

**Village of Chester  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 09, 2009**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held their monthly business meeting in the Village Hall meeting room on Monday, February 09, 2009. Members present: Mayor Philip Valastro, Deputy Mayor John Deshler, Trustees John Collins, Eugene Collins and John Reilly, III. Also present: Village Attorney Henry Christensen, Police Chief Peter Graziano, Water Commissioner Thomas Becker, Village Treasurer / Deputy Clerk Cathy Richards and Code Enforcement Officer John Orr, Zoning Board Chairman Vincent Rappa. Highway Superintendent J. Thomas Bell was absent. In the audience: Gordon Shehab, Howard Spears of Strauss New and Susan Clever of the Chronicle.

Mayor Valastro opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. AUDIT OF BILLS:** Mayor Valastro noted audit of monthly bills for approval was complete.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting was made by Trustee Eugene Collins seconded by Deputy Mayor John Deshler. Motion unanimously passed.

**2. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Cathy Richards was present and read her report as follows:

**CASH BALANCES ENDING JANUARY 31, 2009**

<u>Fund/Bank Account</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>(Disbursements)</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>				
Key Checking	417,193.34	(291,664.69)	19.75	133,822.16
Key Savings MM	--	(225,000.00)	1,752.62	2,653,128.81
<b><u>Water Fund</u></b>				
Provident Checking	53,358.45	(27,926.30)	81.45	196,327.38
Provident Capital MM	--	--	550.29	730,800.09
Provident Capital Checking	--	--	8.39	18,938.03
<b><u>Sewer Fund</u></b>				
Key Checking	15,106.37	(203.75)	84.16	208,458.14
Provident Checking	--	--	6.18	27,793.05

**Cumulative Fiscal Year 08-09 Total Interest Earned by Fund June 1, 2008 – January 31, 2009:**

General Fund:	33,677.59
Water Fund:	5,847.63
Sewer Fund:	1,489.51

Comparison current to last year for GF MM Savings:

Annual percentage yield for interest	<u>07-08</u>	<u>08-19</u>
	6/30/07 = 5.01%	6/30/08 = 1.91%
	1/31/08 = 3.75%	1/31/09 = 0.75%
Cumulative Interest Earned	6/1/07 – 1/31/08	6/1/08 – 1/31/09
	<b>66,499</b>	<b>32,867</b>

**BUDGET**

2009-2010 Preliminary Budget: Preliminary budget information will be prepared this week for distribution to department heads. This will include expenditures reports for FY 07-08 and current year to assist department heads with their projections.

At this time, no current information regarding revenue projections for 2009-2010 have been released. However, a recent article published in the TH-R on 2/7/09 indicated steep drops in sales tax revenue. According to the article, sales tax receipt fell sharply in the last 3 months of 2008. Per information TH-R received from the State Department of Taxation and Finance, receipts were down in Orange County by - 9% as compared with the same period last year.

Revenue projections for 2009-2010 will need to be considered very carefully. Information currently being reported indicates a cut in state aid to municipalities and schools. As soon as information regarding state aid revenue projections becomes available, I will forward to the Board.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Deputy John Deshler, seconded by Trustee John J. Reilly III. Motion unanimously passed.

4. **BUILDING REPORT:** Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer John Orr was present and read his report as follows:

Current projects that were inspected during the last month:

Lowe's:

- 1- Temporary Certificate of Occupancy issued.
- 2- Working through some minor issues.

49-51 Main Street

- 1- Work continues on the interior renovation.

Orange County Trust

- 1- Site work continues.

Nexans

- 1- General site work continues.
- 2- Issued Building Permit for renovation of part of warehouse and addition of 5 Silos approved by the planning board.

Leung 5 North Hudson

- 1- Work continues on garage addition.

Zangrillo 4 Nicotra Lane

- 1- Issued building permit for renovation for farm labor living area.

Atkin 4 Howland Ave

- 1- Foundation work complete.

Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector John Orr updated the Board on information he gathered from surrounding municipalities. He stated that the majority of villages and municipalities have banned them and the village should consider banning them. John Orr mentioned that the village does not have anything regarding outside burning in their code. Mayor Valastro stated that further discussion is needed in order to adopt a local law regarding outdoor burning furnances. The Mayor mentions that on April 09, 2009 monthly meeting he will set a public hearing regarding outside burning furnances.

5. **POLICE REPORT:** Police Chief Peter Graziano was present and read his report as follows:

1. **Department Items:**

- Manpower: Officer Thoben, a 7 year Village of Chester veteran and 20 Year NYS Division of Corrections veteran has resigned effective 27 Jan 09. He is a valued employee who will be missed.

- Orange County Civil Service has approved the transfer of Officer Timothy McGuire from the Village of Goshen PD to the Village of Chester PD effective 20 Feb 09. Request the Village of Chester Board approve the full time appointment.
- Honorable Service Award: Conferred to Sgt. Thornton and Officer Natalizio for the investigation, arrest and conviction of a defendant in a rape case. (C415-07)
- Vehicles: None

## 2. Citizen Issues:

- Received a letter from Mr. Solomita of Chester, commending Officers Grzywaczewski and Tudisco for their conduct during a Motor Vehicle Collision Mr. Solomita was involved in.

## 3. Public Safety Issues:

- Traffic Details: Continuing.

## 4. Facilities:

- None

## 5. Equipment:

- We have been approved by DCJS to receive a License Plate Reader through a grant from the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Council. Implementation deadline is 30 June 2009.
- The Mobile Digital Video Camera Systems have been installed, and training is in progress.

