**Minutes of the Public Hearing held by the Town of Chesterfield Town Board on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at the Town Office, on the Corner of Clinton and Vine Streets, in Keeseville, County of Essex and State of New York.**

Supervisor Gerald H. Morrow opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Town Clerk Lynn Jarvis read the legal notice to hold a Public Hearing to review the 2016 Preliminary Town Budget.

Guests present were: David Gload, Nancy Del Zio and Shelley Davis; Clerk to Supervisor.

Supervisor Morrow explained that before they even began working on the budget they had to deal with the tax cap which was not at 2% for 2016, but at 0.73% - that figure is hard to meet when you are faced with a 13% increase in health insurance, 3.5 to 10% increase in liability insurance and an increase in compensation insurance and to make matters worse we lost 1.2 million in assessed value due to re-valve of railroad properties, State owned land and utilities. Diligently working with the Town Board we had to increase the General Fund, but we were able to stay within the tax cap by using $20,000 of surplus or fund balance, which we haven’t done in five years – we have a healthy General Fund, it doesn’t hurt the budget to help the taxpayers – used $10,000 of surplus or fund balance for the Highway Budget. One thing that saved us $23,000 was switching from Excellus Health Plan to Blue Shield of Northeastern New York, so instead of the health insurance increasing over $50,000 it only increased $27,000. The General Fund decreased 2.2% - 2.40 per 1000 – Highway Fund decreased 0.82% - 2.38 per 1000.

Supervisor Morrow read the summary sheet of the 2016 budget containing the Special Districts – Port Kent Light stayed at $8,100 – AuSable Chasm Light stayed at $900 – the water districts stayed the same as last year – we are definitely going to have to work on TCWD # 2 – it can’t stay the way it is – once we are able to combine the two districts the rates are going to have to change. AuSable-Chesterfield Joint Fire District decreased. Aquatic Plant Growth Control District stayed at $7,500, Supervisor mentioned ALPOA, which is a private association of landowners around Augur Lake and there is the Village Debt District – 2015 we had the river bank bond payment, retirees health insurance and unemployment for former Village employees, the amount each Town raised was $41,715 this year the amount to be raised is $22,787 lowered by half – 2015 former Village residents paid $162.72 – 2016 will be $92.09 that is a significant decrease – so they will see a light at the end of the tunnel. The bottom line is $2,820,241, less revenues $1,129,904, less surplus $30,000 amount to be raised by taxes is $1,660,337.

Supervisor Morrow asked if there were any questions on the budget – he stated that with the help of the Board, Phil and everyone else that helped we have a good budget – to be able to reduce taxes in this day and age is unheard of.

Many Towns adopt a resolution to override the tax cap – the Town of Chesterfield has never done that, even if you don’t have to use it, the people feel you just may do the override.

Supervisor Morrow duly closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

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Lynn A. Jarvis, Town Clerk

**Minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Town Board Meeting held on Thursday,**

**November 5, 2015 at the Town Office, on the Corner of Clinton and Vine Streets, in Keeseville, County of Essex, State of New York, pursuant to due notice.**

Supervisor Gerald H. Morrow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were:

Supervisor: Gerald H. Morrow

Town Clerk: Lynn A. Jarvis

Councilman: Clayton J. Barber

Councilman: Russell L. Blaise

Councilman: Richard J. Klages

Councilman: Joseph W. Kusalonis

Town Attorney: Michael D. McCormick

Supt. of Highways: Philip W. Pray

Guests present were: David Gload, Nancy Del-Zio, Don Bogucki, Jay Frank and Shelley Davis; Clerk to Supervisor.

Town Clerk Lynn Jarvis read the legal notice for the change of the meeting date.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Clayton Barber and unanimously carried it was

**129. RESOLVED** that the reading of the minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2015 be dispensed with.

Supervisor Morrow stated that a Public Hearing on the 2016 budget was just held before this meeting started, but he briefly reviewed the analysis sheet – the tax cap this year was set at 0.73% - the General Fund decreased 2.2% and the Highway Fund decreased 0.82% - that was amazing with the health insurance increasing 13%, the liability insurance increasing between 3.5% and 10% and an increase in the compensation insurance.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Clayton Barber, seconded by Councilman Richard Klages and unanimously carried it was

**130. RESOLVED** that the 2016 Preliminary Town Budget be adopted by the Town of Chesterfield Town Board.

Councilman Barber Aye

Councilman Blaise Aye

Councilman Klages Aye

Councilman Kusalonis Aye

Supervisor Morrow stated that although he doesn’t have to vote unless to break a tie, why wouldn’t he want to vote on such a good budget.

