

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2024
7:00 PM**

Supervisor Holdridge opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Attendance Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____
Council Member Ardisana	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____
Council Member Becker	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____
Council Member Courtenay	Present <u>x</u> _____	Absent _____
Council Member Dysinger	Present _____	Absent <u>x</u> _____

Determination of Quorum: Yes X No

Also present: Elizabeth Cassidy, Esq.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING - INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 8 OF 2023 -A LOCAL LAW INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY AND APPROVALS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF FIVE (5) OR MORE RESIDENTIAL LOTS OR MULTI-FAMILY OR MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS CONTAINING FIVE (5) OR MORE DWELLING UNITS

Public Hearing continued.

Attorney Cassidy explained that the amendments would be circulated for review to the Town Board, Planning Board and consultants prior to the February 28, 2024 meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Ardisana to accept the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of January 24, 2024 and February 1, 2024 as presented by Town Clerk Zappala.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Abstain _____	Absent _____
Council Member Ardisana	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Abstain _____	Absent _____
Council Member Becker	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Abstain _____	Absent _____
Council Member Courtenay	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Abstain _____	Absent _____
Council Member Dysinger	Yes _____	No _____	Abstain _____	Absent <u>X</u>

ADOPTED

TOWN REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

Knapp’s View Debt Payment

Supervisor Holdridge explained that the interest payment due on February 1 and August 1 is in the amount of \$2,625. The principal payment due on August 1, 2024 is \$100,000. The budgeted amount for interest was \$1,000 and principal was \$75,000 leaving a shortfall of \$29,250. He added it is a recurring issue with the budget from last year.

Scott’s Meadow

Supervisor Holdridge said this matter has been in discussion with the County over the last few years. The property was divided with a small municipal lot and the two buildings up front. At \$150,000 and added cost of renovation and restoration his opinion was that it wouldn’t be a good use of tax dollars to purchase. He said the County will put it back on the market to be sold to the highest bidder.

EMS Special Meeting

The Supervisor is to call a special meeting on February 29, 2024 at 7pm to discuss this matter. He said it is time to explore different options. Right now, Empress who took over Mobile Life is providing bill-to-patients service through a handshake deal with the Town, and will continue unless something else comes to pass. Assemblyman Maher will be in attendance with information from the NYS Legislature as, in the next few years, this is expected to become a mandated service unfunded by the State. Other Towns have paid services as well as mutual aid with contract options. He added the response time currently provided is not the quality he would like to see and it is important that the public knows how services are provided.

Palmer Property Purchase

Supervisor Holdridge explained the deal with the OCLT made by the former supervisor for \$300,000 which would incur additional costs for dam maintenance will not go forward. The County will take the land and preserve it. The Town will not have to pay anything but will benefit by it.

Sugar Loaf Water District Well Update

Council Member Becker provided updated pricing for the opening of the Sugar Loaf well which will be used as a back-up:

Roarke Well Drilling, Inc.	\$4,000.00 up to 8 hours
Turnbull Well Drilling	\$4,941.84
Claverack Well & Pump	\$11,852.50

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to rescind the motion to accept Turnbull Well Drilling and contract with Roarke Well Drilling, Inc. for up to \$4,000.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Becker	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Courtenay	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger	Yes ___	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent <u>X</u>

ADOPTED

Chester 4th of July Fireworks

SAVE THE DATE :

Saturday July 13, 2024 with a rain date of Sunday July 14, 2024 has been set for the Town of Chester fireworks show/block party. Details are being mapped out and information will be available as it is confirmed. The location and format will be the same as past years. Fireworks will be set off from Carpenter Community Park. Viewing of the event with live bands and food trucks will be at the Maple Avenue field complex.

I would like to step it up this year and add a drone show (please do not share until details are worked out) just before the fireworks go off. They are extremely popular right now and to my knowledge no other town has them as part of their event. I am currently getting pricing and pursuing sponsors to pay for this addition as it is not in the budget. Any sponsor ideas are welcome. Tin Barn is willing to possibly support this once pricing is secured.

I will be coordinating a meeting in March with all first responders and will include all departments that lend support to the event. Security, flow, emergency plans, and support will all be discussed and put in place.

Supervisor Holdridge gave a preliminary thank you to Suburban Propane.

Mortgage Tax Report

Mortgage tax receipts for January 2024 totaled \$37,212.86.

Building Inspector Salary

Supervisor Holdridge explained that the Building Inspector's salary is currently \$75,000 with no overtime, working five days per week and after probationary period of 10-11 months will be bumped to meet comparable Town's. He added that the Town will be saving tens of thousands of dollars in overtime pay.

