

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on January 8, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Cochecton Town Hall with the following members present:

(Between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM for the purpose of auditing bills)

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Maas with the pledge to the flag at 7:30PM.

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Gary Maas  
Councilperson Sean Nearing  
Councilperson Paul Salzberg  
Councilperson Edwin Grund  
Councilperson Michael Walter

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hollye Schulman – Town Clerk  
Karen Mannino --Attorney  
Kevin Esselman – Highway Superintendent  
Michael Walter – SPO

**RESOLUTION # 15**

**SEWER BILL NEEDS TO BE PAID**

On motion of Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was WHEREAS,there is a sewer bill that needs to be paid, and the Supervisor isn hereby authorized to pay said bill

**ADOPTED – AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg , Grund and Walter

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to approve the minutes of December 27, 2019 and be accepted as submitted. All board members voted in favor

**ADOPTED – AYES: 4 NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Salzberg seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to approve the minutes of January 3, 2020 and be accepted as submitted. All board members voted in favor

**ADOPTED – AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter

**RESOLUTION # 16**

**APPROVE BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 1 TO BE PAID IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS**

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to approve the bills on abstract # 1 in the following amounts.

General Account	Voucher # 1-9	\$2,178.80
Sewer Account	Voucher # 2-3 in prepaid	445.32
Lighting Account	Voucher # nothing at this time	
Highway Account	Voucher # 10	210.00

**ADOPTED – AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Tom Shepstone: regarding Skinners Falls Bridge  
Unified Court System: requires that towns and village justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their respective town and village auditing boards

**RESOLUTION # 17**

**UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM AUDIT**

On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the Unified Court System requires that the town Justices annually provide their court records and dockets auditing boards, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that these records be turned over to the town for auditing

**ADOPTED – AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter

Both the River Reporter and Sullivan County Democrat have requested to be the newspapers for the town; the Sullivan County Democrat will be the newspaper for the town Cooper Arias: will be doing prelim for FY 2019 January 15, 16 and 17 audit

Empire Center: requesting current copies of all collective bargaining contracts between your municipality and a bargaining unit. Union contract (this was e-mailed to them December 23, 2019

Cooper Arias: standard confirmations for the audit year ending December 31, 2019 which require your signature

NHC: wishing “Happy Holidays”

Humane Society of Middletown: wanting to renew contract: Holding off until Supervisor can speak to our DCO about using the shelter in Liberty

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board: appointment of Jason Kraack to the board

Associations of Towns: If anyone wishes to attend training in NYC February 16-19 2020

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to comment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Upper Delaware Council and Byway - Larry Richardson - (Byway – no report)**

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday January 2
- The first order of business was election of officers FY 2020: I was elected Chairperson, Jeffrey Dexter-Vice Chair and Al Henry continues as Secretary/Treasurer. I am proud to say this is my 4<sup>th</sup> turn as Chair. The actual swearing will take place at the February meeting. The UDC has very serious challenges ahead. Much of the struggles stem from the fact that funding has not increased in over three decades. The RMP calls for regular reviews of Town Zoning and amendments to see that the municipality remains in Substantial Conformance. It takes a lot of time and effort to review a Towns Comprehensive Plan, all Zoning ordinances and any amendments. To add to that challenge Pete Golod is leaving the Council and relocating out West. The search is on for a replacement. We are also exploring using outside assistance from either a professional planner or perhaps the services of the County Planning Department.
- Topics discussed in part:
- How to handle reviews of all Town of Highland projects within the river corridor, both class I and class II since the town is no longer in Substantial Conformance after enacting its current Zoning Regulations
- Signs should start being installed toward the end of February informing travelers that they are entering the Delaware Drainage Basin from many different locations
- DEC Representative Bill Rudge shared that new regulations are in place banning the feeding of Deer. He feels the new regs will address those points that allowed for an exemption in Sullivan County. It should be noted that it is also illegal to allow deer to eat from a bird feeder.
- Wdesign is now reviewing the revamped Substantial Review Workbook. We anticipate an early Spring rollout with introductory sessions. The content is not changing but it should be easier for planning boards to use.
- Looking ahead the annual Awards Banquet is planned for Sunday April 26. Location TBA.
- The Council is working on the next 5-year Cooperative Agreement with NPS

**Youth Commission – Councilperson Grund** Looking for a board member, Also looking for someone to attend the County Youth Meetings, there are at 2:00 , and it is hard to get away. February 22, West Point Hockey game, waiting for snow for skiing and snow boarding plan on going to the Villa Roma, Holliday Mountain, Big Bear and Belleyere Movies coming up and planning other events for this year

