

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MARCH 8, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on March 8, 2023, at the Cochection Town Hall. At 7:30PM 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	Robert Smith–Attorney	Michael Attianese
Liam Mayo- River Reporter	Larry Richardson- UDC	Frank

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

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund seconded by Councilperson Walter the following motion was to accept the minutes of February 9, 2023.  
Supervisor Maas and Councilpersons: Grund, Nearing, Walter and Nober voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION #23**

**APPROVE BILLS ON ABSTRACT #3 TO BE PAID IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS**

General Accounts: Claim #'s 110-132 are to be paid.  
Claim #'s 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106 and 109 are in prepaid's.  
Total General Funds: **\$10,820.47**

Debit Card Account: Claim #133  
Total Debit Card: **\$ 597.67**

Sewer Accounts: Claim #134-136 are to be paid.  
Claim #'s 94-96, 107 and 108 are in prepaids.  
Total Sewer Accounts: **\$2,136.02**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim # 97-99 in Prepaid  
Total Lighting District Funds: **\$783.24**

Highway Accounts: Claim #'s 137-131 and split # 127 and 128 to be paid.  
Claim #102 and 105 are in prepaids.  
Claim #145 paid in amount \$ 129,807.00  
Total Highway Accounts **\$149,366.87**

PREPAIDS were paid 2/17, 2/24, 2/28, 3/2 and 3/3

Audit 2/7/21 by Councilmen Grund & Nober

**Moved by Grund Seconded by Nober**

**All in Favor:** Maas, Grund, Nearing, Walter, Nober

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Supervisor Maas

- The Sullivan County Division of Public Works is in the process of ordering glass beads for the upcoming 2023 road striping season.
- Upper Delaware Scenic Byway request for affirmation of appointment of representative Larry Richardson and alternate Sean Nearing.
- Cooper Arias confirmation for audit 2022 – Representative to present Audit next month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None currently**

**MOTION** Made by Councilperson Grund seconded by Councilperson Walter to give Scenic Byway annual funds in the amount of \$1,000.

**All in Favor:** Maas, Grund, Nearing, Walter, Nober

## REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MARCH 8, 2023

### RESOLUTION 03082023 #24

#### TOWN OF COCHECTON REQUIRED BY NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM TO AUDIT JUSTICE COURT RECORDS

WHEREAS the Town of Cochecton is required by the State of New York to have the local Justice Court records audited annually, and

WHEREAS, the accounting firm of Cooper Arias, LLP under contract with the Town of Cochecton conducted an annual audit FY2022, and

WHEREAS, included in the annual audit was a review of the Town Justices' Court records as required by the State of New York Unified Court System, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the duly elected Town Board does hereby accept the annual audit FY2022 performed by Cooper Arias, LLP as fulfilling the requirement of the local justice records audit

Moved by     Grund    

Seconded by     Nober    

**All in Favor:** Maas, Grund, Nearing, Walter, Nober

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL: Larry Richardson

March 2, at 6:00 p.m. the Committee for Emergency Communications met to continue our discussions regarding the evolving UDC position on telecommunications within the corridor.

The regular meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a zoom option.

We then heard a very positive presentation: "**The Tree of Outdoor Recreation**" by **Nathan Reigner, Ph.D., Pennsylvania's Director of Outdoor Recreation**. Dr. Reigner gave an overview of the impact of Outdoor Recreation on the economy, the environment and participants well-being and how it has a much greater impact on society than just the numbers. He pointed out that Pennsylvania is #6 in the nation in recreational dollars generated. He also made the point that recreation dollars surpass those generated by oil and gas exploration and production.

**Reports-** Asked for questions regarding the three standing committees' February meetings.

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

#### **Status Reports**

- **Delaware River Basin Commission** \* (Kristen Bowman Kavanagh)
- **NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation** (Jeff Rider) Reported that NYS DEC is hoping to move along the upgrade to the Delaware River access in Long Eddy.
- **PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources** (Tim Dugan) Reported that spraying for the Spongy Moth (Gypsy) will be primarily on private lands. He noted that a wet, cold spring is detrimental to the insects.
- **National Park Service** (Lindsey Kurnath, NP Superintendent) Reported that there is a need for seasonal housing for a few temporary staff. If you have or know of rooms available, please contact the NPS office.
- **UDC Executive Director** \* (Laurie Ramie) Reported on a recent summit held with representatives from NY and PA. A staff member from Senator John Fedderman's office and Aileen Gunther attended via zoom. Unfortunately, the overall response from invited officials was quite poor. It seems that since the Upper Delaware Council is not a "flashy" headline-getting organization but rather goes about its essential business quietly and in the background, it is very difficult to generate the support for additional funding that we desperately need.

#### **Actions Taken**

- A letter to U.S. Congress and Senators: UDC Federal Funding Restructuring Proposal
- Approved opening a Vanguard Brokerage Account to invest some of the UDC accumulated funds.
- Accepted a Substantial Conformance Recommendation 2023-01 from the Project Review Committee for a special use permit in Lackawaxen Township. The recommendation will be forwarded to the NPS.

**Other:** Ramie announced that the UDC sponsored annual corridor Litter Sweep is planned for 4/22-4/30.

#### **UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC BYWAY-Monthly Report** Submitted by: Larry Richardson

The Committee held a scheduled meeting on February 27, via zoom only.