Building Department Report – As of February 14, 2024

Notice of Expired Building Permits are being sent out Regular mail. Renewals are being issued from applicants who have responded to the letter.

Order to remedy Violations are being sent out Regular mail and Certified Mail to applicants with 30 – 35 days to remedy violation.

Expired Permits

1/1/2020 – 12/31/2023 415

Certificates Issued (Completed)

1/1/2021 – 12/31/2023 1003

Municipal Searches, Complaints & Violations to be submitted for March Town Board Meeting

Water Department – January 2024

The Water Department processed and distributed 6,685,232 gallons of water for the month of January. The districts daily average ranged from 133 to 79,000 gallons. The breakdown is:

Lake Hill Farms- 2,443,000 gal.

Walton Lake Estates- 1,197,300 gal.

Sugar Loaf- 1,322,000 gal.

Surrey Meadows- 1,541,500 gal.

Town hall- 4,132 gal.

Fieldcrest- 177,300 gal. (Distribution only)

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 12/2023 on all districts were submitted to DOH on 1/5/2024.

Laboratory testing dates were 1/3 & 1/17.

Replace Chlorine pump at the Town hall ¼.

Snow storm 1/8 & 1/16 plowed all the plants.

Chemicals were delivered 1/18.

1/29 had a meeting as a dept with Tom Beck and Bob Courtney.

Other Business:

Sugar Loaf was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance. 1/5 Tam came and replaced Radio on top of water tower due to leak in box and frying the system. 1/24 fixed and cleaned Cl2 Monitoring system so it reads properly and also fixed siding on building from blowing off. 1/26 Hwy brought in item 4 to well site 1A for the drill rig can get in to redrill old well.

Surrey Meadows was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance. 1/3 19 Surrey had to inspect for possible service line leak. 1/11 Dug at 19 Surrey and look for possible leak, nothing found but found gas leak for O&R. 1/22 NY Rural water came to listen at 19 Surrey and determined that there is no leak anywhere in the area. 1/29 PN alarm came in to fix alarm system so it calls you for proper alarms. 1/31 Radio at water tower fuse blew had to replace so it can communicate.

Lake Hill Farms was mostly quiet with normal operations and maintenance. 1/19 fixed lights at plant to help neighbor so it doesn't shine at house. 1/29 final fix on light issue at plant.

Walton Lake Estates was mostly quiet with routine operations and maintenance. 1/3 we dug and replaced a street valve with two new ones and a T at Hickory and Maple Ln with help from the Hwy Dept. 1/8 Well 4 went down, Kode Electric came out to determine that the well pump shorted out and needed to be replaced. 1/9 Darrel Quackenbush came and replaced Well 4 pump and motor, determined it got fried from power out. Need to install surge protector. 1/19 Changed alar battery for PN alarm system. 1/20 Saturday Water Main break at Poplar & Maple Lane. Help from Hwy Dept to dig and repaired section of Main. 1/23 as per Orange County Health Dept replaced containment platform and added one to the Caustic Soda storage and crock. 1/25 Ordered CL2/PH Monitoring system for the plant as per request from County Health Dept. 1/30 Pervious water main started leaking at Poplar & Maple had to dig with Hwy Dept and tighten Bolt.

Fieldcrest was quiet with routine operations and maintenance.

Police Department – January 2024

The Town of Chester Police Department continued to remain active in the community in January. We maintained our objective of community commitment and took a proactive stance towards detecting crime and enforcing the laws.

In January, the police department responded to 253 calls for service. Officers patrolled for 16,861 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 26 arrests during the month. A summary of the arrests is as follows:

17	charged with Operating a Vehicle with a Suspended Driver License or Registration misdemeanors
3	charged with Criminal Mischief
2	charged with Driving While Intoxicated
1	charged with Assault and Harassment
1	charged with Obstructing Governmental Administration
1	charged with Harassment
1	arrested on an outstanding bench 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 in January. A summary of those calls for service is as follows:

.28	medical calls
12	residential, commercial or automatic fire alarms
11	disturbances, disputes or domestic complaints
8	reports of suspicious persons, vehicles or activity
2	motor vehicle crashes with injuries
18	motor vehicle crashes without injuries
2	motor vehicle crashes involving deer

Please refer to Attachment B for complete details.

Officers also issued 209 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	2	2
3	0	0
TOTAL	3	3

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 no house security checks and 1119 business security checks.