## 6. Department Activity:

### YTD 2009:

Blotters = 308

Cases = 057

Arrests = 031

Accidents = 017

A motion to accept Officer Thoben letter of resignation was made by Deputy Mayor John J. Deshler second by Trustee John Collins. Motion unanimously passed  
The Board of Trustees thanked Officer Thoben for his seven years of service with the Village of Chester Police Department.

A motion to accept the transfer of Officer Timothy McGuire was made by Deputy Mayor John J. Deshler second by John J. Reilly III. Motion unanimously passed  
The Board of Trustees welcomed back Officer Timothy McGuire. Mayor Valastro read the Oath of office to Officer Timothy McGuire and presented Sgt. Thornton and Officer Natalizio with the Honorable Service Award.

Chief Graziano made mentioned to the Board of Trustees that he received a letter from the NYS Governors Traffic Safety Council informing the Chief of Police that the Village of Chester police department was approved for grant for license plate reader.

A motion to accept grant from the NYS Governors Traffic Safety Council for a license plate reader, was made by Deputy Mayor John J. Deshler second by Trustee John Collins. Motion unanimously passed

6. **HIGHWAY REPORT:** Highway Superintendent J. Thomas Bell was not present and no report was submitted.

7. **WATER REPORT:** Water Commissioner Thomas Becker was present and read his report as follows:

1- Daily Filtration plant and well #12

2 -On our Filtration Plant upgrade.

a. The ad for contractors to pick up bid specs has been sent to the Record to be advertised.

b. The Village Engineer will be mailing out bid specs. As requested and they will also be available for pickup at the Village Hall.

c. The deadline for bids to be turned into the Village will be March, 16 2009

d. After the 16<sup>TH</sup> the Engineer will need at least one week to review bids before we can award the bid.

e. I would like permission to start the process for the second bond as soon as we have a definitive amount for the project. I would also like to add the Painting of the Whispering Hills water tower to this bond.

3- Gary and Joe have been testing backflow devices.

4-the unpaid water bill notices have been delivered.

5- In our water distribution we had a large increase in water demand so we began looking for possible leaks. We located several

- The pit at the Community Park
- At 22 High St a faucet was left on in the basement.
- At # 2 Grey Court a curb valve was not completely shut off.
- At the end of Sanford Ave the meter base broke on two occasions

6- I have been working on the 2009 -2010 budget

7- Are the contracts for water outside the Village OK?

8- I am in the process of getting prices on water main to complete the Route 17 water main project we started in 2008. I would like to purchase the materials now to avoid any price increases due to possible rising fuel prices.

Water Commissioner Thomas Becker informed the Board that Hallmark Enterprises located on Greycourt Rd, Korean Church located on Old RT 17m, and Joe Depaulis property located on Rt 17m have sign water agreement.

A motion to accept water agreement when signed by all three parties was made by Trustee John J. Reilly III, second by Trustee John Collins. Motion unanimously passed

Water Commissioner asked the Board of Trustees if they would approve the purchase of 1500 feet of pipe and 2 8inch valves for the construction project on a water main located on Rt 17m.

A motion to approve Water Commissioner Thomas Becker to purchase of 1500 feet of pipe and 2 8inch valves was made by John J. Reilly III, second by Trustee John Collins. Motion unanimously passed

Water Commissioner Thomas Becker made mention that he submitted the renewed testing plan LT2 requirements of the THm's and Ha5's. The Health Department informed Water Commissioner that they would provide the Village of Chester with a waiver with regards to installing a new filtration. City Newburgh and the City of Middletown were issued a waiver as they are in the process of installing new filtrations as well.

Thomas Becker asked the Board if they could regulate the unloading railroad cars on Sanford Ave. He mentioned that when the cars are unloaded rubbish is left behind. Susan Clever of the Chronicle mentioned that any complaints related to the railroad should be submitted to the Surface Transportation Board due to Municipalities not having any jurisdiction with regards to the railroad cars. Mayor Valastro stayed that the Board of Trustee would look into this issue.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Appointment Zoning Board of Appeals:** Mayor Valastro asked for a motion to appoint Gordon Shehab to the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace the resignation of Leslie Smith.
- A motion to appoint Gordon Shehab to the Zoning Board of Appeals was made by Deputy
- Mayor John J. Deshler, second by Trustee John J. Reilly III.
- Mayor Valastro made mention as to the applications submitted to the village for planning board alternates. Applicants are Danny Gorman and Antonio Figueroa both parties reside in the village of Chester.
- **Frozen Ropes:** Phil Salerno the property owner addressed the board of Trustees and asked if they would consider approving Frozen Ropes to connect to Village Water. Mayor Valastro suggested that Mr. Salerno discuss this with Water Commissioner Thomas Becker. The Board of Trustees has no objections as long as Frozen Ropes complies with the Village Water Departments requirements and signs agreement. Frozen Ropes will be added to March 9, 2009 agenda for further discussion and/or an agreement.
- **Peddler Law:** Mayor Valastro addressed the Board as to amended replacing Peddler Law due to issues being raised on the enforceability Peddling & Soliciting door to door
- **New Mobility Tax:** Mayor Valastro asked the Board to make a motion to oppose the creation of the new mobility tax.
- A motion to oppose the creation of the new mobility tax was made by Trustee John Collins, second by Deputy Mayor John J. Deshler.
- **Website Update:** Mayor Valastro received an update from Tony Donato, webmaster the Village of Chester website shell will be up by March 16, 2009 and the website will be up and running by mid April 2009.

- **Parks and Recreation**: Deputy Mayor John Deshler attended the February 9, 2009 meeting no report submitted.
9. **ADJOURN:**  
A motion to adjourn the regular business meeting and move into Executive Session for personnel reasons was made by Trustee John Collins, seconded by Deputy Mayor John J. Deshler Trustee John Collins. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Rivera  
Village Clerk