

JULY 12TH, 2021 - Town Board Meeting- In person

Supervisor Brenda Adams opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Supervisor Brenda Adams
Councilperson Alan Miller
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale
Councilperson Terese Platten
Councilperson David Patzwahl-absent

Audience: 3

MINUTES: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the June 14th, 2021.

4-eyes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - abstained
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes; and
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.
Motion Carried.

BILLS:

Motion: Councilperson Terese Platten made a motion, seconded Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the payment of the June bills: General Fund: #144- #179 in the amount of \$20,496.84. Highway Fund bills: #56-#60 in the amount of \$5,237.85. 4-eyes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams -yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller-yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes; and
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.
Motion Carried.

**SUPERVISOR
MONTHLY
REPORT**

Town Clerk Revenues	\$ 242.79
Highway Fund	\$487,084.50
Highway Fund Capital	\$ 42,926.59
General Fund	\$ 597,838.60
Lighting Districts	\$ 3,834.17
Fire Districts	\$ 300.00
Building Inspector	\$ 5,241.00 –
	(05/01-06/07/2021)
Planning Board	\$ -0-
Recreation	\$ 3,497.74
Court Revenues	\$ 4,665.00(March-2021)
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 25.00
Tax Collector	\$ 29,746.36

MOTION: Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to approve the Chatham Library amended contract by adding language to not pay salary fees that exceed the town budget. 4-ayes

Roll-call: Supervisor Brenda Adams– yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller -yes
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes; and
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.

Motion Carried.

- Chatham Library annual contract:

Add fees that are paid for salaries are “not to exceed the town budgeted amounts”.

MOTION: Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to approve the Chatham Library contract with the amended language.

4-ayes. Roll-call: Supervisor Brenda Adams– yes;

Councilperson Alan Miller -yes
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes; and
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.

Motion Carried

Councilperson Terese Platten reported on the swim program rules.

Swim program (July 2021 report to the Board)

- We have 4 instructors; one of which is the head instructor.
- We have 28 children and 2 more just registered so bringing the total to 30 children, most of which are in the pre-k group.
- We need to hire one more instructor as a substitute and to help with the pre-K lesson group as they need a lower student-to-teacher ratio for safety; bringing the total instructors to 5 (but 1 will only be working 5 weeks not 6).
- We have another person who would like to join the Rec Comm to help with the swim program: Josephine Solimene Rustin.

MOTION: Supervisor Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to move to amend the Summer Swim Program, rules per updated Columbia County Department of Health (CCDOH) guidelines. 4-ayes

Roll-call: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller -yes
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes; and
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.

Motion Carried.

MOTION: Councilperson Terese Platten made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to appoint Josephine Solimene Rustin to serve on the Recreation committee. 4-ayes

Roll-call: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;

Councilperson Alan Miller -yes
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes; and
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.

Motion Carried.

Report from County Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Brenda Adams reported that there are no new Covid cases. There are 59.8% of the population had at least one vaccine dose; 69.2% of the 18 years plus have had one vaccine dose; 59916 total population, as of last Friday.

Supervisor Brenda Adams said that the mass vaccination centers are closing down. If anyone knows of any local people one who would like a vaccination to please contact Supervisor Adams or Town Clerk Charlotte Cowan. We would like to create a pod at the town hall or the firehouse. We need about five to ten people to schedule a pod.

Old Business:

- Councilperson Alan Miller presented a memo to the town board and the town board asked for time to review and respond to the memo.
- Town attorney sent a legal memorandum which was distributed to each town board member.
- In summary, the memo said that our executive session meetings and the meetings held were substantially within the scope of the standard required by the State.
- Town Board does not have the authority to remove another town board member.

Councilperson Alan Miller asked to speak to the response to the town attorney, Andrew Howard's letter.

Supervisor Brenda Adams asked if Councilperson Alan Miller would like to have the town attorney attend the next month's town board meeting to address his questions. Councilperson Alan Miller replied that he will let the board know.

