

REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

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A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on November 13 2019 at the Cochecton Town Hall. Between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. is for the purpose of auditing bills.

The following members present:

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

Others Present: Karen Mannino, Esq., Town Attorney
Michael Walter, SPO
Kevin Esselman, Hwy. Supt. Greg Semenetz, CEO
Margaret Richardson, Deputy Clerk Eileen Hennessy, Tax Collector
Larry Richardson, representative of UDC & UDSB
Lorry King, Assessor

*several Sullivan West students from Mr. Ogozalek's class

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

Supervisor Maas read Resolution #46:

PREPAY NYS RETIREMENT FOR 2020

On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund to prepay the NYS Retirement for 2020, the following resolution was

WHEREAS, the Cochecton Town Board has always made it a practice to pre pay the NYS & Local Retirement System invoice by December 15th of the preceding year to save on the interest incurred for 45 days by paying earlier. The invoice for FY 2020 is for \$62,145.00 if paid by February 1st, 2020 and the pre pay amount is discounted to \$61,622.00 if paid by December 15th 2019, and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cochecton Board authorizes the Supervisor to prepay the invoice before December 15th, 2019 for the amount of \$61,622.00 for a savings to the Town of Cochecton in the amount of \$523.00

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons Story, Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

Supervisor Maas read Resolution #47

3-YEAR ELECTRIC CONTRACT WITH CONSTELLATION

On a motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Grund to authorize Supervisor Maas to sign a 3-year contract with Constellation New Energy, Inc. to provide electric service for Town Hall, Town Highway Barn and Sewer Facility.

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons Story, Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, to accept the Minutes of October 9, 2019 as submitted. All were in favor.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, to accept the Minutes of Public Hearing on Budget FY2020 held on November 7, 2019 as submitted. All were in favor.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, to approve bills on abstract claims #11 for payment as follows:

Abstract CLAIM # 11

Prepaid: Claims #505 - 523

General Accounts: Claim #'s 524 - 541

Total General Funds: \$ 8,400.27, including prepaid

Debit Card Account: None

Total Debit Card Funds: \$ 0

Sewer Accounts: Claim # 542 - 545

Total Sewer Accounts: \$ 1,215.77 including prepaid

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Lighting District Accounts: **Claim # 506 and 508** (prepaid)

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$ 587.65**

Highway Accounts Claim #'s 546 - 565

Total Highway Accounts **\$ 26,094.55** including prepaid

Claim #'s 516, 539, 543 and 549 split between funds same voucher.

PREPAIDS were paid on October 8, 22, 29 and November 5, 2019

All voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Maas

Received letter regarding the sale of Loader and Tractor, \$ 48,040.00, coordinated by Highway Superintendent Esselman. That will be added to the Hwy. machine capital reserve fund; letter regarding a lawsuit that was determined not to pertain to the Town; UDC request for annual contribution of \$1,000.00

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AN AGENDA TOPIC:

No comment

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UDC: Larry Richardson

The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday November 7.

The meeting opened with a presentation of Sexual Harassment Training with an instructional video and interactive questioning. A procedure was not determined on how to deal with the training for Alternate Representatives and members not in attendance.

Topics discussed in part:

☐ The Federal government's Continuing Resolution runs through November 21. Until the resolution is extended or a permanent spending plan is approved the council can only access 12.5% of the annual funding.

☐ DEC Representative Bill Rudge presented the following information: the Spotted Lanternfly was positively identified in Port Jervis the state is asking everyone to be on the lookout for these invasive insects. The DEC is tightening restrictions on bringing deer into New York State. Pennsylvania has Chronic Wasting Disease. The one case identified in New York State was in the central part of the state and the animal was destroyed. There are no cases currently identified in the state. It is not advisable to eat the meat from a sick animal. In Pennsylvania they put out White boxes and anyone harvesting the deer can bag the head and label it and place it in a box after which time it will be tested and results provided to the taker. Hunters are advised to process the deer and freeze the meat until the results are known. The DEC is taking public comment on its proposal to delist certain threatened species including the American Bald Eagle.

☐ Pennsylvania Representative Tim Dugan shared one reason for the decline in the Grouse population is that the Poults succumb to West Nile Virus. They are studying the effect of adjusting the hunting season so that more mature birds can survive to reproduce.

☐ Pennsylvania State Representatives have secured \$100,000 grant for the UDC to administer for projects within Pennsylvania member townships. \$18,000 can be used by the UDC but not for administrative purposes. \$7000 is being put aside for a detailed audit of the program, leaving \$75,000 for projects.

