

**Board of Trustees
Special Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held a special meeting at the Village of Chester, 45 Main Street, Chester, NY conference room at 4:00 pm, on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

Members present: Mayor Christopher Battiato, Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, Trustee Alan Battiato, Trustee Brian J. Boone, and Trustee Anthony Laspina.

Also present: Village Clerk/Treasurer, Angela O'Neill, Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr, and Village Attorney, Brian Nugent.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Christopher Battiato called the meeting to order.

Mayor Christopher Battiato opened the special meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 4:02PM.

Mayor Christopher Battiato provided background information regarding the 15 High Street property. A letter was received from counsel representing NYS Rehabilitation Support Services regarding the 15 High Street property and the State's intent to transfer troubled individuals to this location. The Board wants to discuss finding an alternative parcel in the Village that may be considered because there are concerns about this location's proximity to the Chester Academy and Church. The response is due by Friday 3/3/2023.

Mayor asked attorney, Brian Nugent what he recommends. Brian Nugent stated that client attorney discussion could be done during executive session. Brian Nugent asked what locations is the Board considering, since the prior locations suggested were discounted due to zoning and the fact that these locations are not for sale.

A motion was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato to enter executive session at 4:06PM.

Village Board exited executive session at 4:45PM. The mayor stated that there are not many locations in the Village of Chester that would be suitable for housing this group. The Village provided the state with a list of parcels that may be suitable for housing of these troubled individuals, but omitted addresses so that it would not influence sale price. The Village wanted to explore alternate sites because of 15 High Street's access to the trail, proximity to the school and sports fields. The Board still feels 15 High Street is not a good location to house these individuals.

Member of the audience, Cliff Patrick asked what is meant by "troubled" individuals living there. Mayor stated the letter stated they were individuals with mental health issues, and provided no additional details. The Mayor stated that it seemed the individuals would be on the older side as opposed to kids. A new letter will be submitted with other potential sites, there are not many options in the Village of Chester. Cliff Patrick asked if the mayor knew how many

people would be housed there, mayor responded approximately 14. Brian Nugent stated these limits are regulated by NYS and there are laws and statutes. Cliff Patrick stated he does not recall any particular issues at this location when people were living there. The Mayor stated that although there are laws and statutes, how a facility like this is run and how the property is maintained means a lot to the Village. The Mayor went on to say that NYS does not have to answer any questions about the facility so the Village feels like their hands are tied.

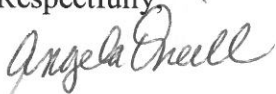
Member of the audience, Leslie Smith asked if the mayor knew how long the house in use by NYS Office of Mental Health was. Building Inspection, John Orr stated the property was purchased by NYS in the 1990's, but unsure when it started being used. The property has been vacant for approximately 5 years. The concern is also that the facilities, although state owned is run by a third party and not always well run.

Brian Nugent stated that the Village's objection is limited by statute. The Village cannot just say they are not in favor of its use, but can suggest alternate sites for their consideration within Village limits.

The mayor stated the board would return to executive session and no further discussion would take place after executive session. A motion to enter into executive session was introduced by Trustee, Alan Battiato and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina @ 4:46PM.

A motion to close the meeting was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina @ 5:55PM.

Respectfully,



Angela O'Neill
Clerk/Treasurer