

***Minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Regular Town Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, April 11th, 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 Town Board Meeting to order at 6:00 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:**

**Susan Picard**

**Walter Chmura**

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

**#55 Resolved: That the reading of the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of March 16th, 2023 be dispensed with.**

**Supervisor Barber offered the Courtesy of the floor to Sue Picard representing Friends of the North Country.**

**Ms. Picard informed the Board 13 residents received applications for the grants for home improvements. One went through the process but declined to finalize the grant and one is almost finished the process. The others have not been returned but counselors will be reaching out to them to go forward. The Finance Officer will go over details with Clerk to the Supervisor Ocasio as the application nears completion.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board Ed Giddings has decided Lot # 5 at the Commerce Park needed to much brush clearing so he would like to purchase the smaller Lot # 3 for the same price to put storage containers on-site. Supervisor Baber will consult with the Essex County IDA. The IDA also informed Supervisor Barber there is money available for signage to the Park with the ability to put business's names on the entrance.**

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

**#56 Resolved: To approve the offer from Ed's Concrete of \$20,000 for Lot # 3 at the Chesterfield Commerce Park upon approval by the Essex County IDA.**

**Supervisor Barber opened the floor for public comment.**

**Walter Chmura informed the Board of an Easter egg hunt at Watson Park in Port Kent, presented a list of needs at Watson Park, asked about progress on the burnt house on Lake Street and opened up a conversation on the Villa Motel.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board as of April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 there were 1,853 hits in 30 days on the Town of Chesterfield web site, chesterfieldny.com and 18,273 views in the past 12 months. The website also includes setbacks for surveyors now and the Town is continuing to add new information.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board of a need to determine rules and regulations for opting into the Cannabis Dispensary Program. The Town needs to schedule a public hearing to get input from the residents. He noted there are no updated guidelines. There are also issues with underage teens overdosing on gummies. Essex County has reported a 400% increase in overdoses.**

**Supervisor Barber presented the Town of Essex Local Law for Dogs. The Town of Chesterfield is in desperate need of regulations in regards of leashing and owner's pickup of animal waste. The Town's sidewalks and parks are littered with wastes. Dan Costin will put out the bags and waste containers this month but most residents will not use them. He tasked the Councilmen with reviewing the current law and look for ways to improve the dog law to fit the Town of Chesterfield specifically.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town's compact station is currently running in the red after the first quarter. Right now the finances for the compact station comes out of the General Fund. Other towns have a separate fund for their transfer station. Once the fund is separated from the General Fund, any shortfalls could be corrected and any surplus could be used for improvements at the facility. Supervisor Barber noted that the transfer station isn't in serious deficit and reminded the Board the port-a-potty was paid for the entire year.**

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

**#57 Resolved: To create a separate Compact Station Fund for the Town of Chesterfield to better account for revenue stream.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board AFLAC would like to set up a workshop with employees for additional insurances.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town needs to determine how much of the 2020-2023 ROOST Funds were put in the General Fund that now needs to be taken out of General Fund balance and deposit in a ROOST Fund account. From 2020 to date the Town of Chesterfield has received \$73,062 from ROOST and spent \$11,008.58. The remaining \$62,053.42 will come out of General Fund and be put into the ROOST Fund. Supervisor Barber will call the Association of Towns to be sure everything is as it should be.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board he received guidelines for ROOST funds provided by the Essex County Board of Supervisors for specific usage of the funds. The rules will be posted on the Town of Chesterfield website after April 17<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May9<sup>th</sup> before the regular Board Meeting to discuss the planning of spending these funds. Town Clerk Bourgeois will post on the Face Book page and post the public notice.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board he was presented with a proposal from Dana Rohleder for a Lake Street wildflower garden and path which would be located on Town of Chesterfield property. The Councilmen thought it was a good**

idea but had many questions and would like to have Mr. Rohleder attend the next Board Meeting to answer questions. Supervisor Barber asked Town Clerk Bourgeois to post on the Port Kent Face Book page to gauge interest from the community.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Jim Spear plans on returning this summer to do his fine work at JC Park and Fuller's should be beginning work there on the new plans.

Supervisor Barber asked Town Attorney McCormick if the easements for the TCWD had been completed. Supervisor Barber contacted several residents and a gate is not needed and a boat can be stored as long as it is locked. It was decided to remove the boat after usage anyway to avoid any Town liability.

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

**#58 Resolved: To approve all line item transfers to balance particular funds as submitted by Clerk to the Supervisor Ocasio.**

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town of Chesterfield earned \$10,240.77 in interest from NY Class for the month of March and questioned the Councilmen if the Town should invest more funds.

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

**#59 Resolved: To move \$300,000 from the General Fund to NY Class.**

Supervisor Barber requested a resolution from the Board opposing passage of Conservation Subdivision Design Bill A04608.