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

Officer Stack met with the senior citizen group on January 10th and discussed programs available to them and reviewed some ongoing scams involving gift cards and social media.

Officers were assigned to sporting events at the Chester Academy on January 30^h and 31st.

We continued to assign School Resource Officers to the Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School during each school day. Officers Perez, Deluca and Donato are fulfilling this assignment.

TRAINING

Sgt. D'Agnes and Officer Calderone attended the Glock Armorer Course on January 11th in Poughkeepsie. Chief Doellinger attended training on January 18th at the police academy on Leadership, Deflection and 21st Century Policing.

Officer Donato attended Basic Radar/Lidar Operator School at the police academy from January 23rd through 26th. Chief Doellinger attended a webinar on Responding to & Investigating Hoax Bomb Threats & Swatting on January 31st presented by the FBI.

Our department monthly training session for January was held in our training room on January 9th. The topic was our annual Use of Force refresher training.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chief Doellinger attended the Village of Goshen board meeting on January 8th where retiring Chief Watt was recognized for 40 years of service to the village with the last 24 spent as Chief of Police. Village of Goshen Sgt. Ryan Rich (a former Town of Chester police officer) was also sworn in as the new chief of police.

Commercial vehicle enforcement details were held on January 3rd, 17th and 22nd with the NYS Department of Transportation. Eleven vehicles were inspected and six unsafe vehicles were taken out of service with major violations.

SCHEDULING

There were 158 hours of overtime paid in January.

Part-time police officers were used for 208.75 hours of patrol coverage (208 regular hours and 0.75 overtime hours).

Shift Coverage	87.5
Monthly Training	24
School Resource Officer Overtime	21.25
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Detail	17.75
Late Calls/Arrests	4.25
Court Officer Details	3.25

ARRESTS - JANUARY 2024

TC-00001-24	1/2/2024	25M Monroe, NY	VTL 0511 02A2 AGG UNLICENSED OPERATION- 2ND VTL 0511 01 AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER MV-3RD
TC-00002-24	1/3/2023	43M Chester, NY	PL 145.05 02:CRIM MISCHIEF 3:PROPERTY> \$250
TC-00003-24	1/5/2024	37M Florida, NY	VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00004-24	1/5/2024	43F Newburgh, NY	VTL 0511 OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEHs3RD
TC-00005-24	1/5/2024	30F Rock Tavern, NY	VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00006-24	1/9/2024	29M Monroe, NY	VTL 0511 02A4 AGG UNLIC OPER- 2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 0511 OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD

TC-00007-24	1/11/2024	27M Cornwall, NY	VTL051102A2AGG UNLICENSED OPERATION- 2ND VTL051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
TC-00008-24	1/10/2023	31M Monroe, NY	VTL 0511 02A4 AGG UNLIC OPER- 2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 0511 OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
TC-00009-24	1/12/2024	23M Marlboro, NY	PL 145.00 01 CRIM MIS:INTENT DAMAGE PROPRTY
TC-00010-24	1/13/2024	34M Middletown, NY	VTL 0511 01A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00011-24	1/13/2024	31M Monroe, NY	VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00012-24	1/13/2024	49M Chester, NY	PL 195.05 OBSTRUCT GOVERNMENTL ADMIN-2ND
TC-00013-24	1/15/2024	63M Warwick, NY	VTL 1192 03 DWI- 1ST OFFENSE
TC-00014-24	1/19/2024	35M Middletown, NY	VTL 051101A AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00015-24	1/21/2024	21M Chester, NY	PL 120.00 01 ASLT 3-W/INT CAUSE PHYS INJURY PL 240.26 01 HARASSMENT-2ND:PHYSICAL CNTACT
TC-00016-24	1/22/2024	28F New Windsor, NY	CPL 530.70 03 EXECUTE BENCH WARRANT
TC-00017-24	1/23/2024	36M Warwick, NY	VTL051102A4AGG UNLICOPER- 2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 0511OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD
TC-00018-24	1/23/2024	22M Warwick, NY	VTL 0511 OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00019-24	1/23/2024	62M Putnam Valley, NY	VTL 1192 03 DWI- 1ST OFFENSE
TC-00020-24	1/25/2024	19M Haverstraw, NY	VTL 0511 OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH- 3RD
TC-00021-24	1/25/2024	16M Chester, NY	PL 240.26 01 HARASSMENT-2ND:PHYSICAL CNTACT
TC-00022-24	1/27/2024	21M Monroe, NY	VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00023-24	1/27/2024	27F New Hampton, NY	.VTL 051102A4 AGG UNLIC OPER-2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 0511OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD PL 145.00 01 CRIM MIS:INTENT DAMAGE PROPRTY
TC-00024-24	1/25/2024	16M Chester, NY	PL 145.00 01 CRIM MIS:INTENT DAMAGE PROPRTY
TC-00025-24	1/29/2024	31F Warwick, NY	VTL 0512 MV VIOL:REGISTRATION SUSPENDED
TC-00026-24	1/31/2024	39M Cornwall, NY	VTL051102A4AGG UNLIC OPER-2ND:3>SUSPENSNS VTL 0511 OIA AGGRAVATED UNLIC OPER VEH-3RD

