

Minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 at the Town Office, 1 Vine Street, Keeseville, County of Essex and State of New York, Pursuant to Due Notice.

Supervisor Clayton Barber called the Public Hearing on Local Law #2, Regulating Battery Energy Storage Systems to order at 5:45 PM.

Code Officer Boynton gave a synopsis of the proposed law, explaining this Local Law would go above and beyond what NY State requires. It would ensure that solar farms could not just “walk away” from unprofitable sites and would require restoring land to original state. All plans would need to be approved by the Town and would insulate the Town from lawsuits. Companies are cold calling the Towns now looking for sites.

Supervisor Barber closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular Meeting at 6:06 PM.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present:

Supervisor: Clayton Barber

Town Clerk: Bruce Bourgeois

Councilman: David Gload

Councilman: Rick Klages

Town Attn.: Mark Cowan

Highway Supt: John “Jay” Champine

Code Officer: Michael Boynton

Councilmen Patrick Mitchell and John Casey were excused.

Guests present:

Tamera Mrose Walter Chmura

Romeyn Prescott Andy Prescott

Christina Mullen John Sokol

Sue Loomans

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

#164 Resolved: To accept and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of September 10th, 2024 and the Public Hearing of October 2nd.

Supervisor Barber welcomed everyone in attendance.

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

Town Clerk Bourgeois informed the Board of the Port Kent neighborhood watch meeting attended by about 15 residents and gave a brief synopsis of the meeting recognizing the very informative and professional presentation by Tyler Champine from the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Town Clerk Bourgeois asked if there was an interest from the Board for purchasing 6-8 neighborhood watch signs. The Board was receptive.

Town Clerk Bourgeois informed the Board the new BAS program for clerks will be installed and presented the Board with the monthly Clerk Report for September 2024. He also gave a brief report on the progress of the Keeseville Holiday Committee. Essex County Health Department has requested next June 26th for the Town of Chesterfield's rabies clinic. There is a new bench installed by Lora Morrow and her uncle, Lane Bonadies in honor of Cathy Bonadies-Morrow, Lora's mother and Lane's brother at Watson Park.

Supervisor Barber offered the courtesy of the floor to the Board Members.

Councilman Klages asked about the condemned building on Front Street.

Town Attorney Cowan replied the owner is coming out of bankruptcy this month allowing further actions to be taken. Supervisor Barber added there are 2 other distressed properties the Town is working with the Town Court on. Code Officer Boynton is aware and has started the process to remedy the situations.

Councilman Gload requested information on the Keeseville Youth Commission's budget. Supervisor Barber has a meeting Thursday at 10:00.

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

Highway Superintendent Champine informed the Board there is paving in progress on the Burke Road. He is hoping to do more paving on River and Kent Streets although finding companies to do it are scarce and NY State is hogging up most of the pavement this year and next for their projects.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to public comment.

Walter Chmura asked if signs are worth it in Port Kent. No one seems to pay attention to the signs there now.

Supervisor Barber recognized Andy Prescott to give a brief progress report on the Town of Chesterfield Growth Comprehensive Plan. Everything is currently on schedule and in budget. There is nothing needed from the Town at this time.

Supervisor Barber opened the conversation on increasing the price of Compaction Station tickets from \$16 to \$20. The proposed price increase has been tabled for the last two meetings. Councilman Gload suggested a pause in increase, now that composting has started, and with the personnel changes, to see where the numbers stood closer to next summer. Supervisor Barber responded the Compaction Station was in deficit and clearly not supporting itself.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Klages and carried with Councilman Gload voting no it was

#165 Resolved: To increase the price of the Compaction Station tickets from \$16 to \$20 around December 1st, 2024 or when the supply of printed tickets expire, whatever comes first.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board he still needs the Councilmen to go door to door on Kent, Vine and Beach Streets to do an income survey for the Storm water Grant that is due by November 1st.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with a letter from Christina and Douglas Mitchell requesting a combination of 2 adjacent parcels on Soper Road.

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

#166 Resolved: To combine 2 lots (4.1-1-6.000 and 4.1-1-7.000) owned by Douglas and Christina Mitchell with Life Lease to Joan Gray at 336 Soper Road, Keeseville into one lot.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town is considering purchasing Fred Marino's property on Kent Street if the NY Forward Grant goes through. Andy Prescott added the Grant may go through in March then there will be plenty of time to make a decision. The Board may consider the purchase regardless of the grant being awarded.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board one site from the Corlear Bay Road damage was redacted as it does not qualify for funding but the Town has re-submitted it as an emergency project. The project has to move through the process again.

Supervisor Barber gave an update on the Salt Shed. The Town is waiting on the contractor to submit their budget and to obtain a per test by the end of October.

Supervisor Barber requested a motion from the Board to enter into an agreement with GPI for any future storm and sewer projects. There is no initial cost to the Town and any contract costs are contingent on Town review.

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

#167 Resolved: To enter into an agreement with GPI to obtain funding for storm drain at no initial cost for the Town of Chesterfield.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the ANCA Energy Grant has been reduced to \$40,000. The community solar subscription has been held up until the end of 2024, obtaining points through vehicle fleet inventory and potentially site ready certification of a Chesterfield property for future solar panels.

Supervisor Barber thanked Clerk to the Supervisor Ocasio for doing all the leg and paperwork for this grant.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town has been approved for a single fast charging station in any future Town parking lots.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the NY State Police have identified the culprits who damaged the lights on the walking bridge. The families of the minors would like to make amends. Supervisor Barber suggested apologies to the people who put the lights up and who donated funds for the lights. Town of Ausable Supervisor Bresette may also have some community service projects.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Christmas lights for Front Street have been ordered and purchased using ROOST Funds.

Supervisor Barber scheduled the fall brush pickup for October 28th through November 22nd. Bagged leaves and brush up to 3 inches in diameter will be picked up by the roadside in the hamlet of Port Kent and the old Village of Keeseville limits.

Supervisor Barber requested a resolution to schedule a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget of 2025 which will be below the tax cap.

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

#168 Resolved: To schedule a Public Hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Town of Chesterfield Office, 1 Vine Street, Keeseville with the Regular Board Meeting to immediately follow.

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

#169 Resolved: To accept the Supervisor's financial Report for September, 2024, a copy of which can be found at the Town of Chesterfield Town Clerk's office.

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

#170 Resolved: To accept current water adjustments, bills and receivables.

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

#171 Resolved: To approve all Budget Amendments for September, 2024.

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

#172 Resolved: that all audited bills presented to the Town Board since the last Board Meeting on September 10th, 2024 be paid. Bills in the amount of \$89,324.48 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$45,289.77 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$31.35 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Light District. Bills in the amount of

\$14,068.14 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Water Department. Bills in the amount of \$2,788.74 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water Department. Bills in the amount of \$2,471.35 were audited and paid from the Village Debt. Bills in the amount of \$250.00 were audited and paid from ROOST. Bills in the amount of \$1,184.18 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Compaction Station. Bills in the amount of \$1,140.15 were audited and paid from the TCWD. The totals of all bills since last meeting totaled \$156,548.16.

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

#173 Resolved: That all letter brought before the Town of Chesterfield Town Board be filed.

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

#174 Resolved: To enter into Executive Session at 7:13 PM to discuss water issues and the walking bridge destruction.

The Board returned to the Regular Meeting at 7:49 PM with no decisions being made.

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

#175 Resolved: To resolve a water issue as discussed.

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

#176 Resolved: That with nothing further to come before this Board the Regular Meeting of October 8th, 2024 of the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield be adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Bruce Bourgeois Town Clerk Town of Chesterfield