

REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, MARCH 13, 2019

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A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on March 13, 2019 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 7:36 PM.

PRESENT: Supervisor Maas
Councilperson Anna Story absent
Councilperson Sean Nearing
Councilperson Paul Salzberg
Councilperson Edwin Grund

Others Present:

Hollye Schulman --Town Clerk Kevin Esselman --Highway Superintendent
Karen Mannino --Attorney Gregg Semenetz --CEO
Michael Walter --SPO Eileen Hennessy -- Tax Collector

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to approve the minutes of February 13, 2019 and February ,Vote was 4/0 with Councilperson Story absent

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to approve the minutes of February 28, 2019 and February ,Vote was 3/0 with Councilperson Story and Salzberg absent

RESOLUTION #22

BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 3

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was to approve for payment the bills on abstract # 3 in the following amount.

General Account	Voucher # 90-129	\$8,719.96
Debit Card Account	Voucher #'s 130	\$614.38
Sewer Account	Voucher # 131-132 + prepaid	\$1,364.44
Lighting District Account	Voucher # 93 & 109 in prepaid	\$629.07
Highway Account	Voucher # 133-147	\$35,426.64

Claim #'s 96, 114, 124 and 133 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Prepaid claims were paid on Feb. 18th, 26th, 28th, March 5th, and 12th, 2019

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

. CORRESPONDENCE:

Thompson Sanitation: Price change, but not sure what new price will be at this time

Sullivan County Treasurer: Re; Sullivan County Solid Waste Municipal Fee. A flat fee charged to Towns and Villages from \$850.00 to \$570.00

Sullivan County Division of Public Works: Linear Speed Limit Reduction request: DOT Form Change NYSDOT Region 9 has responsibility for determining "speed limits" on State, County, and Town Roads in Sullivan County, reduction request form "TE9" to a new "TE9a form

Cooper Arias: completed audit for year ending December 31, 2018

NYS Comptroller's office: Acknowledge their receipt of the Town of Cochecton response that was sent to us related to our draft audit report

Senator Jen Metzger: delivered a letter to Gov. Cuomo calling for full restoration of Aid and Incentives to municipalities (AIM)

Message from Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli: Retirement needs to be done online

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UDC: Larry Richardson

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday March 27

At the April meeting there will be a presentation by the Delaware River Master

Topics discussed in part:

- Sean McNeil is taking over as Acting Chief Law Enforcement Official for NPS
- NPS: \$58,000 was budgeted for local law enforcement support, but requests totaled only \$11,000.
- Applications for river cleanup contracts are due
- Meetings held with all PA and NY state officials representing this area
- Gunther has submitted a funding request as a budget line item (\$100,000) which was the amount envisioned in the River Management Plan. State Senator Metzger has agreed to support the effort.
- Town of Highland's Zoning rewrite that as drafted would take them out of substantial conformance with the Land and Water Guidelines and the River Management Plan.
- Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for April 28 and to be held again at the Central House in Beach Lake
- Actions taken:
- Approved and recommending to the NPS that the Damascus Township Floodplain Ordinance substantially conforms to the RMP
- Approved the printing contract for the Newsletter to Courier Printing FY2019

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UDC report continues:

- Approved a revised UDC Budget for the remainder of 2019

SCENIC BYWAY: Larry Richardson

Scenic Byway; The UDSB held its regular meeting on Monday February 25.

Topics of Discussion in part:

- a) County funding level approved \$20,000
- b) Two Butterfly Grant Applications
- c) John Ogazalek' property: Promoting a scenic overlook
- d) Town of Hancock's concern about possibly having Blue Stone quarrying restricted by being a member (the Enhancement Plan specifically promotes continuation of such mining)
- e) Marketing: getting the biggest bang for the dollar and whether marketing should be done locally of out of the area
- f) Callicoon train station and progress as a visitors center
- g) Website status
- h) Deerpark Police Department Ticket Statistics for Hawk's Nest Area

Actions taken:

- Approved: 2002 UDSB Dedication booklets to sell as souvenirs at \$10.00 ea.
- Approved: Application from the Hancock Community Education Foundation; requesting \$850 to organize a Save the Monarch Earth Day Event at the Robert W. Nichol Nature Preserve and Science Center in Hancock on April 27. The total project cost is \$1250
- **Declined:** An application from Lillian Mason of Manassas, VA seeking \$3,000 to seed the former airstrip in Hancock that runs along the Delaware River off Rt. 97 with milkweed to serve as a butterfly sanctuary.
- **Next Meeting Date:** 4th Monday; March 25, 2019

YOUTH COMMISSION: Councilperson Grund:

Skiing at the Villa Roma, Hobbies: Beach Lake for making model cars, trip to Yankee Stadium (still have 20 seats left to fill), also looking for a new member on the board

WEBSITE AND FIRE DISTRICT: Councilperson Anna Story- absent (no report)

FIRE DISTRICT: Councilperson Story – No report

LAKE HUNTINGTON LAKE ASSOC: Councilperson Salzberg

Did not have a meeting, our next meeting will be n April for board members

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

Submitted a written report;

Monthly Financial Report

Bank Information:

- Deposited \$671.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$850.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 1,,717.03 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$635.54 Blaso Sewer Rent
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actuals to board

Activity

- Attended Supervisors Meeting. Calls to Cooper Arias and audit for 2016 which is complete. Worked on Website issue and new rate for electric supply

CONTRACTUAL The New York State Comptrollers Office has been doing an audit of the Town and had the exit conference and have given our response to 5 items, Final Report should be out this month, Meetings with Juan Regal and Zeke Miller on Doves