Actions taken:

1. Approved a letter to the Editor of the River Reporter clarifying some misstatements in a recent article by Dave Hulse about the effort to help Town of Highland stay in Substantial Conformance.
2. Approved a letter to the NPS stating the UDC's position that the new zoning in the Town Of Highland takes the Town out of Substantial Conformance. (*This has never happened before*)
3. Approved a letter to the NPS stating that Damascus Township's Joint Comprehensive Plan is in Substantial Conformance.

UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC BYWAY: Larry Richardson

The Committee held its regular meeting on Monday October 28.

Topics of Discussion in part:

- **Grant Applications: Business & Non-profit Signs;**
One application was received from the Barryville United Methodist Church for a signage grant; More details are needed.
- **Sullivan County Legislature Planning & Community Development Committee Presentation**– Chairman Pontier provided a UDSB presentation to the Committee on Thursday, Nov. 7.

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- **Potential Scenic Vista Selective Clearing Projects** continue to be discussed
- **National Scenic Byways Program Nomination Process Open for State-Designated Byways;** the Committee is investigating the pros and cons of adding a Federal Scenic Byway designation. There is a limited window of opportunity should we like to submit an application.
- **NYS Department of Transportation Report** – Kris Gilbert presented highlights from a written report. There is a project to bring guiderails up to current standards in the Towns of Delaware and Cochecton along Rt. 97, and to stabilize a slope and fix leaning guiderails in the Towns of Fremont and Delaware. Work is projected FY2021.
- **Callicoon Train Depot Project Update**-nothing new

Actions Taken: -None

Next Meeting Date: 4th Monday, November 25, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Youth Commission: Eileen Hennessy reported various activities planned for the Cochecton youth such as a Pizza with Santa Party, movie Frozen; a Murder Mystery Dinner with Santa Claus.

Website Report – Anna Story

October, 2019

- Did the regular website maintenance
- Added approved Town Board minutes
- Added approved Planning Board minutes
- Added Town Budget public hearing notice
- Added Fire District Budget public hearing notice
- Added Fire District Officer Election legal notice
- Added Town Clerk's email address on front page
- Added Planning Board legal notice about the meeting Date Change
- Also added Planning Board date change on the front page

Planning Board meeting of November 28 has been changed to November 21 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Total Hours Worked: 4 hours

Fire District – Anna Story

Met on November 11, 2019

- No bills this month
- Truck 1563 – looking into donating to BOCES – vehicle was donated to them and used for a while but it's time to let the truck go, maybe auto shop could use it for practice.
- Looking to schedule a basic first aid class at the firehouse again as was done several years ago
- Firemen will no longer respond to ambulance lift assist calls – due to litigation brought upon them when they responded to a call
- Fire District budget was approved
- Fire District Officer Elections will be held Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 6-9 pm. Any town resident interested must supply a letter of interest. Town website has the legal notice with information.

Lake Huntington Lake Assoc. Councilperson Dr. Salzberg

No meeting for October.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas

Submitted a written report:

Bank Information

- Deposited \$1,297.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$2,330.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,216.00 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$250.00 Debit Card

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- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actuals to board
- Activity: Worked on FY2020 Budget. Re-levy for Dailey Road completed. Looked into updating Computers and Server from Word 8 to 10. Had Budget Work Shop on October 2nd.

SUPERVISOR CONTRACTUAL		\$4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 285.37	\$3,714.63
Abstract #3	\$1,106.82	\$2,607.81
Abstract #4	\$ 73.20	\$2,534.61
Abstract #5	\$ 50.00	\$2,484.61
Abstract #6	\$ 428.77	\$2,055.84
Abstract#7	\$ 50.00	\$2,005.84
Abstract #8	\$ 61.60	\$1,944.24
Abstract #9	\$ 50.00	\$1,894.24
Abstract #10	\$ 719.00	\$1,175.24
Abstract #11	\$ 79.00	\$1,096.24
Abstract #12	\$	\$
Abstract # 12-A	\$	\$

Worked 92.5 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Kevin Esselman

- Submitted written report
- Requested a Legal ad for road closed December 1st, 2019 through April 1st, 2020
- Out mowing and patching, ditching and cutting brush
- Did most of our paving
- Had a few repairs
- Installed a few new pipes
- Continued to work on some sanders
- Put new Cochection signs up
- Loader and tractor sold
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual balance - \$2,107.00
- Mentioned to Board members that he has an opportunity to purchase a 1987 truck as a backup truck to fill in for bigger jobs, extending the current truck's use for a few more years. The cost is \$96,000. He requested authorization to drive 3 ½ hours to Yates, above Seneca Lake to get a look at it.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, to authorize Highway Superintendent Esselman to see the 1987 truck listed on Auction International and assess if it is what the Highway Department needs, and bid up to \$55,000. All were in favor.

