

Minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, November 12th, 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 the 2025 Budget to order at 5:30.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present:

Supervisor: Clayton Barber

Town Clerk: Bruce Bourgeois

Councilman: David Gload

Councilman: Rick Klages

Councilman: John Casey

Town Attn.: Mark Cowan entered at 5:45

Highway Supt: John "Jay" Champine

Budget Officer: Laura Ocasio

Councilman Patrick Mitchell was excused.

Guests present:

Tamera Mrose

Walter Chmura

Garret Richards

Susan Picard

Jesse Giovallo

Chase Ganter

Christina Mullen

Nancy Thompson

Brayden Lafountain

Anthony Semeraro

Schelly LaHart

Deshawnda Banker

Matthew Spoor

Amy Lattrell

Abigail MacDougal

Tara Edwards

Supervisor Barber welcomed everyone in attendance.

Town Clerk Bourgeois read the Legal Notice for the Public Hearing on the 2025 Town of Chesterfield Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to public comment.

Walter Chmura asked if the Town could afford to give 3% raises every year and offered officials salaries from other towns.

Budget Officer Ocasio responded the minimum raise this year was 6 ½%. The Town is also already in a health consortium with NY State and would be more expensive to form their own with other towns.

Highway Superintendent Champine added that a good salary is needed in this environment to keep or even staff people, using the Town of Jay as an example.

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

#177 Resolved: That with no other public comment, this Public Hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget be closed at 5:54 PM.

Supervisor Barber opened the Public Hearing on the CDBG closeout and recognized Sue Picard from Friends of the North Country.

Sue Picard read a required statement and presented the Board with a summary of the program as follows:

Total Grant Award was \$250,000 with Capital Amount of \$205,000.

Total Capital Expended \$108,400.

Total Capital amount not obligated \$96,600.

Original unit goal 5.

of completed units 2.

Pending construction 0

Friends of North Country leverage \$74,443.63.

Sue Picard then read a second required statement and encouraged public comment.

Walter Chmura asked about mobile homes being a possible solution to encourage more projects.

Ms. Picard responded that mobile homes fall into the scope. Part of the issue with getting more projects is the lack of contractors available. Essex County has the same issue.

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

#178 Resolved: That with no other comments, the Public Hearing on CDBG Project 233HR304-22 be closed and the Regular Board Meeting be opened at 6:09 PM.

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

#179 Resolved: To accept and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of October 8th, 2024.

Supervisor Barber recognized a couple of local youths who apologized for the damage to the walking bridge lights and said they would be attending the Town of Ausable meeting as well.

Supervisor Barber requested a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget.

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Casey and passed by roll call vote with everyone voting in the affirmative it was

#180 Resolved: To accept the 2025 Preliminary Budget and adopt it as the 2025 Budget for the Town of Chesterfield.

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

Town Clerk Bourgeois informed the Board of the new BAS Clerk Program. Signs for neighborhood watch are up in Port Kent. He presented the Board with a detailed Clerk Report and submitted the Clerk Bank Record.

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

Councilman Klages asked for any progress on a metal building for the Water Department. There was none.

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

Highway Superintendent Champine informed the Board the barriers at Commerce Park will remain through the winter. He asked about no parking signs for the winter and if there will be enforcement. There needs to be easements for plow turnarounds at dead end streets. Town Attorney Cowen will help draw those up. The repairs on Corlear Bay Road are 90% complete.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board of a letter of interest from Mountain Lakes Services concerning 10 acres of Town land on the Thompson Road and Adirondack Roots is interested in the remainder of the parcel for affordable housing. He tasked the Board to think of a fair price for the land to be discussed at a later date.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to public comment.

Nany Thompson opened up a discussion of having a town-wide pickup of brush and leaves and not just the hamlets of Keeseville and Port Kent. Highway Superintendent Champine suggested maybe when the roads are swept in the spring. Town Clerk Bourgeois suggested it was a benefit of paying for water in those districts. Supervisor Barber added it does not seem feasible at this time.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board of 2 resolutions needed to be passed for the Salt Shed Grant. He asked Town Clerk Bourgeois to read each one.

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

#181 WHEREAS, the Town of Chesterfield has proposed a project to construct a new salt storage facility at the Town of Chesterfield Highway Department property (hereinafter, referred to as “Said Action”); and

WHEREAS, Said Action requires review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), per 6NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, Said Action is classified as an Unlisted Action under SEQRA pursuant to 6NYCRR Part 617.4 and 617.5; and

WHEREAS, multiple agencies may have approval and/or funding authority over Said Action; and

WHEREAS, 6NYCRR Part 617.2(u) defines “Lead Agency” as, an involved agency principally responsible for undertaking funding or approving of an action, and therefore responsible for determining whether an environmental impact statement is required in connection with the action, and for preparation and filing of the statement if one is required”; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2024 the Town of Chesterfield issued a Notice to Involved Agencies of its intent to establish itself as Lead Agency and that, pursuant to 6NYCRR Sections 617.6(a)(3), (b)(3) and 617.7(b)(3),(b)(4), the Town initiated a coordinated environmental review process of Said Action as an Unlisted Action under SEQRA and further intends to implement and complete all responsibilities of that office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chesterfield Town Board that the Town of Chesterfield hereby declares itself Lead Agency, as defined in 6NYCRR Part 617.2(u), for the coordinated review of Said Action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Chesterfield has proposed a project to construct a new salt storage facility at the Town of Chesterfield Highway Department property (hereinafter, referred to as “Said Action”); and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined Said Action is an Unlisted Action pursuant to Article 8 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law and title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Part 617, known as the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (collectively, the “Regulations”); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chesterfield has conducted a coordinated review of Said Action with Involved Agencies and completed the Short Environmental Assessment Form of Said Action in compliance with the Regulations, and intends to comply with any permitting requirements necessary for the implementation of Said Action; and

WHEREAS, said review and assessment under SEQRA has resulted in a reasoned determination that Said Action will not result in adverse environmental impacts therefore, Said Action will not significantly impact the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield, in its role as Lead Agency, that a Negative Declaration for the proposed Salt Storage Shed construction project be issued in

full compliance with the New York state Environmental Conservation Law and the New York State environmental Quality Review Act.

Supervisor Barber announced leaf and brush pickup ends the afternoon of November 22nd. Nothing will be picked up after that date.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the \$16 Compaction Station tickets are almost exhausted and the Clerk to the Supervisor is printing the new \$20 tickets. So far, the composting at the station has diverted 2000 pounds of food scraps from the compactor. Clerk to the Supervisor Ocasio will attend a seminar and is working with Jennifer Perry to obtain grants to keep the service running at no expense to the Town.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town is looking at the feasibility of creating its own facility for non-dangerous seized dogs due to cost and availability of space elsewhere. Tamera Mrose volunteered her services to help the Town be compliant with Ag and Market rules.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Sun Times , due to being a weekly paper, sometimes does not allow for the required time for a public hearing if needed in a short time. The Plattsburgh Press Republican, as a daily edition would solve that issue.

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

#183 Resolved: To authorize the Plattsburgh Press Republican in addition to the Sun Times as a paper of record to provide a more timely means of public notice.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board that any property owner in the Water Districts who requests a subdivision of their property and with approval from the Town of Chesterfield Planning Board will immediately begin debt service on their new parcels. If a resident within the boundaries of the Water Districts request and have approved by the Town Board a merger of properties, the debt service will be removed once the paperwork has been filed with Essex County.

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

#184 Resolved: To accept the Supervisor's Financial Report for October 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

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

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

#186 Resolved: that all audited bills presented to the Town Board since the last Board Meeting on October 8th, 2024 be paid. Bills in the amount of \$105,512.44 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$204,327.23 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$49,993.84 were audited and paid from the CDBG account. Bills in the amount of \$39,435.30

were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Water Department. Bills in the amount of \$7,556.72 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water Department. Bills in the amount of \$3,221.35 were audited and paid from the Village Debt. Bills in the amount of \$200.00 were audited and paid from Trust & Agency. Bills in the amount of \$6,608.58 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Compaction Station. The totals of all bills since last meeting totaled \$415,865.46.

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

#187 Resolved: That all letters brought before the Town of Chesterfield Town Board be filed.

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

#188 Resolved: To enter into Executive Session at 7:35 PM to discuss a water issue.

The Board returned to the Regular Meeting at 7:48 PM with no decision being made.

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

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

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

#190 Resolved: That with nothing further to come before this Board the Regular Meeting of November 12th, 2024 of the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield be adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Bruce Bourgeois Town Clerk Town of Chesterfield