Supervisor Morrow Aye

Supervisor Morrow offered the courtesy of the floor to the guests, no one addressed the Board.

Supervisor Morrow informed the Board that we had been requested by the Friends of the North Country to sign a Discharge of Mortgage for a grant recipient who received funds from the former Village grant, there are no names mentioned or given on camera.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Russell Blaise, seconded by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis and unanimously carried it was

**131. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to sign the Discharge of Mortgage for a grant recipient of a former Village grant through the Friends of the North Country.

Supervisor Morrow stated that at the last meeting Councilman Barber asked about increasing the income eligibility for Senior Citizens Exemption – the Supervisor checked into this matter and found that Essex County is at $25,000, most Towns are at that amount or less, a couple are on the sliding scale – he had given each Board Member the listing for the Towns and Essex County.

Councilman Barber stated that he asked because AVCS went to $26,000.

Councilman Blaise stated that the last time we increased the amount we decided to stay in line with the County rate.

Councilman Barber would still like to increase the amount to $26,000.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Clayton Barber, seconded by Councilman Richard Klages and it was

**132. RESOLVED** to hold a Public Hearing on the increase from $25,000 to $26,000 for the Senior Citizens Income Eligibility.

Supervisor Morrow stated since Councilman Russell Blaise brought it up – about staying the same as the County he asked for a roll call vote.

Councilman Blaise No

Councilman Kusalonis No

Councilman Barber Yes

Councilman Klages Yes

Supervisor Morrow No

Supervisor Morrow stated this is a time where he has to be the tie breaker.

Supervisor Morrow informed the Board that we have received the information on the Association of Towns Annual Meeting to be held in NYC in February – who plans on attending.

All expenses to be paid by the Town.

Councilman Blaise plans to attend – Supervisor stated we will have a new Councilman he may want to attend – and there usually is a Judge that attends – Town Attorney doesn’t plan on going neither does the Town Clerk.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Clayton Barber and unanimously carried it was

**133. RESOLVED** that the Town Board approves two Councilmen and one Town Justice to attend the Association of Towns Annual Meeting in NYC in February. All actual and necessary expenses to be paid by the Town.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Russell Blaise, seconded by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis and unanimously carried it was

**134. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Keeseville Youth Commission for the amount of $14,400 for the year 2016.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Russell Blaise and unanimously carried it was

**135. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Keeseville Free Library Association for the amount of $16,000 for the year 2016.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis, seconded by Councilman Clayton Barber and unanimously carried it was

**136. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Keeseville Senior Citizens Club, Inc. for the amount of $2,650 for the year 2016.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Russell Blaise and unanimously carried it was

**137. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Town of AuSable for the amount of $6,866 for half of the cost towards the Keeseville Nutrition Bus for the year 2016.

Supervisor Morrow explained that the Town of Chesterfield owns the bus and the Seniors from both Towns use the bus.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis, seconded by Councilman Richard Klages and unanimously carried it was

**138. RESOLVED** that North Country Life Flight, Inc. is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation which is responsible for all aspects of patient care by providing medical equipment, training medical personnel and administering the medical portion utilizing the New York State Police helicopter based in Saranac Lake and private fixed-wing aviation resources; and

**WHEREAS:** The New York State Police and private fixed-wing aviation resources do not provide a medically trained team or medical equipment for patient transports; and

**WHEREAS:**  The people of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties receive a vital emergency medical service which is free of charge to critically ill and seriously injured patients, and therefore municipal governments are asked to pledge monies for this worthwhile program;

**WHEREAS:** That the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with North Country Life Flight, Inc. for the purpose of operating the medical component of the medevac program, which will serve its residents and visitors, and paying the amount of $100.00 which represents the Town’s share for 2016; and be it

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the sum of $100.00 is hereby appropriated to Account No. A4560.4 for payment to North Country Life Flight, Inc.

Supervisor Morrow stated that it has been the same for as long as he can remember.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis and unanimously carried it was

**139. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the North Country SPCA for the amount of $3,740.85 for the year 2016.

Councilman Klages asked if the amount was the same as last year.

