

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on February 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM 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 7:30 p.m.

**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  
Eileen Hennessy – Tax Collector  
Kevin Esselman – HWY Superintendent  
Gregg Semenetz –CEO  
Michael Walter - SPO

**RESOLUTION # 18**  
**SUPERVISOR TO OPEN CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR TAX RECONCILIATION**

On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was to authorize the Supervisor to open a new checking account for Sewer Tax Reconciliation

**ADOPTED : AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**  
Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter

**RESOLUTION # 19**  
**TO REQUEST THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN AND THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT ON CR 112**

On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was To ask the County and the State of New York to reduce the speed limit on County Road 112 at a point 800’ + or – TH 18 East of (Olsen Road) and TH 16 (Buff Road)and TH 43 (Shortcut Road) Intersection approximately 0.50 miles

**ADOPTED : AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**  
Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to approve the minutes of January 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 and be accepted as submitted. All board members voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION # 20**  
**APPROVE THE BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 2 TO BE PAID IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS**

On motion of Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to approve the bills on Abstract # 2 in the following amounts:

|                    |                   |                              |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| General Account    | Voucher # 11-61   | \$9,098.88 including prepaid |
| Debit Card Account | Voucher # 62      | \$668.94                     |
| Sewer Account      | Voucher # 63-66   | \$3,014.58                   |
| Lighting Account   | Voucher # 18 & 19 | \$620.57 are in prepaid      |
| Highway Account    | Voucher # 67-94   | \$76,668.29 some 2019 bills  |

Claim #'s 35, 44, 45, 49, 56, 60, 62 and 69 are split between funds/same voucher  
Prepaid claims were paid on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>., and Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**ADOPTED : AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**  
Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter

**CORRESPONDENCE:**  
US Census Bureau: Boundary Validation.  
UDSB: Appreciate the town’s support  
Office of Aging: Meeting February 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. in the legislative Hearing Room  
NYS Dept: of Taxation and Finance Application for Correction of Multiple -Parcel Errors in sewer district

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
No one wished to comment

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**  
**UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL: and Scenic Byway** Larry Richardson not present  
Submitted a written report

- The Council held its Annual meeting on Thursday The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday February 6.
- I am pleased to say that Town Justice Steven Sauer was on hand to perform the official swearing ceremony for three council officials: Larry Richardson-Chair, Jeffrey Dexter-Vice-chair and Al Henry Secretary/Treasurer.

**UDC Report Continues:**

- We had introductions for new representatives to the Council: James Gutekunst who is a Town Councilman and will represent the Town of Highland, Jessica Weinman who is the acting NPS Superintendent and Kristen Bowman Kavanagh who is the Deputy Executive Director of the DRBC.
- We then heard a presentation by Peter Eschbach, Delaware River Basin Commission Director of External Affairs and Communications on “Our Shared Waters”. Mr. Eschbach along with other points of interest shared that one of the effects of climate change is to push the salt water front further upstream in the Philadelphia area. As I’m sure you know, one of the purposes of monitoring freshwater releases from the Upper Delaware is to be sure that the salt water front stays safely below the intakes on the Delaware. Ms. Bowman Kavanagh said the DRBC is forming an advisory panel to study the effects of climate change on the snow pack and rain patterns in the River Basin.
- Topics discussed in part:
- Search for a Resource/Land Use Specialist.
- Looking ahead the Annual Awards Banquet had to be moved from the last weekend in April to May 3. It will once again be held at the Central House in Beach Lake. A keynote speaker has been secured.
- At the beginning of the March UDC meeting, we will have a presentation from the Town of Tusten on their proposed Green Waste Digester.
- Actions taken:
- Adopted a revised budget for the balance of FY 2020
- Approved a letter of support for preserving Skinners Falls Bridge
- Approved a Letter Of Interpretation finding that Utility-scale Geothermal and Wind Power Systems are incompatible uses for the Delaware River corridor

**Upper Delaware Scenic Byway:** Larry Richardson not present  
The Committee held its regular meeting on Monday January 27, 2020.

**Topics of Discussion in part:**

- **National Scenic Byway and All-American Road Designation:** it was determined that undertaking the challenge of getting a National Scenic Byway designation was beyond our capabilities at this time.
- **Allocation Plan for 2020 Sullivan County Legislative Discretionary Contract \$25,000 Award**
- **Presenter Options for UDSB Spring Workshop**
- **NYS DOT Report:** The DOT has expressed interest in assisting in some way with our vista Enhancement Program.
- **Callicoon Train Depot Project Update-** The USDA approved the grant application for \$100,000 of equipment and furnishings for this project. This is great news since it adds to the \$250,000 State Grant that UDSB transferred over for the Visitor Center development and the \$75,000 that the Town of Delaware is providing to the project from the Sullivan Renaissance Silver Feather prize.
- **Webpage for UDSB Grants Program** – The webpage at [www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org](http://www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org) has been updated with guidelines and application forms for the three UDSB grant programs.
- **12/9 Reply from DOT Region 9: Guiderails Project** – Regional Director Nicolas Choubah replied to UDSB that they share the concern regarding the condition of the guide rail on Route 97. “The project mentioned above is scheduled to be awarded in 2020; the project will include 18 runs of guide rail on Route 97 Along with additional runs on Route 42 and Route 17. There is an additional project on Route 97, PIN 938949, which includes runs of guiderail that are down due to the slope behind the rail railing. In order to address these sites, substantial geotechnical design effort is needed; this project is scheduled to be awarded in 2021,”
- **Next Meeting Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, February 24 @ 7:00 p.m.
- **Adjourn:** the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Youth Commission:** Councilperson Grund  
Youth Commission planning events for the coming year

**Lake Huntington Lake Association:** Councilperson Salzberg  
Lake Huntington Lake Association there was no meeting for the last couple of months, no report

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**SUPERVISOR:** (Gary Maas)

Submitted a written report:

- .Monthly Financial Report
- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$650.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,011.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,395.04 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$1,281.02 Debit Card
- Deposited \$335.06 Stumpage
- Deposited \$656.80 Dietz sewer rental fee
- Deposited \$16,091.65 School sewer fee
- Deposited \$84,875.44, \$7,490.00, \$5,214.20, \$144,200.00, \$283,379.10, \$500,000.00, \$232,450.00, \$6,288.61 from the Tax Collector for a total of \$1,263,897.35
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actuals to board

**Supervisor’s report continues:**

- Activity: /audit for FY 2019 by Cooper arias has been mostly completed. Completed a US Dept. of Commerce survey. Notified County Treasurer that Sewer bills seem to have wrong rate which proved correct. Filled out Census BAS Survey. Worked with Eileen on how to manage and fix Sewer Bill correction. Contact with Tom Shepstone and Mr. Rickard about Skinners Falls Bridge

CONTACTUAL \$4,000.00

|              |          |            |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| Abstract #1  | \$ 0.00  | \$4,000.00 |
| Abstract #2  | \$171.27 | \$3,828.73 |
| Abstract#3   |          |            |
| Abstract #4  |          |            |
| Abstract #5  |          |            |
| Abstract#6   |          |            |
| Abstract#7   |          |            |
| Abstract#8   |          |            |
| Abstract#9   |          |            |
| Abstract#10  |          |            |
| Abstract#11  |          |            |
| Abstract#12  |          |            |
| Abstract#12A |          |            |

- Worked 89 hours

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (Kevin Esselman)

Submitted a written report:

- Sanded and plowed as needed
- Had some repairs
- We have been out patching
- Cutting brush
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual balance - \$3,745.07

Would like to speak with our engineer about an addition for the shop.2 bays 40’ wide by 52’ long.

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Walter, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was that the HWY Superintendent speak with the engineer about an addition to the shop. All town board members voted in favor

HWY Superintendent would also like to purchase a new computer as well as a printer, fax scanner.

**RESOLUTION # 21**

**AUTHORIZR HWY SUPERINTENDENT TO PURCHASE A NEW COMPUTER AND PRINTER, FAX AND SCANNER**

On motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was WHEREAS the HWY Superintendent wants to purchase a computer and also a printer, fax and scanner to make his work easier, and

WHEREAS; the Town Board has agreed to allow the HWY Superintendent to go ahead with the purchase of a new computer and a printer, fax and scanner to make his work easier

**ADOPTED : AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter

**TOWN CLERK:** (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report;

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk.
- Issued 4 permanent and 1 temporary parking permits and replaced 1 lost permit in January
- 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 into the Court and have heard nothing back.
- I have had property owners asking about their tax bill, which they did not receive. Had one person ask about who the owner was of the Relax Inn
- Worked a total of 109 ½ hours in January
- Contractual Balance: \$3,375.82

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

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours, mileage 655, permits issued 5, renewals 0, C of O’s issued 10
- Notice of disapproval 0, Municipal search letters 5, Appearance tickets 0
- Revenues \$775.00, Expenses \$426.63
- Contractual Balance: \$5,073.37

New cell tower going up on Mueller Road. Spoke to Jim Hughson re; demo of structure at Lake shore , should be done by March 1, 2020. Permits quiet, but municipal searches are up

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report

- February 12, 2020
- Monies Collected: \$2,477,231.53
- Paid to Supervisor \$1,263,897.35
- Paid to SC Treasurer \$1,100,000.00
- Total \$113,334.18
- Balance in Check Book \$111,200.04
- Contractual Balance: \$1,648.68, will need to purchase envelopes
- Month of December hours worked. Tax Collector 97 and Hours worked on Sewer tax Bills 7 for a total of 104 hours

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** (Karen Mannino)

Submitted written report:

- Draft Official Undertakings
- Attendance at Board Meeting, Research re-levy, email GM; update contracts/email
- Cooper Arias Audit Response letter

Attorney will take care of the legal issue re; the dog issue on CR 116, she will also look at the solar law and get it to Supervisor

**ASSESSOR:** (Lorry King) not present

Submitted a written report. Supervisor went over her report

**Old Business:**

1. Exemption renewals are due in the office by March 1, 2020

**New Business:**

1. All required exemption renewals have been mailed out and we are busy with taxpayers returning them to the office
2. Helped Town Clerk with her spreadsheets thankfully we got the Excel program. I use it quite a bit
3. Worked with Tax Collector on issues with address changes and sewer issues
4. Spent time reviewing the States Pre-decisional report for our eq rates. This has been an issue trying to set up appointments to actually face to face with someone. Apparently, they only allocated two days to meet with 15 towns. I will be lucku if I get a call back from someone

Assessor Hours: 31.25

Clerk Hours: 30.00

Jan. -2020 A1355.400 \$2,000.00

SCAA \$50.00

Quill \$72.93

Total Jan. \$122.93

Contractual Balance: \$1,877.07

**SEWER OFFICER:** (Michael Walter)

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 34,292 gallons per day for month of January
- Obtained 96% C.B.O.D. and 95% T.S.S. removal for January
- Spent a total of 70 hours attending to sewer district affairs in January
- Expenditures \$1,014.58
- Contractual Balance: \$28,985.42

DEC inspection last month, passed

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

Approved December 26, 2019 Planning Board minutes, and received Draft minutes for January 30, 2020

**DOG CONTROL OFFICER:** (Tamara DePaolo ) not present

No report.

**HISTORIAN:** (K. C. Garn) not present

No report submitted

**TOWN BOARD REPORTS:**

(**Councilperson Nearing**) question re: guard rails along State Route 97 as mentioned in Larry’s report, project will be sometime in 2020

(**Councilperson Salzberg**) nothing at this time

(**Councilperson Grund**) nothing at this time

(**Councilperson Walter**) nothing at this time

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Unsafe Buildings discussed at an earlier meeting

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Dog Bill – discussed earlier
2. Solar Law: Attorney will take care of this
3. Sewer Tax Adjustments :covered earlier

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Yancy Kitteridge, CR 114: asked if the town was going to do anything about his request for an exemption. Supervisor Maas said the town was not going to do anything, as there are other people in the county with disabilities also.

No one else wished to comment

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to adjourn.. Time 8:15 p.m. All board members voted in favor.

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