Board Discussion:

- America Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding application complete. Supervisor Brenda Adams said that there is a \$168,000.00 grant. The supervisors' and the county board have been working the Association of Towns to understand the spending of that money. The spending of said funds too early for clarification.
- Summer newsletter update: Supervisor Brenda Adams is working on the newsletter and would like input from the board to add to the letter.
- Consultant report: Supervisor Brenda Adams said she spoke with a consultant about audio and hybrid meeting approach.
- CNHN report: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale said that the committee has assisted thirteen families the first six months (January – June). Four families have requested additional funds from the first six months.
- Planning/ZBA report: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale said that the Planning Board has received a draft of a short-term rental law to review and then give the Town Board.
- Climate Smart Task Force: Councilperson Terese Platten
Climate Smart Task Force (July 2021 report to the Board)
 - Applied for a NYSERDA grant to pay for an energy audit of our municipal buildings
 - Discussed purchasing electricity through community solar: if we sign up 10 residents, the town gets a

\$5000 grant from NYSEDA that we can use for other energy/climate actions: We will be making a recommendation about which solar company to use.

- Created a post about the Canaan iNaturalist app for both our Facebook page and our Town webpage (to be added this week)
 - Created a post about the life cycle of the LDD moth (formerly called gypsy moth) and measures to take against them for our Facebook page.
 - Discussed replanting the garden beds at Stoddard Park with native pollinator friendly plants.
 - Will be partnering with the New Lebanon CSC on a repair cafe to happen in October in New Lebanon.
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- DEC boat launch update: Councilperson David Patzwahl spoke to the Supervisor that there are still complaints concerning swimmers without supervision and the boaters are complaining.
 - High School Graduates: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale has presented the board with congratulation cards for the ten recent high school graduates.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Exemptions -

- STAR- The Assessors are continuing to work with the State to administer the STAR changes. The State is periodically sending us reports to review and make changes to the Roll.
- Seniors that receive any mailings requesting information from the Department of Taxation and Finance should respond to DTF without delay.

Final Roll-

- The final Roll was filed by July 1st.
- A legal notice was posted in the paper.
- Final Roll and Assessment Data is available on our website.

Around the office -

- Assessor and Assessor Clerk are working out in the field verifying inventory and taking new photos. This keeps us in compliance for STATE aid for the next reassessment and keeps our files current. By doing this in-house, we are saving even more tax dollars!

CANAAN HIGHWAY REPORT

ACTIVITIES:

Another crazy month at the highway department the weather was extremely hot & dry for the first half and muggy & wet with severe T storms & destructive winds for the second half.

While it was hot & dry, we were able to pave our planned 2.38 miles of roads however not without a hitch. On the last stretch of Old Hudson there was machine & human error which produced an unacceptable section of pavement Because this paving job is part of CHIPS reimbursement which requires a 10-year life for the project I would not accept it After lengthy negotiating with the contractor the final resolve was, they would mill that section of road and repave it at their expense. As of this report the project has not been done due to the extreme wet conditions but I am confident it will be completed this week. Some things are beyond our control & Murphy's law comes into play.

We extended the culvert and partially installed the base for widening Flint's at the railroad crossing. I'm not sure what is going on but CSX has stopped all work at this time. I will keep you informed.

All the scrap steel has been processed and loaded out at this point we are waiting for the final check.

The mini tornado devastated the east side of town following the 295 corridors into Mass. Trees were down, damaged guide rails were prevalent, power lines and services were ripped from houses and at the height of the storm all roads, both state and town, leading into Mass were closed. I had to ask Daryl to come back to the office to man the phone and dispatch because I was over whelmed with all the requests. I am proud of our team - they did their job well, efficiently and safely and by 8 P.M. all town roads were opened. The following days were dedicated to clean up. The Austerlitz Highway Department was invaluable — Bob brought their excavator and chipper as well as his great crew to help clean up.

It seems to be an unending battle right now with the weather conditions so please be careful of hanging trees, limbs and electric wires!

We have been filling potholes, cleaning culverts and roadside mowing.

CHIPS reimbursement for Winter Recovery has been applied for \$31,733.22 with a tentative payment date of 7/29/2021.

ACTIVITIES;

Crossing as well as 12 posts to replace ones we had to borrow from the county highway department - was this ever approved?

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Wendy Dwyer said that she has not had any internet service since the storm and no response from Consolidated Communications.
- Wendy is and willing to collect clear, clean, glass and to take it to a recycle zero waste facility.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. 4-eyes

Roll-call: Supervisor – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller -yes
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes; and
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes:

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte L Cowan, Town Clerk