

TOWN BOARD
APRIL 9, 2003

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem was held on the above date at the Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY. The meeting was called to order by the Supervisor at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Sheila Fuller, Supervisor
George Lenhardt, Councilman
Doris M. Davis, Councilman
Daniel G. Plummer, Councilman
Thomas Marcelle, Councilman
Kathleen A. Newkirk, Town Clerk
Robert J. Alessi, Esq., Town Attorney

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Supervisor Fuller welcomed everyone to a regular meeting of the Bethlehem Town Board and asked them to join in the pledge of allegiance.

The Supervisor said the first item was to accept the resignation due to retirement of Police Chief, Richard LaChappelle, effective April 12, 2003. She presented a plaque in grateful recognition of his service to the citizens of the Town for 35 years of leadership, wisdom, vision and personal sacrifice. She noted he was an inspiration to all who have served with him.

The Supervisor said she came in when Mr. LaChappelle was interviewed and appointed Chief of Police. She said it has been a good 10 years as Supervisor and noted he will be missed. She also recognized, Mrs. Joyce LaChappelle for her sharing of the Chief with the Town.

Chief LaChappelle thanked everyone and said there has been a lot of fun, difficult times and very sensitive times. He thanked everyone in the Police Department because they were the ones who make everything work. He said they have in place structure that will take the Department into the future and he is very confident that the right people are in the right place. He said they the department will continue to serve the people of the Town. He again thanked everyone.

Resident Marie Capone said she would like to thank Chief LaChappelle for all his help in keeping it quiet at night and noted he would always be the boss. She said this nonsense of going fishing and all that, she has found a job for him that pays better with no stress – run for Supervisor.

The motion was made by Mrs. Davis to accept the resignation of Police Chief, Richard LaChappelle, with very deep regret. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lenhardt who added that he appreciated his help and expertise during the 2 rounds of police negotiations that he was involved with. The motion was passed by the following vote:

For an official copy of the minutes, please visit the Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY or call 439-4955, extension 158.

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.
Noes: None.

The next item was a request from Police Chief, Richard LaChappelle, to appoint the new Chief of Police to fill his position effective April 13, 2003. Supervisor Fuller noted the person recommended was Deputy Chief, Louis Corsi, effective April 13, 2003. She said he is a lifelong resident of the Town of Bethlehem living in Selkirk with his wife, Kathy, and three daughters. She also acknowledged that his mother and father were in attendance.

The Supervisor said he holds a degree in Criminal Justice and has more than 20 years of law enforcement experience. As Deputy Chief, he has proven his administrative and managerial skills and is prepared to lead the Police Department into the future.

The motion was made by Mr. Lenhardt and seconded by Mr. Marcelle to approve the appointment of Louis G. Corsi, Deputy Chief, to the position of Chief of Police for the Bethlehem Police Department, effective April 13, 2003. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.
Noes: None.

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Councilman Lenhardt noted Deputy Chief Corsi was interviewed by the Board prior to this appointment for the public's information.

Supervisor Fuller thanked Chief Corsi's wife, Kathy, for being willing to share her husband with the Town in a new role. She asked Chief Corsi and his family to stand and be recognized.

Supervisor Fuller said Monday at 10 a.m. there is to be a swearing in ceremony for Chief Corsi. She said there will be another big celebration.

The Supervisor thanked Chief Corsi for being willing to serve as Chief of Police, noting it is a very difficult job. She said Chief LaChappelle is well aware of how difficult it can be. She said she will enjoy the next few months with Chief Corsi.

Town Attorney Alessi said from his perspective, one aspect of the law to another, he has always been deeply impressed with the professionalism of the Police Department. He said its skill level is well known but he thinks Chief LaChappelle created an incredible standard of professionalism and he fully expects that the new Chief will continue that. He said he wanted to recognize what a high degree of professionalism this police force has and he thinks it is a direct result of the leadership that it has had over the years. He said he fully expects that that will continue and is and always has been impressed. He

said this is true not only in this community but in other police forces who recognize and respect the degree of professionalism in the Police Department.

