

**Village of Chester
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 08, 2008**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held their monthly business meeting in the Village Hall meeting room on Monday, December 08, 2008. Members present: Mayor Philip Valastro, Deputy Mayor John Deshler, Trustees John Collins, Eugene Collins and John Reilly, III. Also present: Village Attorney Henry Christensen, Police Chief Peter Graziano, Water Commissioner Thomas Becker, Village Treasurer / Deputy Clerk Cathy Richards and Code Enforcement Officer John Orr. Highway Superintendent J. Thomas Bell was absent.

Mayor Valastro opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. AUDIT OF BILLS: Mayor Valastro noted audit of monthly bills for approval was complete.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Valastro noted corrections made to the minutes of November 10, 2008 regarding 2009 Village Elections:

- Correct Village Election date from 3/17/2009 to 3/18/2009.
- Correct Justice Election term from 2 to 4 years.

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting with corrections as noted was made by Deputy Mayor John Deshler, seconded by Trustee Eugene Collins. Motion unanimously passed.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Cathy Richards was present and read her report as follows:

CASH BALANCES ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2008

<u>Fund/Bank Account</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>(Disbursements)</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<u>General Fund</u>				
Key Checking	293,491.53	(151,289.12)	120.31	162,663.72
Key Savings MM	10,109.97	(25,000.00)	3,810.82	3,173,739.71
<u>Water Fund</u>				
Provident Checking	206,387.04	(26,052.66)	25.38	196,327.38
Provident Capital MM	--	--	564.22	729,624.66
Provident Capital Checking	--	--	14.62	18,915.51
<u>Sewer Fund</u>				
Key Checking	5,598.87	--	130.58	163,370.22
Provident Checking	--	--	5.40	27,780.89

Cumulative Fiscal Year 08-09 Total Interest Earned by Fund June 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008:

General Fund:	29,230.86
Water Fund:	4,490.25
Sewer Fund:	1,284.82

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Deputy John Deshler, seconded by Trustee Eugene Collins. Motion unanimously passed.

situation with gridlocked traffic. Deputy Mayor Deshler stated the need for the village to possibly form a committee that will work in developing and implementing an emergency plan for situations like this in the future. Better cooperation is needed from County and State officials to assist us. Code Enforcement Officer John Orr noted other communities outside Orange County have developed such emergency plans. Trustee John Reilly III commented how critical the situation could have been in the event the Village had to be evacuated.

6. **HIGHWAY REPORT:** Highway Superintendent J. Thomas Bell was not present and no report was submitted.

A motion to declare the 1992 sander as surplus was made by Deputy Mayor John Deshler, seconded by Trustee Eugene Collins. Motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Valastro reminded the public that although the Village Highway Department does try to clear off sidewalks during snow storms if/when time is allowed, however it is up to each resident to keep their sidewalks and walkways cleared of snow and ice build up.

7. **WATER REPORT:** Water Commissioner Thomas Becker was present and read his report as follows:

- 1- Daily filtration plant and well #12 routine.
- 2- At our filtration plant we are experiencing elevated manganese levels so we have reduced the flow of lake water into the Village and have been using well #12.
- 3- All of the main line valve boxes in the Village have been cleaned out.
- 4- At the filtration plant we have continued work on the new entranceway and a new gate was installed.
- 5- We have had two call outs for frozen pipes that broke and required us to dig to install new curb boxes.
- 6- TOC and Alkalinity samples for December were taken to the Lab.
- 7- At the filtration plant we relocated and replaced gas lines. The new lines were all painted.
- 8- The base for raw water pump #2 at the Filtration plant was cleaned and painted.
- 9- I met with the Engineer and Architect at the filtration plant to help finalize the bid specs.
- 10- For the first half of this years billing we had total revenue of \$303,349.00 which puts us within the amount needed to cover our budgetary needs.

Water Commissioner Thomas Becker commented on the various complaints from residents regarding the increased water rates. He stated the rate increase was mainly necessary due to loss of revenue sustained from the closing of Camp LaGuardia. Deputy Mayor John Deshler asked for a status of bid specs for the new filtration plant. Becker explained that the specs were delayed due to the project engineer requiring a medical leave of absence for surgery. He expects the bid process will resume after the New Year.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Senior citizen exemption adjustment:** Village Attorney Henry Christensen stated the public hearing held on November 10, 2008 regarding the senior citizen exemption adjustment was not valid as a public notice was inadvertently never posted nor published in the newspaper to alert the public. Therefore the process must be redone as soon as possible before the 2009 tax roll is prepared. The date of December 17, 2008 at 3:30PM was selected for the new public hearing to be followed immediately by a special meeting of the Mayor and Trustees for the purpose of adopting the new exemption amounts, and proper notification of both will be prepared to post and publish the information accordingly.

4. **BUILDING REPORT:** Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer John Orr was present and read his report as follows:

Current projects that were inspected during the last month:

Lowe's:

- 1- Site work continues.
- 2- Working through some minor issues.

Provident Bank

- 1- All issues have been corrected.

49-51 Main Street

- 1- Work continues on the interior renovation.

Orange County Trust

- 1- Site work continues.

Chester Mall Movie

- 1- Work is under way on Movie Theatre lobby renovations.

Nexans

- 1- Work has started on drive thru delivery.
- 2- General site work continues.

McDonald's

- 1- Issued building permit for interior renovation of service counter.

Leung 5 North Hudson

- 1- Work continues on garage addition.

