

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MARCH 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on March 10, 2021 at the Cochection Town Hall. Between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM is for the purpose of auditing bills. The following members were present:

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Maas
Councilperson - Deputy Supervisor, Edwin Grund
Councilperson Sean Nearing
Councilperson Paul Salzberg
Councilperson- SPO, Michael Walter

OTHERS PRESENT:
Maryann Oumrim - Town Clerk Margaret Richardson, Deputy Town Clerk
Kevin Esselman – HWY Superintendent Jim Crowley –CEO
Karen Mannino –Attorney Larry Richardson – UDC
Linda Drollinger – River Reporter Sue Rodriguez- CYC
Valarie DeBrieze - CYC

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

MOTION: Motion made by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, to approve the minutes of February 10th, 2021 as submitted. All board members voted in favor.

MOTION: Motion made by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, to approve the bills on Abstract # 3 in the following amounts:

General Accounts: Claim #'s 123-143 are to be paid.
Claim #'s 103,105,108,109,111,112,114,115,117,119,121,122are in prepaid.

Total General Funds: **\$ 20514.62**

Debit Card Account: Claim #144

Total Debit Card: **\$ 793.22**

Sewer Accounts: Claim #145,146 and147 are to be paid.
Claim #'s #106,116 and 118 are in Prepaids.

Total Sewer Accounts: **\$ 604.49**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim # 104 and #120 in prepaid

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$719.60**

Highway Accounts: Claim #'s 107,110,113,122A are prepaid.
Claim #148-160 to be paid.

Total Highway Accounts **\$63,562.92**

PREPAIDS were paid 2/11, 2/15, 2/23, 3/2, 3/4

Audit 3/10/21 by Councilmen Grund & Walter

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:
No one wished to comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Upper Delaware Council:** Larry Richardson -

The Council held its regular meeting via Zoom on Thursday March 4. The meeting opened with a presentation by Adam Bosch from NYC DEP updating the members on emergency alarm procedures. The city is moving decisive to incorporate electronic alarms and alerts in the event a potentially dangerous condition at one of the reservoirs.

Topics discussed in part:**Status Reports:**

- **Delaware River Basin Commission** (Kristen Bowman Kavanagh): shared that after several years of study and public testimony the basin commission has unanimously voted to instead to a permanent ban on hydraulic fracturing in the river basin. Regulations concerning fracking water and wastewater will be forthcoming.
- **DEC** representative Bill Rudge announced a new, short deer hunting season to be held December 26 through January 1 for hunters using bows and muzzle- loading rifles. A hunter must possess the appropriate stamp.
- **DCNR** Pa representative Tim Dugan shared what PA is doing to combat Hemlock woolly adelgid through the introduction of biological controls.
- **NPS** representative Don Hamilton had shared in a committee meeting that a study at several locations in the Delaware showed high levels of microfibers in the water, in the sentiment and in aquatic life.
- **Executive Director** Ramie advised that she finally was able to secure our Federal funding approved for the remainder of this year.

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway: Larry Richardson

The Committee held its regular meeting via Zoom on Monday February 22 and a special Executive Meeting on via Zoom on March 2.

Discussion items:

- **Proposal to Restructure Upper Delaware Scenic Byway:**
A lengthy discussion took place about a just introduced proposal by Chairman Pizzolato as to how the UDSB committee might be restructured if a substantial amount of funding was provided by the county. A follow-up Executive Committee meeting was planned for further discussion.
- **NYS DOT Region 9 Report and UDSB Route Marker Signage Updates:**
- **A Nominating Committee was appointed by the Chairman:** Chairman Pizzolato, Valerie Senese and Richardson
- **Policies for Preventing Sexual Harassment and Conflict of Interest Disclosure:**
(Note: all representatives and alternates for both the UDSB and the UDC need to complete these policies.)
- **UDSB Visitor Center at Callicoon Depot Management and Operational Questions:**
- **New Route 97 Pull-off in Town of Cochection:** While talking with Frank Kratz about participating in the UDC sponsored litter sweep, he mentions that he has a piece of property near the church on route 97 that he thinks would make a very good Pull-off. He offered material and a machine to beautify the site. It seems that some money would be needed for appropriate plantings. Sullivan Renaissance has offered to help with cost. Such a grant does require a sponsor and I'm hoping the town would assume that position. Will the town consider helping with the cost to replace the stolen" you are here sign" and have it located at this new site?
- **Litter Clean-up Projects:**
Eleven volunteers have been enlisted for "sweeping" the area along Route 97 Cochection. However, a few more are still needed to make lighter work of the task of cleaning 6.5 miles. Some of the area along the highway will not be picked due to DOT safety restrictions such as where the rock cut meets the road or where guide rails are too close to allow for safety.