#### **Discussion items:**

- **Appointment of a Nominating Committee:**
- **Review of UDSB Grant Applications:**

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1. Ten Mile River Scout Reservation seeking a \$700 Promoting Butterflies on the Byway grant. Approved.
2. A deferred \$4,000 proposal for a project along the lower part of Viaduct Road in Callicoon to open the view for vehicles traveling across the Viaduct on Rt. 97 heading north. Requires further discussion.

- **Program Manager Activity Report** along with the next step needed to access the approved \$40,000 NYS grant.
- **Approved** a \$1,500 sponsorship of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Deep Water Literary Festival on 6/16-19.
- **Planning for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of the Founding Fish: Upper Delaware Shad fest, 5/20-28**
- **UDSB Participation: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep, 4/22-30**
- **Brought to the attention of NYS DOT Region 9 of a dangerous tree on Rt. 97, Town of Lumberland –**
- **UDSB Visitor Center at The Callicoon Depot Update;** Tour by NYS Senator Oberacker on 3/6.
- **UDSB Website Update:** some ongoing snags with getting the site moved over to a new host.

**Next Meeting Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, March 27, 2023

**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 Cocheton Youth Commission.

**Lake Huntington Lake Association:** Not Present

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**SUPERVISOR:** Gary Maas

Monthly Financial Report

Bank Information:

Deposited \$	318.00	Judicial fees
Deposited \$	368.00	Judicial fees
Deposited \$	2,137.11	Debit Card
Deposited \$	1,405.02	Town Clerk
Deposited \$	17,925.52	Sewer Rent

Made transfers and deposits as needed.

Activity : Ambulance District Contract signed

, Worked on NYCLASS

CONTRACTUAL		\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 1,300.41	\$ 2,699.59
Abstract#3	\$ 395.60	\$ 2,303.99

Worked 98 hours

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** Kevin Esselman

Not Present

- Out plowed and sanded as needed
- Out cutting brush and patching
- Had few repairs
- Replaced pipe on Hass Road
- Had a sign Bandit and replaced sign on “Devils Road”
- Received new truck and so far, seems to be working out well
- Few trees clean ups due to wind
- Will be placing legal ad notice for Stone and blacktop bids in the paper for April’s meeting
- Spoke with auditors and gave them what they needed

Worked 160 hrs. Contractual balance- \$3,300.

## REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MARCH 8, 2023

### **TOWN CLERK:** Maryann Oumrim

February 2023

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

- Prepared Abstract #3 for audit.
- Prepared Minutes for February Meeting.
- Put Legal notices in the paper – (Including those for Planning Board)
- Emails have been responded to and appropriately shared with Board Members.
- 3 trips to the bank to make deposits.
- CEO Report / deposit
- Dog -- New 1 Licenses and 3 Renewals.
- Marriage License -0
- Parking Tags- P and 0 T
- Monthly reports sent to Agriculture & Markets and DOH for marriage and death.
- DECALS- Hunting & Fishing Licensing -1
- Website Maintenance
- I worked a total of 90 hours in February
- **Contractual balance: \$3,174.72**

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** James Crowley

Submitted a written report: Worked 80 hrs.

- Mileage 127
- permits issued 3
- C of O's 1
- C of C's issued 3
- Logging permits 1
- Notice of Disapprovals 2
- Municipal search letters 1
- Plan Review Inspections 12
- Revenues \$1,481.40
- Expenses \$153.92
- Contractual Balance: \$4,720.01

### **TAX COLLECTOR:** Eileen Hennessy

2/28/2023

Money, collected \$2,850,174.17

Money to the Supervisor \$1,443,756.46

Money to Sullivan County Treasurer \$1,400,000.00

I am at 84.01 % I want to beat last year's number of 90.30%

Checks \$2,852,392.22

Credit \$29,496.72

Cash \$26,942.72

### **TOWN ATTORNEY:** Robert Smith

Attended the NYS Association of Towns conference in NYC from 2/19-2/22

Attended 16 classes over two days.

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**ASSESSOR:** Lorry King - not present

Old Business:

1. Field work continues.
2. Senior Citizen exemption increase

New Business:

1. I will be taking required mandatory continued education in the next few months. Most of our classes are Fridays this year. It has not been easy to schedule something worth taking.

A1355.400

Feb \$1,795.01

Total Feb \$0.00

Balance \$1,795.01

Assessor Hrs.: 32.00

Clerk Hrs.: 21.50

**SEWER OFFICER:** Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 29253 gallons per day for month of February
- Obtained 98% C.B.O.D. and 98% T.S.S. removal for February
- Expenditures \$2,136.02
- Contractual Balance: \$30,791.77

Worked 86-hours.

**AMBULANCE CORP:** Michael Attianese

Reported that April Norvello, Hunter Keesler and Emily Umbaugh Completed their EMT Training and have all passed their Certification.

**Thank you for your hard work and Dedication to our community.**

**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR** Earl Bertsch - not present.

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

**HISTORIAN:** - not present

**TOWN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Councilperson Grund** -nothing currently

**Councilperson Nearing** - nothing currently

**Councilperson Walter** - nothing currently

**Councilperson Nober** - nothing currently

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Nober, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to adjourn.

Time 8:35 p.m. All board members voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryann Oumrim Town Clerk