

***Minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 at the Town of Chesterfield Offices ,1 Vine Street, in Keeseville, County of Essex, State of New York, Pursuant to Due Notice.***

Supervisor Barber called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

**Those Present:**

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Supervisor</b>        | <b>Clayton Barber</b>          |
| <b>Town Clerk</b>        | <b>Bruce Bourgeois</b>         |
| <b>Councilman</b>        | <b>David Gload</b>             |
| <b>Councilman</b>        | <b>Richard Klages</b>          |
| <b>Councilman</b>        | <b>Patrick “Bill” Mitchell</b> |
| <b>Councilman</b>        | <b>John Casey</b>              |
| <b>Town Attorney</b>     | <b>Michael McCormick</b>       |
| <b>Supt. Of Highways</b> | <b>John “Jay” Champine</b>     |

**Guests Present:**

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>John Sokol</b>    | <b>Sue Loomans</b>   |
| <b>Walter Chmura</b> | <b>Barb Davidson</b> |
| <b>Dan Costin</b>    | <b>Scott Racette</b> |
| <b>Andrea Baer</b>   | <b>Diana Zais</b>    |
| <b>Andy Prescott</b> | <b>Wendy Murnane</b> |
| <b>Timothy Lloyd</b> | <b>Emma Clark</b>    |
| <b>Betty Bogucki</b> |                      |

**Supervisor barber welcomed everyone in attendance, reminding everyone that ROOST Funds have to follow specific guidelines and to please keep comments and recommendations to 5 minutes or less per speaker.**

**Town Clerk Bourgeois read the Legal Notice.**

**Supervisor Barber addressed Walter Chmura's letter requesting a lump sum for Watson Park in Port Kent stating that every expense will have to be approved by the Town Board individually. The ROOST Fund exists on its own and no other funds will be offshoots.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the public the Town has not received any 2023 money yet. The Town has \$47363.23 in the ROOST Fund now after subtracting eligible expenses since 2020, including \$11,320.40 in Port Kent.**

**Diana Zais asked the anticipated amount.**

**Supervisor Barber responded the funds come from bed tax revenues previously 1% per town based on population, currently 3%, amounting to approximately \$81000.**

**Walter Chmura asked about grass coming through the new mulch and electricity and lawn care at Watson Park.**

**Supervisor Barber responded Dan Costin did the first mowing. Rick Lee will no longer do the mowing. The Town will put maintenance of the Park out to bid including trimming.**

**Scott Racette gave a presentation on his view of improvements to Watson Park.**

**Wendy Murnane asked about fixing the lights there.**

**Town Clerk Bourgeois volunteered to head a committee to focus on improvements to the park in Port Kent.**

**Diana Zais suggested using funds for streetscapes and gooseneck lighting on Front Street.**

**Andrea Baer suggested a bike lane and walking path from JC Park to Port Kent.**

**Walter Chmura suggested pickle ball courts.**

**Supervisor Barber closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:15 PM.**

Upon a motion by Councilman Klages and seconded by Councilman Gload and unanimously carried it was

**#66 Resolved: That the reading of the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of April 11th, 2023 be dispensed with.**

**Supervisor Barber opened the floor for subjects other than ROOST Funds.**

**Barb Davidson addressed the Board concerning 1709 Front Street. The building is showing signs of collapse. There is a safety issue for Town residents and asked the Board what could be done about it.**

**Supervisor Barber responded several letters have been sent to the owner in California. He is in foreclosure as his mortgage is held by the Town of Ausable. Supervisor Barber will consult with the Code Enforcement Officer.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board there were 2,427 hits in 30 days on the Town of Chesterfield web site, chesterfieldny.com and 18,627 views in the past 12 months.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board dog waste receptacles have been put out behind the library and by the Christmas tree to encourage owners to pick up after their pets. There has been no progress in changing or adopting a new Local Law for Dogs.**

**Dan Costin added it is disgusting the amount of pet waste in the green spaces. He has to wear hazardous waste suit to mow or weed whack.**

**Barb Davidson stated she has a penalty provision in the lease agreements of her tenants if they do not pick up after their dogs.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board, although a separate fund was created for the Compact Station, he would like to wait to see the second quarter financial report to determine if the Compact Station can sustain itself or if the fees need to be increased.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board the ROOST Fund balance is \$47,363. The Town has not received any funds for 2023 yet but should be sent in 2 installments in June of this year and January of next. Since ROOST is no longer part of the General Fund, the General Revenue from the 2023 Budget needs to be reduced by \$33,000. That is part of the budget amendments presented to the Board.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Clock Tower for Veteran's Park has been ordered. Work on the donated sod and concrete for the base will be**

completed by the Highway Department so everything will be ready for installation of the clock when it arrives. The clock will read “Town of Chesterfield est. 1802”.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town has been working with Essex County’s Assistant Attorney to consolidate the Port Kent Water Districts to one district. A Public Hearing must be held. There are benefits to consolidating the districts with no downside.