CALLS FOR SERVICE - JANUARY 2024

911 HANGUP CALL	5	HARASSMENT	1
ALARM-COMMERCIAL	3	HAZARDOUS CONDITION	5
ALARM-RESIDENTIAL	3	ILLEGAL DUMPING	1
AMBULANCE ASSIST	28	INFORMATION ONLY	27
ANIMAL COMPL(WILDLIFE)	3	LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTE	1
ANIMAL COMPLAINT(DOG)	2	LOCKOUT	1
ARREST/CRIMINAL	1	LOST PROPERTY	3
ARREST/DWI	2	M/V COMPLAINT	1
ARREST/TRAFFIC	17	MV/TRAFFIC STOP	2
ARREST/WARRANT	1	MVC/CAR/DEER	1
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	12	MVC/HIT AND RUN	2
ASSIST FIRE DEPT	1	MVC/NO REPORT	4
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	1	MVC/PERSONAL INJURY	2
ATV COMPLAINT	1	MVC/PROPERTY DAMAGE	12
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	6	NOISE COMPLAINT	1
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION	20	NOTIFICATION	1
BURGLARY/IN PROGRESS	1	ORDER OF PROTECTION	1
CITIZEN SERVICE	1	PATROL REQUEST	1
CIVIL MATTER	3	RECKLESS DRIVER	1
COMM VEHICLE ENF DETAIL	2	REPOSSESSION	1
CRIMINAL CONTEMPT	1	SCHOOL SAFETY	2
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	3	SUSPICIOUS COND/MV/PERSON	8
DEPARTMENT DETAIL	6	TAC TEAM ACTIVITY	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	5	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	6
DISTURBANCE	1	TRAFFIC CONTROL/DIRECTION	1
DOMESTIC COMPLAINT	9	TREE DOWN	3
EQUIPMENT CHECK	2	TRESPASS	1
FIRE	3	VEHICLE OFF ROADWAY	2
FOUND PROPERTY	1	WELFARE CHECK	8
FRAUD	3	WIRES DOWN	5

Animal Control – January 2024

During the month of January.2024, the Town of Chester Police Department responded to 5 animal complaints and investigated 2 motor vehicle crashes involving a deer. A breakdown of the complaints for the month is included below:

3 of the calls for service were for injured or deceased deer 1 of the calls for service was for a loose dog
1 of the calls for service was for a barking dog

Warwick Valley Humane Society

The monthly report for January 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:	12	0 Police, 12 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	
Amount of license fees collected:	\$0	
Amount of impoundment fees paid to Town:	\$0	
Amount of license fees paid to Town:	\$0	
Number of hours of enumeration:	5 hrs.	
Number of bite reports received:	0	
Number of appearance tickets issued:	5	
Number of unlicensed dogs:	15	
Status of unlicensed dogs:	7 Notices to Comply, 5 summonses and 3 enumerated	
Number of Chester cats admitted to shelter:	0	

Notes:

7 Delinquent License Notices to Comply prepared and delivered to various addresses per the Delinquent Dog Report from the Town Clerk, completed specific enumeration of three addresses requested by Town Clerk

January 1, 2024 received a call from a hospitalized pet owner that 3 dogs were in her residence in Whispering Hills since Dec. 30, 2023 without care and requested their shelter intake until her release. Animal Control responded with the assistance of the Village Police and removed 3 dogs who were returned to their owner on January 5, 2024. Licenses submitted to the Town of Chester.

SNR certificates sold in December: 0

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!