5. **POLICE REPORT:** Police Chief Peter Graziano was present and read his report as follows:

1. **Department Items:**

- Manpower: None
- Vehicles: None
- Consolidation Study: Contacted the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for the study as discussed last month. I have also been in contact with Chief Doellinger as the State requires a letter from both Chiefs. DCJS sent an "Agreement for Execution of Administrative Study by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services" which I will return to them. They will then contact us with further details.

2. **Citizen Issues:**

- Received a letter from Chief Schupp, Town of Blooming Grove Police thanking the department for traffic assistance during a funeral procession for one of his Sergeants who passed away recently.

3. **Public Safety Issues:**

- Traffic Details: Continuing.

4. **Facilities:**

- None

5. **Equipment:**

- None

6. **Department Activity (YTD):**

Blotters = 2797
 Cases = 710
 Arrests = 403
 Accidents = 1

Deputy Mayor Deshler discussed the accident on Route 17 that occurred this past Sunday morning and expressed his concerns with the havoc caused on Village roads. With Route 17 being closed, all traffic was diverted into the Village creating a chaotic

- **Website Presentation:** Tony Donato, webmaster for the Village of Chester gave a presentation to illustrate an upgrade for the Village's website. The upgrade would provide a more user-friendly version along with improved access to various Village operations, information and community happenings. In addition, the new technology can provide a "Community Alert System" which many schools and municipalities are now utilizing for up-to-the-minute emergency notifications and information. The alert system is an email based notification that the public can subscribe to for free. The software upgrade will also allow department heads the ability to update department information themselves which will be more cost-effective and save money. Mr. Donato will draft a contract agreement outlining the upgrade and fees to the Board for their approval.
- **Outdoor furnace regulations:** Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector John Orr updated the Board on information he gathered from Tri-County officials. He stated that the majority of villages and municipalities have banned them, mainly due to quality of life issues, especially in villages where the houses are so close together. The smoke stacks in densely populated areas such as villages are not at a high enough elevation to dissipate the smoke. He pointed out the Town of Warwick has a 3-acre requirement before they would approve an installation. John also noted he has not received one phone call since the moratorium was put in place. He will provide the Board with a list of surrounding municipalities who do or do not allow these furnaces, however it is his recommendation that the Village does not allow it.
- **Resolution Local Law 3:** A motion to adopt the resolution of Local Law 3 for Planning Board Alternates was made by Trustee John Collins, seconded by Deputy Mayor John Deshler. Motion unanimously passed.
- **Resolution Local Law 4:** A motion to adopt the resolution of Local Law 4 for Zoning Board Alternates was made by Deputy Mayor John Deshler, seconded by Trustee John Reilly III. Motion unanimously passed.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Deputy Mayor John Deshler attended the November 4, 2008 meeting and read his report as follows:
 - *Broadview property:* The Commission discussed the repairs and siding of the maintenance barn. After some discussion it was agreed that necessary repairs will be made along with the siding. The Commission would meet at the site on 11/16/08 to outline the project repairs needed, forward to the Town Engineer and submit the project for bids.
 - *Oak Drive Park:* The Town Highway Department will install Item Four fill around the park for better parking and drainage. The Fire Department has agreed to help cut the brush and assist with cleanup of the park.
 - *Chester Commons Park:* The Town Highway Department will do the site work for the new bathroom/concession stand building which includes tree removal and excavation. Final plans for the building are being drawn up.
 - *Budget:* Some funds in the present budget were taken back by the Town in order to meet its expenses for the remainder of the year. Fuel costs, etc. have taken a toll on the Town 2008 budget and required a cutback on funds allotted for Park & Rec in 2008. The 2009 budget will be less than the funds appropriated in 2008.
 - *Halloween Parade:* It was noted that the Halloween Parade had over 400 children registered. This was the last year that Phyllis and Joe Battiato will be involved. They have turned over the project to Park & Rec who have assisted in the past along with other community organizations to make the parade successful.
 - *Park Fees:* The Commission agreed to present to the Town Board a list of usage fees for the pavilion at Chester Commons Park. These fees will cover the cost of maintaining the pavilion, cleanup of the area along with bathroom maintenance. The cost to out of town users will be higher than those for Chester residents.

In addition, Deputy Mayor Deshler noted that anyone interested in basketball signups for the Kiwanis children and adult program to contact the Town of Chester at 845-469-7000.

- **Resolution for Election date change:** A motion to adopt the resolution to change the Village Elections date from March 17 to March 18, 2009 was made by Trustee John Collins, seconded by Trustee Eugene Collins. Motion unanimously passed. Mayor Valastro noted the polls will be open from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM.
- **Public Comments:**
 - Susan Cleaver, a freelance writer for the Chronicle addressed the Board on several issues regarding the Lowe's site. She noted the DEC inspected the site regarding storm water run-off. She also asked if the Board had been notified regarding the sale of the Lowe's site property. Village Attorney Henry Christensen stated the property ownership has no impact with the Village's permit enforcement.
 - The owner of 157 Greycourt Avenue (out of corp user) addressed the Board regarding water discontinuation that occurred with the previous owner due to non-payment of water usage. He requested that service be reinstalled if the past due bills are paid. Water Commissioner Thomas Becker said he would set up a meeting with the new owner to discuss the ongoing issues and problems. He stated a written agreement should be drawn up to outline the requirements. Mayor Valastro stated the issue to be tabled until next month in order to settle the issues and determine the unpaid balance owed.

9. **ADJOURN:** Mayor Valastro wished everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

A motion to adjourn the regular business meeting and move into Executive Session for personnel reasons was made by Trustee Eugene Collins, seconded by Trustee John Collins. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Richards
Deputy Village Clerk