Supervisor Maas will speak with the Town Accountant for advice and direction about the mechanics of doing such a purchase working with the capital reserve truck fund. A Public Hearing is required. While Board awaits the explanation of procedure, a Public Hearing date must be tentatively set up so that the opportunity to purchase is not lost. Town Attorney will draft the notice.

MOTION: On motion Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg to tentatively set up a date, November 27, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to publish in the Sullivan County Democrat a legal notice for a Public Hearing regarding the possible purchase of 1987 truck listed on Auction International, at Cochection Town Hall.

All voted in favor.

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman, absent)

Re: Monthly report for October 2019

- Issued 3 permanent accessible permits
- Received __4__ Bldg. Permits; __5__ Municipal Searches from CEO.
- Issued __10__ dog licenses – 1 Dog Redemption
- 2 Marriage Licenses; 1 certified copy of Marriage Certificate
- 13 requests for certified copies of death certificates;

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- Recorded and prepared minutes from October 9, 2019 meeting
- Prepared abstract for Audit
- One request for a notary
- 3 Deposits to Jeff Bank -

Town Clerk logged in 18 3/4 hours total for October 2019

Deputy clerk worked 44.5 hours total for October 2019

Expenditures \$ 33.06

Contractual Balance: \$ 2,542.63

Check presented to Supervisor in the amount of \$1,861.02 for October fees collected.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Gregg Semenetz

- Submitted a written report:
- Worked a total of 80 hours
- Total mileage 594
- Permits issued: 4 Renewals: 0, C of O's issued: 1 Notice of Disapproval: 0, Municipal search letters: 5
- Appearance tickets: 1
- Revenues: \$1,2650.00, Expenses: \$394.52
- Contractual balance: \$ 808.36

He is busy; two building are ready for demolition – waiting for NYSEG to turn off electric.

TAX COLLECTOR: Eileen Hennessy

She has \$0.01 in her checking account and worked 6 hours in October. She will attend a meeting December 3, 2019 for a training session on updating records.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, to authorize Tax Collector to purchase pre-stamped envelopes. All were in favor.

ATTORNEY: Karen Mannino, Esq.

Report for October logged 1 hr. 56 minutes; spoke with Supervisor Maas re: personal matter; did research and emailed to Supervisor.

ASSESSOR: Lorry King

Submitted a written report;

Old Business:

- Field review of sales and new construction continues
- I am looking for a member of the Board of Assessment review

New Business:

- Office is preparing to mail out renewals for Senior Citizens
- I have received several calls regarding STAR exemption. All STAR notifications will be done by the State.
- Notified the State that we will need support for the RPS software when we get the new server. I have a conversation with Ryan from Kristt Co., and have provided him with the number for the State so he can receive help when he is ready.

Assessor worked 33.25 hours Clerk worked 27.5 hours

Contractual balance: \$1,173.34

As requested, Assessor King was present to explain how the Ag Exemption works. A profit and loss sheet must be provided by the farmer annually. If the P&L sheet is not provided they lose the ag exemption. The office keeps a copy of their lease for each year as a farm. She is currently working on a land table.

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: Earl Bertsch - not present

He has reported that the Planning Board has hired a lawyer to assist them with the Petersheim project which is a 5 to 6 houses proposal.

SEWER OFFICER: Michael Walter

- Submitted a written report:
- Spent a total of 69.5 hours attending to sewer district affairs in July
- Expenditures: \$1,215.77
- Contractual Balance: \$10,314.21

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DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present

No report

HISTORIAN: K. C. Garn - not present

No report

TOWN BOARD:

(Councilperson Story) – Nothing to add

(Councilperson Nearing) - Nothing to add

(Councilperson Salzberg) – Nothing to add

(Councilperson Grund) Nothing to add

(Supervisor) Nothing to add at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe Buildings –discussed earlier
2. Welcome signs for Cochecton – pending is the replacement of 17B sign hit by a car.
3. Fee schedules review
4. Replacement PC's is scheduled for possibly end of month.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC:

Students requested Supervisor Maas to sign their class paper to certify their attendance.

Yancy Kittredge asked if the Board has made any decision to consider exemptions for people with disabilities. He stated his school tax has tripled and referenced how Ellenville, NY offers up to a maximum of 50%. Supervisor Maas responded that the Board is reviewing but pointed out that Ellenville is compared to a city while Cochecton is a small town.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing to go into executive session regarding personnel. Time was 8:32 p.m. All board members were in favor.

MOTION: On motion Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing to close executive meeting at 8:52 p.m. A decision was made to have Town Attorney draft a letter to Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk. All voted in favor.

MOTION: On motion Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund to adjourn meeting at 9:00 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Richardson, Deputy Town Clerk