Recreation Department

- Feb 26, 2024 WindCreek Casino
- June 10-14, 2024 Montreal/Quebec
- Working on one for early April (day trip)
- Organized with Accessor to visit Golden Age Club on Wed 2/21/24 to go over senior exemptions. Last filing day is 3/1/24
- Set up Summer Camp in the computer for online registration. Will go live for registration on Feb 17, 2024
 - emailed camp counselor applications to approx 8 interested counselors.
 - flyer regarding camp going to superintendent of Chester school district by Thursday morning for approval - flyer targeted to go home with students entering grades 1-6 on Friday.
 - registration info will be blasted on social media sites Just a reminder for people to create account at www.chesterrecreation.com or verify account user name/password

- Town of Chester Recreation: Online Registration by MyRec.com Recreation Management Software
- Register online for activities, memberships, facility reservations, and more.
- www.chesterrecreation.com

- Village of Chester PD held a class at the Senior Center Monday 2/11/24-Wednesday 2/14/24 for police officers throughout NY and had attendance of over 30 officers. They are very thankful for municipal use of the building and are looking to hold another class in May of 2024. The instructor said the welcome and assistance provided by the Town of Chester is unlike any other place he goes.
- Continuing to provide support/assistance to the Building Department. Things are going in the right direction.

Supervisor Holdridge thanked Michele for her assistance with the Building Department as well as all the other things she does.

Supervisor Holdridge announced the NYS DEC grant award in the amount of \$12,000 for the Creamery Pond clean-up. He thanked the Governor.

TOWN BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member Becker:

I recently met with Gary Green the Village of Chester Water Commissioner to locate the Wells by the Chester Academy. Since then, I have been gathering information from Tom Cusack, the School, the Clerk's office and our Building department. After reviewing this information, it appears that a third well on the property is not accessible due to the transfer of ownership of some of the property to the school. We should reach out to them to get an easement for access to the well and confirm that we have the 200 ft ownership around that well. I will be discussing this information with our Engineer to determine our options for this well.

I attended the Moodna Basin Commission meeting last night with councilmen Courtenay. We had discussions on the issues facing our sewer districts. At Surrey Meadows major upgrades to the pump station and sewer mains. The pump station could cost \$300,000 for replacement pumps a new control panel and the installation of a bypass for emergencies. Some of our other districts should also have bypasses put in place also. Not long-ago Lake Hill Farms pump station required emergency upgrades that cost around \$150,000.00. A planned repair most likely would have cost less.

Let's try and move forward and tackle some of these issues before they become an emergency.

Another item that was discussed is the sewer flow that originates from Surrey Meadows and Sugarloaf that travels through the Village of Chester pump stations. Currently the Village is covering all of the costs for electric and maintenance at these pump stations, they are working on a cost analysis so they can have the Town cover the costs associated with these flows through the Village. This is another item that is not budgeted for at this time.

Council Member Courtenay is to meet with Comptroller Meyer on the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center. He reported, as of 2023 we are \$19,000 to the good without insurance costs estimated at \$6,000-\$7,000. Revenue figures show \$11,000 over expenses. There were 339 overtime hours reported paid in 2023, which needs to be addressed. He reminded the Board about the question raised concerning creating an enterprise fund as a vehicle to become proactive in the budgeting for maintenance items, which can be costly improvements such as a sound system. He said we are missing an opportunity for conference rentals as an avenue for revenue to become more self-sustainable. Supervisor Holdridge said that is a lot of information to digest and we are working towards doing better in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lydia Cuadros, via FB, asked why the Town is re-drilling for an e-coli well. Supervisor Holdridge replied, as discussed previously, the well will be for emergency use only while awaiting proper approvals on the new well. Council Member Becker added the well meets NYS and Orange County requirements for use with proper chlorination and alarm system for the minute chance that any issues were to occur.

SUMMARY OF BILLS

Supervisor Holdridge read the report from the Comptroller. Bills paid in the amount of \$477,690.91, includes \$358,292 for liability insurance, \$119,030.99 for monthly abstract and additional \$450 to be paid to the Association of Towns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Ardisana to enter into Executive Session at 7:55pm on the matter of personnel.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Ardisana to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:05pm.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger

ADOPTED

NEW HIRE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to hire Lorraine Hynes as a Part-time Clerk at \$23.18 p/hour, effective February 22, 2024.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger

ADOPTED

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF CHESTER

Supervisor Holdridge announced the Conservation Advisory Council to expand the scope of the Climate Change Advisory Council to tackle other issues which is becoming more widespread in Orange County.

Elizabeth Zahn addressed the Board on behalf of Chairperson Grayson Sussman Squires. In part, the comments read, the formal name change is significant as creating the Conservation Advisory Council will allow the Town to join other leading towns in policy making. The CAC unlocks important responsibilities in pursuing the Climate Smart Community Initiative and Clean Energy Community Initiative. It will raise ambitions and pursue State monies. The body will address a wider set of challenges, to reduce climate impacts and other issues as protecting green spaces, preserving rural areas and resources such as water. Together the Council and Town will work to envision a future-responsible environmental growth.