Supervisor Morrow stated there was a slight increase, but it is within the budget.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Russell Blaise, seconded by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis and unanimously carried it was

**140. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. for Employee Services in the amount of $480.00 for their drug and alcohol programs for the year 2016.

Supervisor Morrow informed the Board that the amount doesn’t include the testing, that is done somewhere else.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Clayton Barber, seconded by Councilman Richard Klages and unanimously carried it was

**141. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Town of AuSable to help with the cost of the NYS Police Sub Station for the amount of $3,320

for the year 2016.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Russell Blaise and unanimously carried it was

**142. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with Anderson Falls Heritage Society for the amount of $4,500 for the year 2016.

Supervisor Morrow mentioned that the Museum is located across the road from the office.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis, seconded by Councilman Russell Blaise and unanimously carried it was

**143. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Keeseville Christmas Basket Committee for the amount of $100.00 for the year 2016.

Supervisor Morrow stated that he has a dam update (not a pun on words) for the dam on Augur Lake. There as a meeting today with two APA Representatives, two NYS DEC Representatives and one Representative from the Army Corps of Engineers, our Engineer Wayne Ryan and Phil Pray. Phil has made a road all the way to the dam – this was a pre-permit meeting. The dam stretches approximately 90’ and the new dam to be built will be right behind the old dam, we will have to pay scale wages – prevailing wages. There are at least five trees to be removed they are about 6” in diameter – there is a brook line, but no wetlands. The design should be done by January – bidding to be in May – construction to start in July and completed in September.

The Supervisor feels it is a large glorified retaining wall – talk was held during the meeting to remove the old dam, which would probably cost $100,000 or more, he tried to talk them into leaving the old dam there.

Phil Pray said there is silt behind the old dam, it would be better to have no disturbance to the old dam just leave it there.

Supervisor Morrow stated that the application for grant funding is still in, but we didn’t lose a dam like other places have, making them worst off than we are – chances aren’t very good.

Supervisor Morrow gave an update on the water districts – Port Kent Water District is wonderful – no problems there, but the Town of Chesterfield Water District #2 that we inherited from the former Village always has problems – Dave Winter just had to order another pump and motor. Shane passed all his tests, now he is a grade-d. Kevin and Shane are great employees. Together with Dave Winter they have flushed al the hydrants in the Town of Chesterfield Water Dist. And Port Kent Water Dist.

Another problem left by the former Village of Keeseville – a drainage issue on Spring Street, yesterday they sent a camera down the storm drain and found many curves and joints – this will be a major project in the spring.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Russell Blaise, seconded by Councilman Clayton Barber and unanimously carried it was

**144. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor’s Financial Report for the month of October 2015 be accepted. The Financial Report may be found on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis, seconded by Councilman Richard Klages and unanimously carried it was

**145. RESOLVED** that all bills be paid. Bills in the amount of $47,213.78 were audited and paid from the Highway Acct., Claims 159 to 179. Bills in the amount of $5,901.20 were audited and paid from General Acct., Claims 389 to 409. Bills in the amount of $10,889.11 were audited and paid from TCWD Acct. Claims 410 to 428. Bills in the amount of $1,203.32 were audited and paid from PKWD Acct., Claims 429 to 437. NYSEG was paid $5,549.34, Total Security Solutions was paid $1,127.11, Graymont was paid $1,271.96, Essex County DPW was paid $719.98, Verizon was paid $84.64, Charter Comm. was paid $201.52, Endyne, Inc. was paid $208.00 and Frontier Comm. was paid $2,433.05, Claims 438 to 446. Warrants can be found in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Morrow explained that Security Concepts was started and operated by the same person who now owns Total Security Solutions and that person is his brother. There were three quotes received, when we asked for quotes for the camera systems for the Town Garage, Total Security Solutions was highest bid. He went on to further state he has no interest in the business what so ever.

Supervisor Morrow explained that CFA is our insurance Broker of Record and we are switching to Blue Shield of Northeastern NY – we are saving $23,000 and the benefits are good.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Russell Blaise, seconded by Councilman Richard Klages and unanimously carried it was

**146. RESOLVED** that CFA Insurance Agency be the Broker of Record for the Town of Chesterfield.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Clayton Barber and unanimously carried it was

**147. RESOLVED** that Blue Shield on Northeastern NY be our health insurance provider.

Supervisor Morrow brought before the Board the matter of the water debt due on

Nov. 15th in the amount of $152,000 to EFC, this is a debt inherited from the former Village of Keeseville. At this time we are applying for a grant to review the water system problems and another grant for aquatic plant control on Butternut Pond.