Next Meeting Date: March 22, 2021 (4th Monday) at 7:00 p.m.

Youth Commission: Councilperson Grund

- The Cochection Youth Commission is continuously adding to their social distanced activities. For more information contact **Sue Rodriguez** (845) 866-0853, or email: s_rod79@frontiernet.net. Check out their Facebook page at **Cochection Youth Commission**. Supervisor Maas praised the efforts of the volunteer leaders and noted that Sue Rodriguez is in her 17th year of leadership with the Youth.

Order of Business:

- Paddy McCarthy Board member is stepping down from his position on the youth board.
- Valerie Devrieze submitted a letter of interest to be part of the Youth Board.

MOTION: Motion made by Councilman Grund, seconded by Councilman Walter to accept Valerie Devrieze on the Cochection Youth Commission Board; all board members voted in favor.

Lake Huntington Lake Association: Councilperson Dr. Salzberg

The Lake Huntington Lake Association did not have a general meeting but hope to do so soon.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas

Submitted a written report:

- Deposited \$ 2,327.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 336.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 2,063.50 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$51,855.85 Millennium PILOT
- Deposited \$ 1,107.28 and 1,923.14 Debit Card
- Deposited \$ 52.65 Tax collector and 100.09 misc.

Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave *budget to actuals* to board.

Activity: Audit completed by Cooper Arias and Financial report from 2020 received; worked on Kyocera copier replacement; attended ZOOM meeting regarding the Skinner’s Falls Bridge. (Supervisor Maas is on the Advisory Committee.) They discussed three (3) options: 1. No Bridge; 2. Rehab historical Bridge with 8- ton limit and 25 year expectancy; 3. Replace Bridge with a two (2) lanes, 10- ton limit and 50 year expectancy. Penn DOT reported that an average of 400 vehicles go through daily. More meetings will follow.

- CONTACTUAL – Beginning Balance **\$4,000.00**

Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 825.94	\$3,174.06
Abstract #3	\$ 58.64	\$3,115.42 ending balance

- Worked 95.5 hours.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Kevin Esselman

Submitted a written report:

- Sanded and plowed as needed.
- Had some repairs.
- Brush cutting.
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual balance - \$3,800.00

Superintendent Esselman reported that they have a 2006 red truck which has corner post separation in truck body. It should be replaced. He reported 2 quotes for a new truck body: Stainless Steel body installed at \$73,718.00 and a Steel body with 20-year expectancy, installed for \$47,479.00. The truck is operating as should. The body will be used on new truck when this truck is replaced.

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Also, the Sweeper needs to be replaced. He has been checking out options at Marshall's Machinery. A 2015 with 170 hours use is \$23,900.00 and a 2016 is \$41,500.00. Rent costs \$700.00/week.

Also, the Equipment Trailer has had mounting parts breakdown. He got an estimate of \$5,000.00 to replace brake drums and deck. Marshall's Machinery has a 21-ton trailer for \$21,000.00 that he would like to consider.