TOWN OF CHESTER

A RESOLUTION TO FORM A CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF CHESTER OUT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

February 14, 2024

TITLE: A resolution to form a Conservation Advisory Council for the Town of Chester out of the Climate Change Advisory Committee.

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on February 14th, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT:

Supervisor Holdridge
Council Member Ardisana
Council Member Becker
Council Member Courtenay

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member Ardisana, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Town of Chester Climate Change Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) formed by resolution during the August 9, 2023 meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester has been meeting monthly to discuss matters concerning environmental protection of natural areas (open space) and resources (land, water, air), potential enhancements to the Town Code, involvement with Town’s Comprehensive Plan, and enhancing natural resource-bases planning and quality of life for residents in the community. The Council’s goal is to study the town’s internal policies and code in order to figure out how if any, improvements could be made to further contribute to climate change mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has explored numerous issues of environmental stewardship, identifying potential grants, and other fiscal resources, including community partnerships to support the work it plans to undertake if it is formulated as a Conservation Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, the designation requires a vote of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, and its appointment as a main advisory group to the Town Board on matters relating to the protection and management of open spaces, natural areas, and other environmental issues fully authorized to conduct surveys, studies, and inventories of natural and physical features including open spaces and wetlands. The Chester Conservation Advisory Council will physically meet no less than four times a year (unless extenuating circumstances prevent it), or as often as the council sees fit. They will be responsible for preparing an annual report of its activities and expenditure of funds, if any, and sharing such report during a public meeting of the Town Board every year beginning in 2025, at a meeting near the date of the anniversary of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chester, renames the Chester Climate Change Advisory Committee and adopts it as the Chester Conservation Advisory Council with the initial members as: (1) Town of Chester Supervisor (Liaison) Brandon Holdridge, (2) Town resident, Jane Dysinger, (3) Town resident, EJ Szulwach, (3) Town resident, Grayson Sussman Squires (serving as Interim Chairperson), (4) Town resident, Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn, (5) Town resident, Justin George, (6) Town resident, Susannah Devine, (7) Town resident,

Tracy Schuh, (8) Town resident, Helen Flavin, (9) Town resident, Kimberly Manson, (10) Town resident, Martine G. DiPasquale, (11) Town resident, William Greene, (12) Town resident Jay Westerveld, and (13) Town resident Martine Perrier with all the advisory powers and duties noted herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Chester appoint Town resident, Grayson Sussman Squires, as the Interim Chairperson for the Conservation Advisory Council.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger

ADOPTED

Dated: February 14, 2024

JOINT TOWN OF CHESTER AND VILLAGE OF CHESTER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Zahn addressed the Town Board on the formation of the Joint Town of Chester and Village of Chester Conservation Advisory Council to holistically look at the Town and Village in a collaborative way and asked that it be sent through the Town to get the Village of Chester involved and hear their voice. Supervisor Holdridge said it would be sent to Mayor Batiatto.

TOWN OF CHESTER

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND A JOINT TOWN OF CHESTER AND VILLAGE OF CHESTER
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

February 14, 2024

TITLE: A resolution to recommend a joint Town of Chester and Village of Chester Conservation Advisory Council.

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on February 14th, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT:

Supervisor Holdridge
Council Member Ardisana
Council Member Becker
Council Member Courtenay

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member Ardisana, to wit:

WHEREAS, Chester has both a town and village comprised of concerned residents with shared interest in preserving the ruralism which makes it unique, and conserving its natural resources (water, wetlands, trees, open spaces, etc) to maintain a good quality of life for generations,

WHEREAS, the creation of a joint Chester Conservation Advisory Council would allow for residents of both the Town of Chester and the Village of Chester to collaborate on issues of environmental and developmental concern and serve as advisors to their respective local governance bodies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Town Board of Chester will engage with Village of Chester to propose that both governance bodies enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to appoint interested residents to the Chester Conservation Advisory Council. The joint Chester Conservation Advisory Council would be established as primary advisors on matters relating to the protection and management of open spaces, natural areas and other environmental issues being fully authorized to conduct surveys, studies and inventories of natural and physical features including open spaces and wetlands.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger

ADOPTED

Dated: February 14, 2024

CHESTER CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PLEDGE

Ms. Zahn opined taking the initiative to join the Climate Smart program of over 400 climate smart communities in NYS affecting 10,000,000 people requires action to decrease energy and inspire and inform the public. Mr. Grayson's comments included, it is a first step in reducing environmental impacts. CSCP provides local government a structured pathway to meet its goals. A peer committee, Warwick received bronze certification. It will give the committee the ability to work towards green growth and environmental conservation in Chester.

