

Minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, November 14th, 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 5:45 PM

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Those Present:

Supervisor	Clayton Barber
Town Clerk	Bruce Bourgeois
Councilman	David Gload
Councilman	Richard Klages (entered meeting at 6:40)
Councilman	Patrick “Bill” Mitchell
Councilman	John Casey
Town Attorney	Michael McCormick
Supt. Of Highways	John “Jay” Champine

Guests Present:

Walter Chmura	Bernie Fielder
Mikki Rennie	Christina Mullen
Nancy Thompson	Robyn Pray
Doug Garrand	

Town Clerk Bourgeois read the legal notice for the Public Hearing on opting back in to allow cannabis dispensaries in the Town of Chesterfield and the expansion of the TCWD on Prospect Road.

Mikki Rennie and Bernie Fielder gave an informational and upbeat presentation with slides and handouts on their proposed planned cannabis dispensary with the strict requirements New York State has imposed on operators. Security personnel as well as cameras must be provided. Consumer safety with potency and chain of possession is required. The dispensary must be closed by 7PM and there will be no on-site consumption. Minimum age to purchase is 21 years old. There is a 13% sales tax. NT State keeps 9%. Of the other 4%, Essex County keeps 1% with the remaining 3% split equally among whatever Towns have opted in whether having an active dispensary or not.

There was no public comment on the water district expansion.

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

#138 Resolved: To adjourn the Public Hearing and enter into the Regular Board Meeting of November 14th, 2023 at 6:19 PM.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilman Casey and carried by roll call vote

Supervisor Barber	AYE
Councilman Gload	AYE
Councilman Klages	Absent
Councilman Mitchell	AYE
Councilman Casey	AYE

it was

#139 Resolved: To repeal Local Law 1 of 2021, A Local Law to Opt Out of Allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Consumption Sites, and opt in to Cannabis Law 131.

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

#140 Resolved: To expand the Town of Chesterfield Water District to the end of Prospect Road.

Supervisor Barber reminded the Board of the Public Hearing last Thursday on the 2024 Preliminary Budget and asked if the Board wanted to move forward and adopt the 2024 Budget.

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

#141 Resolved: To adopt the 2024 Budget as outlined in the Preliminary Budget

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

#142 Resolved: That the reading of the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of October 10th, 2023 be dispensed with.

Supervisor Barber began a conversation on winter parking now that the snow is coming. Local Law 1 of 2020 states ‘No Parking’ on Town of Chesterfield Streets November 1st through April 1st from 2AM to 6AM under penalty of towing at ownership expense. The NYS DOT has also adopted a law to coincide with the Town’s. Maybe the Town should consider a year round law for narrow streets like Beech Street? Highway Superintendent Champine added it wasn’t just snowplows having issues on narrow streets but also delivery and emergency vehicles as well. Public safety should come first. Highway Superintendent Champine will compile a list of narrow roads. Town Clerk Bourgeois will post copies of the Notice of Town Law to the Clerk FB page and the Press Republican.

Supervisor Barber welcomed everyone in attendance and gave the courtesy of the floor to the public.

Robyn Pray and Doug Garrand thanked the Board for the increased funding for the Keeseville Library.

Supervisor Barber noted the Fall brush cleanup for the Town of Chesterfield is now complete and the Town will have another cleanup in the Spring.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Nina Krupski from the NYS Homes and Community Renewal is not pleased with the status of the CDBG Grant use. The Town, via the Friends of the North Country, is severely behind schedule in

awarding or expending funds. To date, there is no project in progress. There was quite a conversation on the reasons but the Town never knows applicants and can only expend funds if the Friends bring projects to the Board.

Supervisor Barber brought up composting at the Compaction Station now that the scale is up and running. He tasked the Board with coming up with a plan by spring. Highway Superintendent Champine asked about furniture as, now that the Compact Station no longer takes furniture, people are just dropping items off alongside the road.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Bill Tansey is still working on the Town Law for unsafe buildings.

Supervisor Barber suggested to the Board it revisit procurement policy of the Town of Chesterfield as suggested by FEMA and NY State. He continued that the Board begin to consider clear, well defined plans and goals for Watson Park, replacement of doors and windows at the Town of Chesterfield Office and upgrades and plans for landscaping for Veteran's Park. He would like to visit all of these at the End of Year or Organizational Meetings.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board there were no updates from the Port Kent Committee or on the EV charging stations.

Supervisor Barber started a conversation on surplus equipment. The Town has not yet put the items on the auction site. Highway Superintendent Champine suggesting taking a couple weeks for local residents to have a chance to bid on surplus like the old Senior Bus. The Board decided to table discussion pending information from the Town of Ausable.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town will not know the status of the Salt Shed Grant until mid-December when the terms and funds will become available. The Town is hoping its share will only be \$72,000.

Supervisor Barber gave an update on the \$5000 grant from ANCA. Water Superintendent Winter has measured both Water Plants for square footage as well as average influent amounts for the past year. All the information is being entered on the NYSERDA platform and a report is being generated for the Town to post on our website to educate the public and the Town on energy consumption. By year's end the Town will have secured the \$5000.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board since the Town budgeted \$1600 for cemeteries and the Town already gave the Chasm Cemetery \$400, the Board should consider giving \$400 each to Evergreen, Port Kent and Port Douglas Cemeteries. This small amount will help tremendously with mowing and upkeep.

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

#143 Resolved: To fund the Evergreen, Port Douglas and Port Kent Cemeteries in the amount of \$400 each from the 2023 budget.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Russell Pray needs to be reappointed to the Town's Board of Assessment Review and be appointed to the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals and also appoint Jessica Sayward to the Keeseville Youth Commission.

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

#144 Resolved: To reappoint Russell Pray to the Town of Chesterfield Board of Assessment Review for a term of 4 years.

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

#145 Resolved: To appoint Russell Pray to the Town of Chesterfield Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

#146 Resolved: To appoint Jessica Sayward to the Keeseville Youth Commission for the 2023-2024 year.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board there are 4 parcels off of Corlear Bay Road that are technically not owned by anyone including the Town of Chesterfield. There are not even tax map numbers assigned to them. These parcels could be merged with adjacent lots as long as the adjacent owners agree to this.

Supervisor Barber asked Town Attorney McCormick his opinion.

Town Attorney McCormick surmised these parcels were "paper roads" meant for Town use from subdivisions in the 1920's or 30's which the Town never accepted. Technically, the landowners could request the Town take over the parcels but those landowners would have to bring these to specs before the Town would take over maintenance of those roads.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with Budget amendments for October, 2023.

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

#147 Resolved: To accept proposed Budget amendments for the month of October, 2023.

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

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

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

#149 Resolved: That all audited bills presented to the Town Board since the last Board Meeting on October 10th, 2023 be paid. Bills in the amount of \$38,087.00 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$83,620.86 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$20,167.01 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Water Department. Bills in the amount of \$2,112.15 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water Departments. Bills in the amount of \$44.58 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Light District. 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 \$6,632.36 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Compact Station. Bills in the amount of \$10,985.11 were audited and paid from the TCWD Project. The total of all bills since last meeting was \$164,762.97.

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

#150 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 informed the Board that the Keeseville Holiday Celebration will be Saturday, December 9th from 4-7. The Holiday Committee is way ahead of last year in preparedness. Diana Zais prepared a budget for this year and the Committee would like a donation from the Town for \$500 to help defray costs associated with the Celebration.

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

#151 Resolved: To fund the Keeseville Holiday Celebration, held on December 9th,2023, in the amount of \$500.

Supervisor Barber offered the courtesy of the floor to Town Attorney McCormick.

Town Attorney McCormick informed the Board he is finishing up easements for water line and access roads for Town of Chesterfield Water Department.

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

Councilman Gload informed everyone the Keeseville Youth Commission is looking for a director of the basketball session and asked Town Clerk Bourgeois to put on the Town Clerk FB page.

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

Highway Superintendent Champine asked Town Attorney McCormick on guidance for turn-around on dead end streets for plowing if not in right of way, specifically on Burke Road. There is a concern for safety of the drivers and the owner doesn't want the Town to use a turnaround. Town Attorney McCormick advised the safety of employees and public are foremost. The Town insurance says if safety issues then plowing should not happen. Striping, specifically on Trembleau, is postponed for this year. Highway Superintendent Champine is waiting on pricing from the County.

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

#152 Resolved: To enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 7:19 PM.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:44 PM with no decisions made.

All topics were tabled pending further review of setting precedent and legal advice.

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

#153 Resolved: That with no further business to come before this Town Board Meeting, this meeting could be adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Bruce Bourgeois

Town Clerk