

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on February 14, 2024, at the Cochection Town Hall. At 7:30 PM Following members present:

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Gary Maas  
Councilperson - Deputy Supervisor, Edwin Grund  
Councilperson Sean Nearing  
Councilperson- SPO, Michael Walter  
Councilperson John Nober

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Maryann Oumrim-Town Clerk            Charles Nystrom –CEO            Robert Smith –Attorney  
Jeffrey Daub- Highway            Michael Attianese            Peter Grosser  
Kat Stevens  
Frank Kratz

**The Town Board Meeting was called to order** by Supervisor Maas 7:30 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #15**

**Whereas** the Town of Cochection Board of the Town of Cochection, Sullivan County, New York, has been requested to grant the Supervisors bookkeeper, Kristin Lockwood to be granted permission to make transfers to and from NYCLASS and Jeff Bank to allow a smoother transition of funds between accounts but still signed off by the Supervisor, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Cochection, Sullivan County, New York, authorizes the bookkeeper the authority to transfer funds between NYCLASS accounts and Jeff Bank.

**Moved by** Nearing **Seconded by** Nober

Maas            Aye  
Grund            Aye  
Nearing            Aye  
Walter            Aye  
Nober            Aye

**RESOLUTION #16**

**WHEREAS** THE Town of Cochection Board of the Town of Cochection, Sullivan County, New York, has received a modification agreement for the lease of the Transfer Station property to the County of Sullivan for 3 years for the amount of \$5,000.00 per year, starting in 2024 ending on December 31, 2026, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Cochection, Sullivan County, New York, authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Modification Agreement so that the Transfer Station remains open from 2024- 2026

**MOVED** by Walter **Seconded by** Grund

Maas            Aye  
Grund            Aye  
Nearing            Aye  
Walter            Aye  
Nober            Aye

**RESOLUTION #17**

**WHEREAS** to go forward with purchase of land located on rt.116 in Lake Huntington, NY 12752 (“ Story Property”) a survey is deemed necessary.

Motion made by Councilperson Grund seconded by Councilperson Nober to go forward with using Gary Packard for land survey.

Maas            Aye  
Grund            Aye  
Nearing            Aye  
Walter            Aye  
Nober            Aye

**Motion** made by Nearing Seconded by Walter for Supervisor Maas sign and approve Municipal agreement with Town of Bethel New Your Sullivan County, NY to board dogs in any case of need.

Grund            Aye  
Nearing            Aye  
Walter            Aye  
Nober            Aye

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**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Nearing seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to accept the minutes of January 10, 2024, all in Favor.

**APPROVE BILLS ON ABSTRACT #18  
TO BE PAID IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS**

**Abstract # 2**

General Accounts: Claim #'s 28,29,32-34, 37,38 and 40 are in prepaid's.

Claim numbers 44-73 are to be paid

Total General Funds: **\$9,881.62**

Debit Card Account: Claim #74

Total Debit Card: **\$1,528.20**

Sewer Accounts: Claim # 27, 35,36 and 43 are in prepaids

Claim #'s 75 and 76 to be paid.

Total Sewer Accounts: **\$356.54**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim #39 and 41 are in Prepaid

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$1,299.77**

Highway Accounts: Claim #'s 31 and 42 are in prepaid

77-85 to be paid.

Total Highway Accounts **\$49,566.77**

PREPAIDS were paid 1/24, 2/5, and 2/8

Audit 2/12/24 by Councilmen Grund & Nober

On Motion of Councilperson Grund seconded by Councilperson Nober, to approve the bills on Abstract #2 in the following amounts:

Maas	Aye
Grund	Aye
Nearing	Aye
Walter	Aye
Nober	Aye

**COROSPONDANCE:**

Upper Delaware litter sweep will be held from April 20-April 28<sup>th</sup>

Homeland Security: No disaster recovery funds

Letter regarding Skinners Falls Bridge, studies are being conducted which will not conclude until 2025

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to comment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL:** Larry Richardson

On February 1, Chairperson Dudko called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a Zoom option.