TOWN OF CHESTER

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF CHESTER CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PLEDGE

February 14, 2024

TITLE: A resolution to adopt the Town of Chester Climate Smart Communities pledge.

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on February 14th, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT:

Supervisor Holdridge
Council Member Ardisana
Council Member Becker
Council Member Courtenay

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member Courtenay, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Town of Chester, County of Orange (hereinafter “local government”) believes that climate change poses an increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy, and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native flora and fauna populations; spread invasive species; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, reduce energy costs, and build livable, energy-independent, and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chester, County of Orange, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

- 1) Build a climate-smart community.
- 2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
- 3) Decrease energy use.
- 4) Shift to clean, renewable energy.
- 5) Use climate-smart materials management.
- 6) Implement climate-smart land use.
- 7) Enhance community resilience to climate change.
- 8) Support a green innovation economy.
- 9) Inform and inspire the public.
- 10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote which resulted as follows:

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger

ADOPTED

Dated: February 14, 2024

TOWN OF CHESTER CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE

Bill Green, 388 Bellvale Road thanked the Town Board for taking steps for Chester to mitigate climate change and join the CSCP. He noted Sustainable Warwick was the only other community besides Orange County to receive bronze status. He added it is doable and will bring good publicity, help taxpayers pay less money as the Town becomes more efficient and to make it a place for others to look at ways to improve the environment. Mr. Green thanked the Supervisor for fulfilling his campaign promises and looks forward to the future.

TOWN OF CHESTER

**A RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE TOWN OF CHESTER CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE
AND COORDINATOR**

February 14, 2024

TITLE: A resolution to create the Town of Chester Climate Smart Communities Task Force and Coordinator.

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, held at the Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester, New York, on February 14th, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holdridge and upon roll being called the following were:

PRESENT:

Supervisor Holdridge
Council Member Ardisana
Council Member Becker
Council Member Courtenay

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Holdridge, who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member Courtenay, to wit:

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2024 the Town of Chester resolved to adopt the Climate Smart Communities pledge;

WHEREAS, the Town of Chester considers the New York State Climate Smart Communities initiative to be a valuable framework to help the Town increase environmental sustainability and lead the community by example; the Town of Chester wishes to obtain certification under the Climate Smart Communities Program.

WHEREAS, establishing a Climate Smart Communities Task Force is a mandated action in the Climate Smart Communities certification program;

WHEREAS, the Climate Smart Communities Task Force is the leadership body responsible for documenting and submitting climate-related actions taken by the Town of Chester to the New York State Climate Smart Communities program, and advising Town officials on additional actions the Town of Chester may take to further its environmental sustainability progress;

WHEREAS, the Climate Smart Communities Task Force will consist of community members and municipal representatives, who will meet at least four times per year and maintain meeting minutes and attendance records for each meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Chester establishes a Climate Smart Community Task Force with the initial members as: (1)Town of Chester Supervisor (liaison), Brandon Holdridge, (2)Town Comprehensive Planning Board member, Tracy Schuh, (3)Town resident, William Greene, (4)Town resident, Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn, (5)Town resident, Jane Dysinger, (6)Town resident, EJ Szulwach, (7) Town resident, Helen Flavin, (8) Town resident Susannah Devine, (9) Town resident, Justin George, and (9) the named CSC Coordinator, Grayson Sussman Squires.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Chester appoint Town resident, Grayson Sussman Squires, as the Climate Smart Communities Coordinator.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger

ADOPTED

Dated: February 14, 2024

Supervisor Holdridge said he is excited not only because he cares about the environment but can potentially save the taxpayers money and improve energy efficiency. He added all public meetings will be posted to the website. The next meeting to be held in the SLPAC pavilion on February 16, 2024 at 7pm.

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Becker to approve the appropriation of fund balance in the amount of \$12,965.41 to anticipated PILOT revenue.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Holdridge explained there was a revenue reduction caused by Greycourt Solar Field PILOT being included in the budget of \$96,335.07 in error. Since the solar field is not complete, the anticipated revenue of \$12,965.41 is not due.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Becker	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Courtenay	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger Y	Yes ___	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent <u>X</u>

ADOPTED

WARWICK VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY ANIMAL SERVICE CONTRACT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Ardisana to authorize Supervisor Holdridge to sign the 2024 Warwick Valley Humane Society Animal Services Contract.