Abstract #1	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$285.37	\$3,714.63
Abstract #3	\$1,106.82	\$2,607.81
Abstract #4	\$	\$
Abstract #5	\$	\$
Abstract #6	\$	\$
Abstract #7	\$	\$
Abstract #8	\$	\$
Abstract #9	\$	\$
Abstract #10	\$	\$
Abstract #11	\$	\$
Abstract #12	\$	\$

Worked 85 hours

RESOLUTION: # 23

SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZED TO BUY PAINT FOR DOVE

On motion buy Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was

WHEREAS, Juan Regal will be painting one of the Doves for the Dove Trail, and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor is hereby authorized to purchase the paint for Mr. Regal and he will use the debit card for this purchase

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

Submitted written report

- Out ditching , patching and cutting brush
- Plowed and sanded as needed
- Had some repairs
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance - \$3,623.99

Needs to place a legal notice for stone and Blacktop bids, also needs to place a help wanted ad

MOTION:

On motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to have the HWY Superintendent

place a legal notice for stone and blacktop bids and also an ad for help wanted to be opened at the next Town Board meeting in April

All present board members voted in favor: Councilperson Story absent

The Attorney is looking into the possibility of a Public Hearing on a loader for the next regular Town Board meeting

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

Re: monthly report

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- Issued 2 permanent and 2 temporary parking permits in February
- I did not attend an OSTCA meeting in February.
- I have had inquiries about death records, property taxes,, Questions re: transfer station etc.
- I also have people asking me questions related to the CEO, Assessor, Tax Collector, and a lot of Justice Court questions.
- Worked a total of 96 3/4 hours in February
- Expenditures \$81.48
- Collected \$832.08 in fees for February
- Contractual Balance: \$3,861.42

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours and traveled 706 miles.
- Issued 5 permit, there were no renewals.
- No C of O's and no notices of disapprovals.
- Issued 4 municipal search letters.
- There was no appearance tickets issued.
- Revenue was \$600.00
- Expenses \$579.48
- Contractual Balance is \$4,385.86

Building permits are up etc. things are looking good. One building has been demo, more will be done later this year

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report:

- Tax money Monies collected \$2,546,417.75
- Paid to Supervisor \$1,248,544.67
- Paid to SC Treasure \$1,290,000.00
- Total \$15,676.76 left in balance
- Worked 71 hours in February
- Contractual Balance \$1,718.42

There is a problem with the tax program, sometimes it is off by \$0.01 (one cent) and if people are making payments the 3rd payment Does not have the penalties on it so many people are sending in the wrong amounts. Hopefully there will be a new vendor for the tax bills next year

ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)

Submitted a written report

- Attendance at Board Meeting
- She had nothing else to add

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Submitted a written report; which the Supervisor went over

Old Business:

1. Field review of sales and new construction continues
2. This is our busy season, exemption renewals are due in my office by March 1, 2019, and all information is then compiled and the data entered into the computer for the tentative roll

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New Business:

1. Recent discussions about changes to the 480A (Forest Exemption program)
2. IVP information on computer State Star PROGRAM
3. Valuation of new constructions/improvements

February – 2017

Hours: Assessor: 29 Clerk: 29 1/2

Total expenditures: \$79.12

Contractual Balance February: \$1,682.36

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter)

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 55,183 gallons per day for month of February
- Obtained 95 % C.B.O.D. and 96 % T.S.S. removal for February
- Spent a total of 62 1/2 hours attending to sewer district affairs in February
- Expenditures: \$1,364.44
- Contractual Balance: \$28,377.91

No problems at this time

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Earl Bertsch) not present

January meeting: Coots - sub-division, creating one new lot . February meeting Continuing Education Credits and New Business
Bruce Fulton of Fulton Land Surveying- Lot Improvement

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Tamara DePaolo)

Had no expenditures hours

Contractual balance of \$2,500.00

HISTORIAN: (K. C. Garn) not present

Submitted a written report Supervisor went over.

Currently working on two projects based on inquiries received this past month or so

The First was a request for any information on a “Pleasant Cottage” boarding house owned by Henry and Emily Schneckner. They wished to know where it was located and I couldn’t fine any information at all. The deed description is not adequate for determining location. I know Sol Katzoff bought it at a sheriff’s sale in 1957, but so far, can’t find out who owns the property now. Let me know if you have any information.

Information was requested on the cabin built on top of rocks up the hill behind Frank Leonardo’s place. Kambri Crews owns it now and I looked up some of the history to add to what she already knew. It was a cider mill and built in the early 1900’s

TOWN BOARD:

(Councilperson Salzberg) Nothing to report

(Councilperson Nearing) – He felt he would know about the grant soon for the basketball court, he thought \$40,000.00 would cover everything from backboards, fencing etc. there was some discussion

(Councilperson Grund) – had nothing to add

(Supervisor Maas) Proposal for entrance to town signs

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sheila Schultz, Clintonia Way, Asked Councilperson Nearing if he had any information regarding Sullivan Renaissance Grant money
She also asked about cable for her area

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe Buildings 2018- discussed earlier
2. basketball Court- discussed earlier
3. Welcome Signs for Cochection- discussed

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tire Disposal – limit per household 4 free (car, pickup and SUV) \$3.00 per tire over the 4 free tires. This was discussed
2. Spring Clean up – Will be held May 18th and 19th, 2019

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to adjourn this Town Board meeting. Time 8:38 p.m. All board members present voted in favor. Councilperson Story absent

Respectfully Submitted,
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk