

## Minutes of the Public Hearing on the Draft Comprehensive Plan and the Regular Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at the Town of Chesterfield Office, 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 5:30 PM.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Clerk Bourgeois read the legal notice.

There were no public comment.

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

#83: Resolved: To close the Public Hearing on the Town of Chesterfield Draft Comprehensive Plan and enter into the Regular Board Meeting at 5:32 PM.

### Those Present:

Supervisor: Clayton Barber

Town Clerk: Bruce Bourgeois

Councilman: David Gload

Councilman: Richard Klages

Councilman: Patrick "Bill" Mitchell

Councilman: John Casey

Town Attorney: Mark Cowen

Supt. of HW: John "Jay" Champine

Code Officer: Michael Boynton

### Guests Present:

Trevor Gravelle	Andrew Prescott	Terry Jandreau
Diana Zais	Greg Zais	Romeyn Prescott
Nico Brossar	Christine Mullen	Nancy Thompson
Tamera Mrose	Walter Chmura	

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and unanimously seconded it was

#84 WHEREAS, Gerald H. "Jerry" Morrow passed away on March 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was a beloved father, brother, grandfather and newly great grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was a member of the Eugene Santor Council of the Knights of Columbus as Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, even traveling back from his new home in Verona, NY to attend monthly meetings; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was a member and advocate of the board of the local United Way, even in retirement, as a way to "giv back" to the community; and

WHEREAS, Jerry served the Village of Keeseville as Trustee for 3 years, Town of Chesterfield as Councilman for 7 years and Town Supervisor and Essex County Board of Supervisors for 26 years ending his long political career at the end of 2019 to enjoy retirement; and

WHEREAS, Jerry enjoyed farming and building and country life on the Mace Chasm Road in Keeseville; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was considered a "straight shooter" and "no nonsense, know where you stood" politician respected by all who had the honor to interact with him in any situation; and

WHEREAS, Jerry always put his constituents first and unselfishly helped all in need; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield offers their heartfelt condolences to the family of Gerald H. "Jerry" Morrow and this resolution be spread among its minutes.

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

#85 Resolved: That the reading of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 11, 2025 be dispensed with.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with a letter from Nico Brossar requesting funds for Wheat Paste Radio to help fund an Emergency Alert System. The station would be a benefit for the Town as a public information source as well. The Town of Ausable has already committed to \$2500. The cost of the system is anticipated to be in the neighborhood of \$5000. The Town cannot use ROOST funds due to the station being placed in the old high school in Clinton County.

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

#86 Resolved: To contribute \$2500 to Wheat Paste Radio to help fund an Emergency Alert System for Keeseville.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board with Code Officer Boynton leaving the end of May, the Town needs to appoint a new Code Officer. Code Officer Boynton will overlap with the new one until he is officially done.

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

#87 Resolved: To appoint Trent Gravelle Code Officer for the Town of Chesterfield, working with Michael Boynton until May 31, 2025.

Supervisor Barber offered the courtesy of the floor to Town Officials.

Town Clerk Bourgeois presented his Clerk Report for March to the Board with the caveat that April income is much improved. He gave an update on the Christmas light fiasco. It seems the company is going through the same motions as last year. He gave a brief explanation of the Keeseville 250 Celebration for 2026 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. He thanked Brooke Champine, Laura Ocasio and the Highway crew for the excellent painting and rearranging his office while he was on vacation.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with an updated bill for the Highway Salt Shed.

Councilman Gload explained the process he supervised over the weekend to enable the Transfer Station to operate last weekend due to a staff shortage. He recognized the Highway Department for stepping up to help.

Highway Superintendent gave an update on the Salt Shed. Work has commenced. The Town of Ausable has reimbursed the Town of Chesterfield for 1/3 the price the paver purchase and is still waiting on whether Willsboro will pay 1/3. Even if Willsboro decides not to, the paver will still pay for itself due to costs of prevailing wages if an outside company is used. Councilman Casey added truckers would not have to be hired out as well, saving the Town money all the way around.