DISCUSSION: The contract sees an \$89 per month increase over 2023.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Becker	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Courtenay	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger Y	Yes ___	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent <u>X</u>

ADOPTED

ROTOLO BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM AGREEMENTS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to authorize Supervisor Holdridge to sign the 2024 Rotolo Burglar and Fire Alarm Agreements for Town Hall.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Becker	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Courtenay	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger	Yes ___	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent <u>X</u>

ADOPTED

WATER MAIN PROJECT SCOPE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to authorize Lanc & Tully to get project scope and estimate for water main project at Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center.

DISCUSSION: Council Member Becker explained the water line will replace the antiquated system and provide fire protection and water to the theater. This will ensure we have water.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

SIDE WALKS – HAMLET OF SUGAR LOAF

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to authorize Lanc & Tully to get project scope and estimate for sidewalks along Kings Highway in the Hamlet of Sugar Loaf.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Holdridge said this has been on the wish list of many. He thanked County Executive Neuhaus for the road and noted Senator Skoufis may be able to help with grant funding for this project.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

SENIOR CENTER AND TOWN HALL HANDICAP DOORS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to authorize Lanc & Tully to get project scope and estimate for handicap Doors at the Senior Center and Town Hall.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

DISCUSSION: Michele Deshler explained the Senior Center doors require an allen wrench to unlock and she would like to see a push pad locking system.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

SURREY MEADOWS CURB EXPANSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to authorize Lanc & Tully to get project scope and estimate for curbs where needed in Surrey Meadows.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Holdridge said we may be able to get grant monies for this project where needed, not wanted, and plan for the future.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

REDUCE SLPAC PAVILION FEE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge and second by Council Member Courtenay to approve the reduced fee of \$500 for the Miller family repass at the Sugar Loaf performing Arts Center Pavilion.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Holdridge said this reduced fee is in place until policy reform.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___
Council Member Becker	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___	Abstain ___	Absent ___

Council Member Courtenay Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___ Absent X

ADOPTED

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PURCHASE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to authorize the purchase of a Ford 350 XLT for the Highway Department in the budgeted amount of \$71,331.38.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Becker Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Courtenay Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger Y Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___ Absent X

ADOPTED

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 – TOWN CODE FOR BUILDING AND ZONING

This matter was tabled to bring a more comprehensive public presentation.

TEMPORARY ASSEMBLE PERMIT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to approve the Temporary Assemble Permit submitted by Richard Logothetis for the Sugar Loaf Crossing Concerts from July 4 through September 5, 2024, subject to receipt of proper liability insurance.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Becker Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Courtenay Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___ Absent X

ADOPTED

CHANGE BILLBOARD ADVERTISEMENT APPROVAL PROCEDURE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to allow the Town Board to regain authority over the permitted use of advertisement on billboards.

Vote Rollcall:

Supervisor Holdridge Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Ardisana Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Becker Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Courtenay Yes X No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___
Council Member Dysinger Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___ Absent X

ADOPTED

EDUCATION REQUESTS

The matter was tabled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Ardisana to enter into an Executive Session at 8:45pm on a matter of personnel.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to adjourn the Executive session at 9:00pm.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

New Business:

WATER DEPARTMENT PURCHASE

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to approve the purchase of a laptop computer in the amount of \$620 for the Water Department Operators.

DISCUSSION: Council Member Becker explained the computer will aid in the ability for the Operators to create reports while in the plants.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

CONTROL PANEL – LAKE HILL FARMS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker and second by Council Member Courtenay to approve the purchase of a control panel from sole source provider Reiner Pump Systems in the amount of \$18,307 and \$5,000 for installation in the Lake Hill Farms Water District.

VOTE: AYES(4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT(1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cindy Smith, 195 Greycourt Road, via FB, asked who would be attending the AOT Conference. Supervisor Holdridge replied himself, Council Member Courtenay, Town Clerk Zappala. She asked which Department was the part-time clerk hired for. Supervisor Holdridge replied the Town Clerk's Office. She advised that Nick Zungoli had a detailed plan for the Sugar Loaf sidewalks. She asked the status of Council Member Dysinger absence from the Town Board meetings. Supervisor Holdridge said it was due to a health issue but he is recovering and should return by months-end.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Ardisana to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm, there being no further business brought before the Town Board.

VOTE: AYES (4): Holdridge, Ardisana, Becker, Courtenay, ABSENT (1): Dysinger **ADOPTED**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk
2024-02-14