

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2025
6:00pm**

Supervisor Holdridge opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Attendance Rollcall:

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

Determination of Quorum: Yes X No _____

Also present: Attorney Cassidy

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Holdridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Holdridge noted there were no public comments.

REPORTS – WATER DEPT., 10/25 CAC REPAIR CAFÉ

Supervisor Holdridge presented the Water Department report for October, noting that the department distributed over 6 million gallons of water in August. The distribution included approximately 2 million gallons for Lake Hill Farms, 1 million for Walton Lake Estates, 1.5 million for Sugar Loaf, 1,250,000 for Surrey Meadows, and 353,000 for Fieldcrest. Regular operations, deliveries, and maintenance were carried out across all five districts. Full report online at chester-ny.gov

Supervisor Holdridge highlighted the success of the Conservation Advisory Council's third Repair Cafe. The event involved 27 volunteers, including 16 skilled "fixers" who served as repair coaches and 11 other volunteers who helped with various aspects of the event. The Repair Cafe served 64 residents who requested 145 repairs, with 25 first-time attendees. The event achieved a 95% success rate, successfully repairing 137 items and keeping them out of landfills. Repairs included 76 sharpening jobs, 7 lamp repairs, 27 sewing repairs, 1 sewing machine repair, 7 electrical/mechanical repairs, 16 jewelry repairs, 9 gluing repairs, and 2 computer/digital repairs.

Supervisor Holdridge also reported on Millennium Strategies, the Town's grant writers, noting they helped the Town receive \$204,998 in grant funding for 2025. This included \$20,000 for Chester Commons field lights, \$175,000 for ADA bathrooms and lighting at Carpenter Community Field, \$5,000 for the police garage heater, and \$5,000 for the municipal tourism grant that helped fund the Field Day event. Supervisor Holdridge emphasized that the investment in grant writers was paying off, with multiple applications still in progress and awaiting responses.

Council Member Courtenay mentioned that Governor Hochul had announced \$25 million in grants for open space and land preservation, suggesting this information be forwarded to Millennium Strategies.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT WALTER POPAILO'S RETIREMENT

Supervisor Holdridge read Walter Popailo's retirement letter, which stated his retirement as Recreation Director for the Town of Chester effective close of business November 19, 2025. In his letter, Popailo acknowledged that his position was being abolished and retiring was the best course of action for him and his family.

The Board thanked Walter for his service to the Town.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Dysinger to accept Walter Popailo's retirement, effective November 19, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT ROBERT SMITH'S RESIGNATION

Supervisor Holdridge then presented Robert Smith's resignation from his part-time park attendant position, effective upon the sale of the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center. Supervisor Holdridge thanked Robert for his service to the Town.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Courtenay to Motion to accept Robert Smith's resignation, effective upon the sale of the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center.

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

RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH RECREATION DIRECTOR AND PART-TIME PARK ATTENDANT

Following the acceptances, the Board passed two resolutions to eliminate the positions:

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Courtenay to eliminate the 1 FTE position of Recreation Director effective close of business on November 19, 2025.

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

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger and second by Council Member Courtenay to eliminate the 0.5 part-time position of park attendant effective close of business on November 19, 2025.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Holdridge confirmed that all Board members received an email from Neil Meyer about running an abstract on November 25th, and no one had issues with this.

The Board discussed the need for new cleaning services or going out to bid. Council Members confirmed they were working on bid documents. The Board agreed to continue month-to-month with the current service while preparing comprehensive bid documents. . Council Member Becker mentioned wanting to reach out to Jay Alicia, who has cleaned for the fire department. He noted that issues existed primarily with the senior center, and there was a need for deep cleaning of floors at the police department and other locations.

The Board discussed Sugar Loaf sidewalk maintenance. Supervisor Holdridge expressed his preference to first see if residents could handle maintenance as is done in other municipalities before considering purchasing equipment for the Parks Department. Council Member Becker suggested adding language to the Town code making residents responsible for sidewalk cleaning, similar to how other Towns operate, with a future sidewalk district. Council Member Dysinger suggested creating a business improvement district for the LBSL zoning district to fund maintenance and improvements, noting such districts are eligible for grants. The Board directed Town Attorney Cassidy to draft code language for the December 10th meeting.

Regarding a water bill dispute for 165 Eagleton Drive, after reviewing the information and finding no evidence of meter or reader issues, the Board by consensus denied the request for relief, noting that water must have been running during the period in question. Supervisor Holdridge indicated he would remain open to any new information that might change this decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments before adjourning for the work session.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay and second by Council Member Becker to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm.

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

ADOPTED

The meeting was adjourned, with the work session scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala, RMC

Town Clerk

2025-11-19.stb