Town Attorney Cowen gave an update on the 7 unsafe buildings (2 on Augur Lake, 1 each on Front , Margaret, Clinton, Lake streets and one on Soper Road.) Letters have been sent out but the Town has to be careful to follow the rules prior to using labor to clean up to bill the owner's taxes. Supervisor Barber added he spoke to the County on the blight property but they would not cooperate. This will not be an overnight fix and relies on the homeowners cooperation. There will be a tax sale for unpaid taxes in November.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to the public.

Nico Bossar gave a brief description of Wheat Paste Radio and its value as an informational forum to Keeseville.

Walter Chmura opened a discussion on assessments, asking if the Town has considered an even increase every year versus a big increase. Supervisor Barber responded the County had suggested a 10% increase across the board. Greg Zais spoke up and added the assessed value and the millage rate determines the rate, led by the County and the State. Chesterfield has little recourse other than following the rules set by Albany. Supervisor Barber noted Essex County sent a letter opposing such increases. Councilman Gload asked if any other counties had did the same.

Nancy Thompson expressed her frustration with the huge assessment increases on Waters Edge.

Terry Jandreau thanked the Board for addressing blighted property, especially on Glomann Road. It is not fair to the neighborhood to have to live with these buildings.

Walter Chmura suggested a thank you plaque to Fuller's Excavating to be placed on their donated bus stop for the Town.

Tamera Mrose offered a bench for the bus stop and pails for the Compaction Station for composting.

Supervisor Barber informed everyone of the rabies clinic June 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 at the Knights of Columbus. Town Clerk Bourgeois asked for any Councilmen to help at that time. Hopefully the Dog Control Officer can attend as well.

Supervisor Barber set the dates for spring brush and leaf cleanup for the hamlets of Port Kent and Keeseville for Monday, April 21 through Friday, May 30. Brush up to 4 inches in diameter and bagged leaves will be picked up by the Water Department. Due to people trying to sneak in garbage mixed with the leaves, every bag will be inspected and if trash is found, those bags will be left by the side of the road.

Supervisor Barber reminded everyone of the Community Cleanup May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-11 sponsored by Ausable Valley Grange. The Town will provide vests and bags for participants. The cleanup begins at the Fire Station.

Supervisor was proud to announce the receipt of the \$4,500,000 NYForward Grant. He thanked Diana Zais for spearheading the project. There is a meeting with officials April 29<sup>th</sup> with 2 public meetings and a website construction for public input. The grant will be used to rejuvenate the downtown area of the Towns of Ausable and Chesterfield.

Supervisor Barber gave an update on the Summer Joint Youth Program. It is a shorter program and 7 counselors will be hired with the Town of Chesterfield providing 2. With the shortened program, there should be enough interest to hire lifeguards to open Port Douglas Beach for the first time since 2019. There are currently 5 applications for lifeguards.

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

#88 Resolved: To accept the Supervisor's Report for the month of March 2025; a copy of which can be viewed in the office of the Town Clerk.

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

#89 Resolved: To accept the water billing and adjustments for the period of March 1- April 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

#90 Resolved: To pay all bills received since March 11, 2025. Bills amounting to \$92,260.72 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$34,464.02 were audited and paid from the highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$152,929.82 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Water Districts. Bills in the amount of \$2,492.18 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water Districts. Bills in the amount of \$2,560.00 were audited and paid from village Debt. Bills in the amount of \$1000.00 were audited and paid from ROOST. Bills in the amount of \$666.71 were audited and paid from Compaction Station. Bills in the amount of \$13,074.82 were audited and paid from the

TCWD Project. Bills in the amount of \$153,504.50 were audited and paid from the Salt Shed Capital project. The total of all bills since March 11, 2025 is \$452,952.77.

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

#91 Resolved: That all letters brought before this Board be filed.

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

#92 Resolved: To enter into Executive Session to discuss water issues at 6:37 PM.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:57 PM with no decisions being made.

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

#93 Resolved: That with no other business to come before this Board, this Regular Board Meeting of the Town of Chesterfield be adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Bruce Bourgeois Town Clerk