Board councilmen agree to have further discussion to do some of their own research and will recess to March 24th at 6:30 pm

TOWN CLERK: Maryann Oumrim

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

- Prepared Abstract 3 for audit.
- Prepared February Board minutes. (Peggy)
- Deposited Town fees including CEO fees.
- Emails have been responded to and appropriately shared with Board Members.
- Monthly reports sent to Agriculture & Markets and DOH for marriage and death.
- Updated State Comptroller information electronically
- Submitted 2020 Parking Permit updates to DMV.
- Updating 428's information of Town Employees
- Contacted and obtained information for Dog Enumerations.
- Sent email to DEC to become a License Agent for Hunting Licenses.
- At home I have been studying for Notary.
- I am officially designated as the Town's Registrar of Vital Statistics. Peggy is the official Sub-Registrar.
- I worked a total of 56 hours in February and Deputy Clerk worked 26 hours.
- **Contractual balance: \$3,353.83**

Motion by councilman Nearing, seconded by councilman Salzberg to accept estimate quote #2332 in the amount of \$317.68 for Dog Enumeration program. All in favor of motion.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: James Crowley

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hrs.
- mileage 246
- Permits issued 3.
- Municipal search letters 5
- Revenues \$525.00
- Expenses \$187.76
- Contractual Balance: \$5,130.08

CEO Jim Crowley advised town board that his current laptop is not working to optimal levels (windows 7) and will need to be replaced along with a mouse.

MOTION: Councilman Salzberg seconded by Councilman Walter to authorize Supervisor Maas to look into the purchase of a new laptop with a wireless mouse; All were in favor.

- **Discussion regarding making updates to the CEO fee schedule. CEO will provide comparisons to the board.**

TAX COLLECTOR: Eileen Hennessy – not present

No report:

TOWN ATTORNEY: Karen Mannino

- Discussion regarding Town property on Nearing Road consisting of two 3- acre parcels of land. Supervisor Maas would like to consider selling the two idle parcels and return them onto the Tax Roll. Ms. Mannino will research the Nearing property deed and if there are any restrictions imposed by donor Mr. Leeds.

ASSESSOR: Lorry King - not present

Submitted report:

Old Business:

1. Field work continues.

New Business:

1. Working on exemptions and new construction
2. Received several new exemptions for Ag and Forest this year.
3. Meeting every week with Jim to go over permits and or general questions.
4. I will be taking several online courses in the next few months for my required education.

A1355.400 \$1,950.00

Assessor Hours 29.00

Clerk Hours 36.50

The Board will add “review Ag Exemptions” to the March 24th recessed meeting Agenda.

SEWER PLANT OPERATER: Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 33,541 gallons per day for month of February
- Obtained 97% C.B.O.D. and 98% T.S.S. removal for February.
- Expenditures \$583.48
- Contractual Balance: \$30,550.36

Worked 77-hours.

Walter attended virtual conference obtained 2 Credit Hours.

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR Earl Bertsch - not present

Planning Board minutes dated 01/28/2021 were approved

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present

No report.

HISTORIAN: K. C. Garn - not present

No report

TOWN BOARD REPORTS:

Councilperson Nearing - mentioned to Board that the anticipated Highway purchases are approximately \$100,000.00. The Hwy Budget is 2/3's of the Town Budget. He would like to see a list of Truck Rotations. ***This also will be added to the March 24th recessed meeting.***

Councilperson Salzberg - nothing currently

Councilperson Grund - nothing currently

Councilperson Walter – asked if the Sewer Plant will get some of the Covid Relief money. He reported the Sewer Plant roof is starting to leak due to the rusting tin roof. ***This also will be added to the March 24th recessed meeting.***

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe Buildings – tabled
2. Roof for old town hall – Supervisor Maas reported that a tin roof option is less expensive and will last longer. He will check out to see if this will affect the Historical Registry. Larry Richardson commented that the Cocheton Train Station had that option and found that tin roofs were used by the 1850's.
3. Addition for Highway Barn – tabled
4. Smoke Testing Sewer System

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Covid 19 Rescue money, \$140,000.00; *this will be added to the March 24th recessed meeting.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg the following motion was to recess meeting to March 24, at 6:30pm.

Time 9:15 p.m. All board members voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Maryann Oumrim Town Clerk