Swearing-in of 2024 Officers was by Town of Deerpark Town Justice **Michael J. Worden.**

**Reports-** Minutes for the three standing committees were distributed prior to the meeting.

- Project Review, (Larry Richardson)
- Operations, (Ginny Dudko)
- Water Use/Resource Management, (Ginny Dudko)

**Status Reports**

- **Delaware River Basin Commission** -oral report given
- **NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation** (Ryan Coulter) - reported that the Long Eddy Access is close to finished with some signage pending. He also stated that the DEC will assume responsibility for removing debris washed up at the Highland access.
- **PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources** (Tim Dugan) -absent
- **National Park Service** (Lindsey Kurnath) – There were two seasonal Park Ranger positions open, one being a Spanish speaking position. One application period closed February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Spanish speaking position closed February 5<sup>th</sup>. There is also an

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opening for Administrative Assistant with an application deadline of February 15<sup>th</sup>. I don't know at this time if the two previously noted positions have been filled.

- **UDC Executive Director** (Laurie Ramie) presented a written/oral report. Ramie welcomed Town of Fremont Representative Jim Rodgers to his first meeting for 2024, returning to the board after previously serving as a Town of Fremont alternate from November 2004 to January 2013

### New Business

- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Date:** Stephanie Driscoll reported that staff met to go over Litter Sweep details. With Earth Day being April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the dates will be April 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, covering two weekends. We will be looking for Litter Leaders.
- **2024 Upper Delaware BioBlitz Sponsorship:** this year's event to be held at the Highlights Foundation Retreat Center in Boyds Mills. The Council voted to support the event with a \$500 donation. The public event will be June 29<sup>th</sup>

### UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC BYWAY-*Monthly Report*

Submitted by: Larry Richardson

The Committee held a scheduled meeting on January 22, 2024

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chairperson DeCristofaro opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m., with a Zoom option.

**Treasurers Report:** I provided a year-end summary showing budget to actuals in both budgets. I also provided 2024 draft budgets for consideration. The report was accepted. On an **accepted motion**, the \$8,200 reimbursement voucher for vista clearing along Rte. 97 from the Town of Delaware and the \$100 payment to the SCVA were approved, with all in favor.

### Discussion items:

- **IRS and NYS Charities Bureau Filings for 2023:**  
Hancock-based CPA Terry Whitt has handled the UDSB, Inc. filings for many years but has decided to retire.  
*Since this meeting, Laurie has communicated with Mr. Whitt and he has agreed to do the taxes one last time. I have forwarded the financial information.*
- **UDSB Program Manager Position Proposal FY 2024 was discussed**
- **Town of Highland Rt. 97 Dedicated Pedestrian Lane & Safety Improvement Project Grant Application:** The UDSB was asked to provide a letter supporting the application (not endorsing the project at this time). The new administration in Highland is undecided whether to pursue this project.

### Follow-up Action Items and Reports:

- **Callicoon Depot Inc. Update** was provided by Wendee Greene (written) and Nicole Vallance.
- **NYS DOT Regions 8 & 9 Capital Projects Monthly Report-**

**Next Meeting Date:** on February 26, at 7 p.m.

**Adjourn:** meeting adjourned.

### Youth Commission: Councilperson Grund

The New Youth Commission is planning events for the coming year. For more information contact **Sue Rodriguez** (845) 866-0853, or email: [s\\_rod79@frontiernet.net](mailto:s_rod79@frontiernet.net). Check out their **New Youth Commission Facebook** page to see all the creative activities that has been thoughtfully planned out by the volunteers in charge of the New Cohecton Youth Commission.

### **Cohecton Fire Department:** John Nober

Sullivan Renaissance is Hosting a Healthy aspire challenge Lake Huntington  
B/P Screening every Monday Night at 7PM

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**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas**

Submitted a written report:

Bank Information:

Deposited	\$ 525.00	Judicial fees
Deposited	\$ 570.50	Judicial fees
Deposited	\$ 433.68	Debit Card
Deposited	\$1,514.45	Town Clerk
Deposited	\$1,031.53	Stumpage
Deposited	\$7,500.00	Youth from County
Deposited	\$1,443,694.14	Tax Collector 2024 Tax year for the Town and all districts.