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

**#60 Whereas, the Adirondack Park Agency adopted a large Subdivision Permit Application, that incorporated many of the action items in the Conservation Design Bill; and**

**Whereas, implementation of the Adirondack Park Agency Large Subdivision Permit, is possibly more protective of the environment than the Conservation Subdivision design allows for, and**

**Whereas, Conservative Design laws are seldom mandatory and are a tool to keep open space in urban areas; and**

**Whereas, the State of New York, as of March 20,2018 owned 2,505802 or 44.6 percent of the Adirondack park in fee, the State as of November 12, 2018, also owns 785,434 acres of Conservation Easements, where development and subdivision rights have been extinguished; and**

**Whereas, this means that more than 3.3 million acres of a 5.9 million acre Adirondack Park that will never be developed or subdivided; and**

**Whereas, of the remaining 2.6 million acres of private land, existing development, roads, lakes, rivers, streams, steep slopes, wetlands and high elevations are not suitable for development; and**

**Whereas, the proposed legislation would amend the existing Adirondack Park Agency Act which has been in effect for 50 years; and**

**Whereas, the proposed legislation is overly broad and vaguely worded giving too much authority to the Adirondack Park Agency in its rule-making capacity and regulatory authority to establish its own regulations supplementing and interpreting this law; and**

**Whereas, this law will effect property with acreage as low as 3.2 acres and mandates private property owners to incur excessive and unduly burdensome financial expenses to hire consultants to complete ecological evaluations, assessments and concept plans and will also add significant time to proposed developments; and**

**Whereas, the Adirondack Park Agency, without any conditions or parameters outlined in the law, will be charged with undertaking site evaluations and the authority to propose additional conditions vaguely allowed in the law incident to the development of property and ecological issues; and**

**Whereas, this proposed law would eliminate the potential for development on certain lands and would prevent development on certain lands which currently is allowed and is adequately protected under the existing rubric of the Adirondack Park Agency, is an attempt to further preclude residents and owners of real property in the Adirondack park from developing their properties and will further result in severe economic hardships, loss of revenue and commerce within an area already plagued by substantial economic stressors; and**

**Whereas, the current Adirondack Park Agency law and its rules and regulations fully protect and regulate these lands and this new law is a “taking”, without compensation and is unfair as it only addresses the Adirondack Park and**

**does not address any other wilderness, open space or other protected areas throughout the state:**

**Whereas, the proposed Bill places an additional burden on property owners within the Adirondack Park which is not necessary to protect the environment and ecological systems and is not beneficial to the wellbeing of the Adirondack Park and its residents.**

**Be It Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of chesterfield does not approve of the proposed bill; and**

**Be it further Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield does hereby call upon local governments to stand together, individually and through our associations to insist that the Conservation Subdivision Design Bill A04608 be withdrawn; and**

**Be it further Resolved, that copies of this resolution br forwarded to: Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader and Assembly Speaker, Senator Dan Stec, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Matthew Simpson, Association of Adirondack Towns and Villages and Chairperson of Economic Committee, Senator Harckham and Assemblywoman Glick.**

**Supervisor Barber opened the conversation of spring brush pick up in the hamlets of Port Kent and Keeseville. The dates decided were April 17<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> for brush and bagged leaves to be picked up by the Water and Highway Departments.**

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

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

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

**#62 Resolved: That all audited bills presented to the Town Board since the last Board Meeting on March 16th,2023 be paid. Bills in the amount of \$29,550.00 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$28,310.24 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$9,717.84 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Water Department. Bills in the amount of \$32,659.37 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water Departments. Bills in the amount of \$2,338.90 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 \$1,000.00 were audited and paid from the ROOST Fund. The total of all bills since last meeting was \$198,030.35.**

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

**#63 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 Keeseville Knights of Columbus. Supervisor Barber informed the Board he would like a couple of the Councilmen there.**

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

**Highway Superintendent Champine informed the Board there is a new sinkhole starting again by the Town Office. It is patched now. He also brought attention of a building on Front Street that seems to be beginning to collapse.**

**Supervisor Barber informed the Board of an opportunity to purchase a town clock for Veteran's Park using ROOST Funds. An anonymous donor would like to donate seed and topsoil for the park.**

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

**#63 Resolved; To purchase a 4 face, 12-foot clock from Tower Clocks USA to be installed in Veteran's Park with security cameras installed.**

**Supervisor Barber requested the Board approve the combination of 2 adjoining lots on Chesterfield Street.**

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

**#64 Resolved: To combine 2 adjoining parcels on Chesterfield Street, tax map number 4.54-1-5.000 and 4.54-2-1.000 owned by Thomas Mattila into one parcel pending approval of the Town of Chesterfield Planning Board.**

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

**#65 Resolved: That with no further business to come before this Town Board Meeting, this meeting could be adjourned at 8:17 P.M.**

**Bruce Bourgeois**

**Town Clerk**