and more lighting. Tom Becker asked the Board to consider adding phosphate testing to the back-up well at Sugar Loaf.

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to approve the phosphate testing of the back-up well at the Sugar Loaf Hills Water District.

**VOTE: AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith**

**ADOPTED**

Roy from the Bellvale Community announced the open dinner on Saturday at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION OFFERED BY** Councilwoman Smith and second by Councilman Ardisana to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm, there being no further business brought before the Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala  
Town Clerk  
2022-03-09