Made transfers and deposits as needed. Received 2024 Tax Revenue from Tac Collector and deposited and transferred to NYCLASS. Picked up W2's and 1099's and sent them out. Meeting with Darren Doetsch at sewer site regarding Trickling Filtration issue.

CONTRACTUAL		\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 1,809.49	\$3,090.51

I worked 114 hours.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Jeffrey Daub**

- Brush Cutting
- Changed out some king pins
- New door installed in shop
- Plowed and sanded as needed
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual balance - \$3,754.36
- Paving on Brook Road is lifting

Highway Supervisor Daub has been researching the price of an Excavator to be purchased for the Highway Department with possibly trading in the backhoe. Explained to the Town Board that H.O.PENN would take the backhoe on trade, discussion of the pros and cons of trading in or keeping the backhoe and purchasing excavator. After discussion the board's opinions were split.

- Maas- Buy Cat & Keep Backhoe
- Nearing- Trade in
- Nober- Buy Cat & Keep Backhoe
- Grund – Trade in
- Walter- Buy Cat & Keep Backhoe

**RESOLUTION #19**

Motion to Authorize Highway Supervisor Daub to make a purchase for CAT excavator from H.O. Penn using Machinery Capital Reserve. Motion Moved by Councilperson Nober seconded by Councilperson Walter.

Maas	Aye
Grund	Aye
Nearing	Nay
Walter	Aye
Nober	Aye

Notified the Town Board that 2 of the workers from the Highway Department will be leaving soon.

Motion by councilperson Nober seconded by Walter to run a Help Wanted ad in the paper for an HMEO.

Maas	Aye
Grund	Aye
Nearing	Aye
Walter	Aye
Nober	Aye

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**TOWN CLERK:** Maryann Oumrim

I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk including:

- Prepared Abstract #2 for audit.
- Prepared Minutes for January 10th Meeting.
- Emails have been responded to and appropriately shared with Board Members.
- 5 trips to the bank to make deposits.
- CEO Report / deposit
- Dog – 1-New Licenses and 3- Renewals.
- Dog Enumeration in the works
- Monthly reports sent to Agriculture & Markets and DOH for marriage and death.
- Website Maintenance
- I worked a total of 90 hours in January
- **Contractual balance: \$3,710.68**

**RESOLUTION # 20**

Motion for Town Clerk to go forward with a Dog Enumeration Motion moved by councilperson Mearing seconded by Councilperson Grund

Maas	Aye
Grund	Aye
Nearing	Aye
Walter	Aye
Nober	Aye

Notified by Supervisor Maas that he found a safe for the town clerk’s office and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** Charles Nystrom

Submitted a written report: Worked 115.5 hrs.

- mileage 105
- permits issued 4
- C of O’s 3
- C of C’s 3
- Notice of Disapprovals 1
- Municipal search letters 4
- Plan Review Inspections 1
- Revenues \$525.00
- Expenses \$702.45
- Contractual Balance: \$4,297.55

**RESOLUTION #21**

Motion made by Councilperson Nober Seconded by Grund that based on the report given by the Code Enforcement officer Nystrom the building located on SBL 13-1-13 is deemed unsafe and a notice to be sent to owner Polito to have building demolished within 30 – 60 days.

Maas	Aye
Grund	Aye
Nearing	Aye
Walter	Aye
Nober	Aye

Nystrom explained to Board members about a code and approved numbers for Summer Community, and second issue with Department of Health with a shared water system , water samples are supposed to be logged, CEO will submit a FOIL so that it can be kept in their file.

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**TOWN ATTORNEY:** Robert Smith

- Property 78 Mitchel Pond East
- Dog Licenses to be expected from Quails Road
- Association of Towns is holding Annual conference in NYC

**RESOLUTION #22**

**MOTION** made by councilperson Nober seconded by councilperson Grund to approve Robert Smith to attend the NYS continued education in NY City hosted by the Association of Towns.  
Supervisor Maas and Councilpersons: Grund, Nearing, Walter and Nober voted in favor.

**TAX COLLECTOR:** Eileen Hennessy

I have collected \$2,623,942.05

I paid Supervisor \$1,443,756.46

I paid County \$1,100,000.00

Balance in checking is about \$103,733.00

My batch #77 is messed up and I have a few bounced checks.

Credit Card \$22,369.76 Cash \$19,255.70 Checks \$2,623,942.05

**ASSESSOR:** Lorry King - not present

**Old Business:**

1. Field work continues.

**New Business:**

1. I will be attending several educational courses, not sure of dates just yet.
2. All files have been moved to the new filing cabinet.

Assessor: 26.50 Clerk: 29.00

**SEWER OFFICER:** Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- The average flow of 65,076. gallons per day for month of January
- Obtained 99% C.B.O.D. and 99% T.S.S. removal for January.
- Expenditures \$356.54
- Contractual Balance: \$34,643.46

Worked 81 hours.

**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR** Earl Bertsch –

**DOG CONTROL OFFICER:** Tamara DePaolo - not present

Supervisor Maas distributed sewer maps to the Town Board members to incorporate Crestwood Road ( just behind Lakeview Pizzeria and Dietz) into the sewer district.

**RESOLUTION #23**

Motion made by Councilperson Nearing seconded by Councilperson Nober to go forward with extension Incorporating both properties into the sewer district.

Maas	Aye
Grund	Aye
Nearing	Aye
Walter	Abstained
Nober	Aye

Supervisor to have Ross draw up new Sewer District Maps.

Supervisor Maas pointed out several old documents which were put in frames from the Old Town Hall location.

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**HISTORIAN:** Kristina Kraus - not present

### **Town history-**

Oct/Nov/Dec 2023

I was donated 2 old maps for the town, one map is from the 1976 bicentennial of Sullivan County, another which was a brochure for Lake Huntington around the 1940s/ early 1950s. It's a list of all the bungalows available for summer residences to rent, and things to do in Lake Huntington. This was donated by the Gartner brothers.

The Red Fox Hunting Club had also donated to the town history, a box of red fox hunting club meeting minutes and miscellaneous papers which belonged to Paul Furk, who recently passed away this fall. The red fox hunting club was founded in 1936- and has had many local hunters and city hunters who came here to hunt. The club is still active today, with many locals who are members. We thank the red fox hunting club for this donation.

Dec 8th, I attended a round table discussion for local historians of Sullivan County, at the Sullivan County historical museum in Hurleyville. It was nice meeting other town historians, however only 2 other town historians attended the meeting. During the meeting we discussed different ways to help people find information, either by looking into certain websites, and how to try and help to answer questions that may arise. It was a short meeting. The meetings will start back up again in the spring and the historians hope to have a meeting at the Cochection Train station in the warmer months.

Gary Maas was given 2 family photo albums from local resident Emma Gurhing who passed a few years ago. Her house was recently sold during the tax sale and the new owners found the albums in the house and donated them to the town. The albums are from the 1920s-1950's. Emma was an only child, who attended and graduated from Julliard School of Arts and music and was a talented musician. During her life she taught many local residents music lessons in Cochection and Sullivan County. She was also the organist for the Lake Huntington Presbyterian church until the mid-2000s. The albums are mostly photos of her mother and father, gardening around their house, their city home, and the many dogs and cats they had over the years. It is very interesting nonetheless and glad it was not thrown away.

It has been an exciting first year as the town historian and I look forward to 2024!!

### **TOWN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Councilperson Nearing** – nothing currently

**Councilperson Salzberg** - nothing currently

**Councilperson Grund** - nothing currently

**Councilperson Walter** - nothing currently

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Nober, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to go into executive session .

Time 8:44 p.m. All board members voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Maryann Oumrim*

Town Clerk