Chief LaChappelle and Supervisor Fuller thanked Town Attorney Alessi.

The next item was to accept the resignation due to retirement of Alice Cirillo, Planning Board Secretary, effective April 25, 2003. Supervisor Fuller said Alice has been with the Town Planning Board for over 25 years and plans to pursue outside endeavors.

The motion was made by Mrs. Davis with deep regret to accept the resignation due to retirement of Alice Cirillo, Glenmont, New York, Planning Board Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marcelle and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.

Noes: None.

The following item was a request from First Columbia for amendment to the Building Project Approval regarding Construction Start and Completion Date Extension for 1200 and 1210 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands. Supervisor Fuller said this is the medical building that is now located at the site. She noted there was a letter presented to the Board. She said they would like to extend the construction start date to April 30, 2004.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Lenhardt to approve the request from First Columbia, Latham, New York for an amendment to the Building Project Approval for 1200 and 1210 New Scotland Road to April 30, 2004. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.

Noes: None.

The next request was from Nan Lanahan, Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department., for approval of appointment of seasonal personnel.

The motion was made by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Plummer to approve the appointment of seasonal personnel as requested by Nan Lanahan, Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department and listed in the Memorandum dated April 9, 2003 at the titles and salaries indicated. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.

Noes: None.

Abstain: Mr. Lenhardt.

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Councilman Lenhardt explained he was abstaining because his nephew is one of the appointees.

The next item was a request from Administrator, Nan Lanahan, Parks and Recreation Department, to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Clarksville Playground Agreement.

The motion was made by Mr. Marcelle and seconded by Mr. Lenhardt to approve the authorization of the Supervisor to sign the Clarksville Playground Agreement. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.

Noes: None.

The next item was a request from Nan Lanahan, Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department, for approval of award of bid for one (1) turf sweeper to the low bidder.

The motion was made by Mr. Lenhardt and seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve the award of bid for one (1) turf sweeper to the low bidder S.V. Moffet, W. Henrietta, NY at a bid price of \$13,311. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.

Noes: None.

The following item was a request from Michael Cirillo, Engineering Services Administrator, for approval of acceptance of easement for 406 Kenwood Avenue. Supervisor Fuller said this item was added. She said this is the easement on the Treffeletti property that now can be turned over to the State of New York so they can begin their work. She asked for a motion to accept this easement.

The motion was made by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Marcelle to approve the acceptance of an easement from 406 Kenwood Avenue Associates, LLC as requested by Engineering Services Administrator, Michael Cirillo. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.

Noes: None.

Supervisor Fuller asked if anyone wished to address the Board. Mrs. Marie Capone said she has a neighbor names Dennis Fitzpatrick. She said these people have lived in this Town and his father was a teacher at the high school. She said she knows he is in the service but no one else knows this. She asked why they do not use the wall to put pictures of people from this Town who are serving somewhere.

Mrs. Capone then mentioned that Mr. LaChappelle did the DARE program and they are doing very good in the schools. She said maybe the police department could train another officer. She said police are involved more and more in helping people solve problems. She asked why there could not be an officer that would take care of the senior citizens.

Mrs. Capone said a while ago she submitted Mrs. Stein for Business Person of the Year and told the Board it is the kiss of death. But, the same week, she said they had in Albany something called home town hero. She said she wrote to those people – noting Mr. LaChappelle knew this but not many more people. She said at the age of 16 she already knew what she wanted to do. She said she went and volunteered at hospice at St. Peter's. She said later she volunteered at the organization like SIDS and is now an Oncology nurse and helps families with cancer patient. She said on September 11, she rode down to New York. She said she was a DARE officer to make our community better. But her life mission is to .help cancer people. She said she is somebody she is glad to know and her name is Susan Oliver. She said before she mailed the letter she showed the letter to Nancy Mendick because her real name is Oliver.

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The motion was made by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Lenhardt to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marcelle.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

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