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Klages and unanimously approved it was

**#67 Resolved:** To begin the process to consolidate Districts 1 and 2 into one district with a Public Hearing to be held on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:45.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board of increased complaints of vandalism at JC Park. The vandalism has included inappropriate language and drawings on the playground equipment. Amanda, Geoff and Harlee Blaise tried to clean up some of the equipment. This is a good example of community involvement. Supervisor Barber suggested purchasing a \$20 gift card from Stewart’s in recognition of their community spirit. The Board was in agreement.

Supervisor Barber furthermore requested from the Board a resolution to spend up to \$6000 for increased security at JC Park which is a shared expense with the Town of Ausable. Resident Tom Easter on Locust Lane is generously allowing the Town to utilize his Wifi to provide live surveillance.

Upon a motion by Councilman Casey and seconded by Councilman Mitchell and unanimously carried it was

**#68 Resolved:** To approve expenditures of up to \$6000, split evenly with the Town of Ausable, to provide enhanced security at JC Park due to increased costly vandalism.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the last CD at Champlain National for \$10,000 matures this month. He suggested maybe put it NY Class to get a better return. Whitney Burger from Glens Falls National also left a CD program if the Board chooses to go that way. After much discussion, it was decided to leave the CD at Champlain National.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board he had a meeting with Susan Loomans, John Sokol and Nicole Green from Pride of Ticonderoga concerning affordable housing in Chesterfield. Ms. Loomis and Mr. Sokul presented a plan for a pocket neighborhood on Santor Lane. Ms. Green was very receptive. Governor Hochul has opened up opportunities for low-income housing projects. Supervisor Barber

also mentioned the 20 acres on Thompson Road to Ms. Green for affordable housing opportunities.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board NY State has updated requirements for Sexual Harassment Policies.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilman Casey and unanimously carried it was

**#69 Resolved: To adopt the new NY State Sexual Harassment Policy to be in compliance with New York State Labor Law Requirements.**

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Klages and unanimously carried it was

**#70 Resolved: To accept the completed Supervisor's Financial Report for April ,2023, copies of which can be found in the Town Clerk's Office.**

Upon a motion by Councilman Klages and seconded by Councilman Casey and unanimously carried it was

**#71 Resolved: That all audited bills presented to the Town Board since the last Board Meeting on April 11th,2023 be paid. Bills in the amount of \$55,348.33 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$32,585.53 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$46,649.13 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Water Department. Bills in the amount of \$2,052.97 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water Departments. Bills in the amount of \$3,053.90 were audited and paid from the Village Debt. Bills in the amount of 60.00 were audited and paid from the Trust& Agency. Bills in the amount of \$27.01 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Light District. The total of all bills since last meeting was \$139,776.87.**

Upon a motion by Councilman Casey and seconded by Councilman Gload and unanimously carried it was

**#72 Resolved: That all letters brought before the Town be filed.**

Supervisor Barber offered the courtesy of the floor to Town Clerk Bourgeois.

Town Clerk Bourgeois reminded the Board of the Essex County Rabies Clinic to be held May10th,2023 from 6-8PM at the Knights of Columbus. Councilmen Gload, Mitchell and Casey stated they would help.

Supervisor Barber offered the courtesy of the floor to the Councilmen.

**Councilman Casey thanked Dave Winter and the Water Department with the help of Roger Dorr for such good work on the clock foundation.**

**Supervisor Barber offered the courtesy of the floor to Highway Superintendent Champine.**

**Highway Superintendent Champine informed the Board there is no schedule yet for work on the sidewalks on Front Street. The road on the banks of the river on the Dugway are cracked.**

**Upon a motion by Councilman Klages and seconded by Councilman Gload and unanimously carried it was**

**#73 Resolved: That with no further business to come before this Town Board Meeting, this meeting could be adjourned at 7:19 P.M.**

**Bruce Bourgeois**

**Town Clerk**