He has contacted EFC Representatives about deferring the payment, but he has been told that we are unable to do that.

Councilman Kusalonis suggested we get money from the General Fund like we have in the past to help the Highway Fund then replace it later.

Councilman Klages suggested that we float a bond (loan).

Supervisor Morrow replied that to borrow a bond you need Bond Council to do the financing and an Attorney, then you will need to pay a bank interest on the loan, we don’t have money to do this nor do we have enough time.

Supervisor Morrow stated that he knows what to do, but he has been accused recently on Facebook and other social medias that he leads you guys – so you need to figure this out for yourselves.

Councilman Barber said if we ask you would you tell us.

Supervisor Morrow said are you asking me?

Councilman Barber said Jerry will you tell us what we should do?

Supervisor Morrow stated if you look at your Financial Report, you will see we have $135,000 in the Water Dist., we shouldn’t drain it, we won’t be able to pay the men or other bills that we will have.

We can do an Inter-fund Transfer of $50,000 from the General Fund to TCWD # 2 to pay the $152,000 loan to EFC (General Fund is healthy) – with the Inter-fund Transfer being paid back during the calendar year – our next billing cycle is in December.

The water rents are not bringing in enough for a year. Inside the former Village all that is collected is $214.00 – we won’t get grants if we don’t raise the rates – PKWD collects $650 per year which is around the State average.

Councilman Klages remarked that we may have to raise water bills for people inside the former Village.

Supervisor Morrow stated that they will need to discuss this more at a later date.

Supervisor Morrow offered the courtesy of the floor to David Gload.

David Gload asked how much money is generated yearly.

Supervisor Morrow replied $443,000 yearly. He also explained that the repairs were never kept up with – major repairs are needed – expensive repairs, the water tank is declining need to get Aqua-logics here for an inspection.

We need to combine the two districts – we also need to include vacant land by giving it a non-user fee, because they do have the opportunity to hook-up to the water.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis, seconded by Councilman Clayton Barber and unanimously carried it was

**148. RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorizes an Inter-fund Transfer from the General Fund to the Town of Chesterfield Water Dist. #2 in the amount of $50,000 to assist with the $152,000 payment due to EFC, and

**WHEREAS.** This Inter-fund Transfer of $50,000 will be paid back within the calendar year.

Town Clerk Lynn Jarvis had nothing for the Board.

Town Attorney Michael McCormick stated earlier in the meeting the Supervisor said the highest bid was awarded – it should have been the lowest bid was awarded from the three quotes.

Supervisor Morrow thanked Michael for catching that, it was lowest bid.

Supervisor Morrow informed the Board that there is a short-fall from Charter – there was a lot budgeted to be received from Charter because of the former Village – he has spoken to Tom Cohan who says he is working on getting it straightened out.

Councilman Klages brought up the fact of the Giddings Road – going to another Town because of the zip code.

Charter has always said it all washes out.

Councilman Klages asked about the property next to the Port Kent Cemetery, is it ours?

Supervisor Morrow stated yes and he has spoken with Mr. Finnegan who owns next to the property – he was very agreeable as long as there is a few feet of trees left as a buffer. When the crews get a chance they will start cleaning the lot.

Supt. of Highways, Phil Pray stated that most of the CHiPS money was used on the former Village streets, due to neglect over up-teen years. Outside village roads will be done next year – patch work inside the former Village – we utilized everything.

Supervisor Morrow remarked that they look wonderful – trimming is being done – even filling in potholes – everybody is working together. He remembers having to fight to get potholes filled in on Clinton Street when the Village was still here.

Phil Pray agreed that the two crews are working together very well.

Supervisor Morrow mentioned to the Board that the highway crew and water department

Need hooded sweatshirts – we can either purchase zip ups or pullovers – the cost is under $700.00 and we can purchase them from a local printer – USA Made.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Richard Klages, seconded by Councilman Clayton Barber and unanimously carried it was

**149. RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to purchase pullover or zip up hooded sweatshirts for the highway and water department employees for an amount of approximately $700.00.

Upon a motion made by Councilman Joseph Kusalonis, seconded by Councilman Richard Klages and unanimously carried it was

**150. RESOLVED** that since there is no further business to come before the Board this meeting be adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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Lynn A. Jarvis, Town Clerk