**Website:** Anna Story

No report

**Lake Huntington Lake Assoc. - Councilperson Salzberg**

No meeting, no report

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**SUPERVISOR:** (Gary Maas)

Submitted a written report, bank information:

- Monthly Financial Report
- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$00.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$674.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,558.02 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$0.00 Debit Card
- Deposited \$157,008.82 CHIPS MONEY
- Deposited \$3,371.40 Mortgage Tax
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and given budget to actuals to board (No budget to actual available)
- Activity – Several contracts with Cooper Arias with end of the year audit. Signed Contract with CSEA. Contract with Tom Shepstone and Mr. Rickard about Skinners Falls Bridge

CONTRACTUAL		\$4,000.00
Abstract # 1	\$ 0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract # 2	\$285.37	\$3,714.63
Abstract # 3	\$1,106.82	\$2,607.81
Abstract # 4	\$73.20	\$2,534.61
Abstract # 5	\$50.00	\$2,484.61
Abstract # 6	\$428.77	\$2,055.84
Abstract # 7	\$50.00	\$2,005.84
Abstract # 8	\$61.60	\$1,944.24
Abstract # 9	\$50.00	\$1,894.24
Abstract #10	\$719.99	\$1,175.24
Abstract #11	\$79.00	\$1,096.24
Abstract #12	\$177.99	\$918.25
Abstract #12-A	\$50.00	\$868.25

Worked 99 hours

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (Kevin Esselman)

Submitted a written report:

- December Report
- Out plowed and sanded as needed
- Cut brush
- Patched potholes
- Had a few repairs
- Purchased and received new/used truck
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual balance – \$2,473.57

HWY Superintendent (truck not ready) presented HWY agreement to be signed by Town Board member

**TOWN CLERK:** (Hollye Schulman)

- Submitted a written report

I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk

- Issued 1 temporary parking permits in December

I provided telephone #'s for different departments. I'm still getting calls for the CEO, Assessor, Tax Collector, as well as the Justice Court, people wanting to pay their fines and some saying they sent their tickets in to the Court and have heard nothing back.

- Worked a total of 92 1/4 hours in December
- Contractual balance \$694.21

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** (Gregg Semenetz)

- Submitted a written report:
- Worked 80 hours, traveled 590 issued 2 permits 0 renewals
- C of O's issued 2 Notices of disapproval 0
- Municipal search letters 4 Appearance tickets 0
- Revenues: \$700.00 Expenses: \$392.20
- Contractual Balance: \$58.76

Finished year end report, there were 7 new constructions this past year, municipal searches 60-62 stable year, spoke to Jim Hughson regarding removal of structure

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report: January 8, 2020

- balance in checkbook \$0.01
- Taxes collected \$129,262.47
- Balance in checkbook \$128,900.10
- Difference \$362.37 Credit Card

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** (Karen Mannino)

Nothing new to add. Supervisor asked her to prepare contracts for ball fields

**ASSESSOR:** (Lorry King)

Submitted a written report

*Old Business:*

1. Field review of sales and new construction continues
2. I am looking for a member of the Board of Assessment Review

*New Business:*

1. The server was installed and we are working on reconnecting our files
2. Received copies of building permits for December
3. Sent out file for County and Town taxes
4. Provided tax collector with apportionment and name changes

December	A 1355.400	\$1,110.71
Balance:	\$1,110.71	
Assessor hours:	25 1/4	
Clerk hours:	24	

**SPO-** (Michael Walter)

- Average flow of 38,133 gallons per day for month of December
- Obtained 98% C.B.O.D. and 99 % T.S.S. removal for December
- Spent a total of 69 hours attending to sewer district affairs in December
- Expenditures: \$360.49
- Contractual balance: \$8,940.18

everything is in good shape

**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR** (Earl Bertsch) not present

Report is on file in Town Clerks office if anyone wishes to review it

**DCO** (Tamara DePaolo) not present

No report

**HISTORIAN** (K.C. Garn) not present  
No report

**TOWN BOARD**

Councilpersons: Grund and Walter nothing to report

Councilperson Salzberg mentioned the passing of Dottie Schlegel, Supervisor will have a resolution ready for the next meeting

Councilperson Nearing since our legislator is present,voiced his concern regarding the broken guard rails along State Route 97

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Unsafe Buildings

**New Business:**

1. Nothing at this time

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Larry Richardson mentioned that perhaps the town board could consider paying the representative to the Scenic ByWay as an incentive for someone to hold that position it is the only one in the town that does not get compensated

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to adjourn this town board meeting. Time 8:20 pm. All voted in favor

Respectfully Submitted, \_\_\_\_\_  
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk