

A meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on September 09, 2020 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)

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Mannino, Attorney Gregg Semenetz, CEO
Kevin Esselman, Hwy. Supt. Margaret Richardson—Town Clerk
UDC/UDSB Rep. Larry Richardson Linda Drollinger, River Reporter
Diane Grund

Supervisor Gary Maas opened the regular meeting with a pledge to the flag at 7:30pm.

Supervisor Maas called for the first order of business –

RESOLUTION 092020 #34

WHEREAS the COCHECTON TOWN BOARD when adopting the FY 2020 budget was unaware of the increase in our insurance plan due to a change in coverage for the Town Highway Department trucks would need additional money to be funded, and

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED that budget line A 1910.400 UNALLOCATED INSURANCE funded an additional \$4,000.00 from the Contingency Fund A 1990.400 which would leave \$11,000.00 remaining in A 1990.400 and in A 1910.400 UNALLOCATED INSURANCE would increase to \$31,000.00.

Moved by Councilman Grund; seconded by Councilman Salzberg

ADOPTED: AYES 5 NAYS 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilmen: Grund, Nearing, Salzberg and Walter

BID OPENING FOR ICE CONTROL MATERIAL

Town Clerk Richardson read the Legal Notice to Bidders published in the *Sullivan County Democrat* 08/28/2020.

There were 2 bids submitted and the Town Clerk read them in the order they were received:

1. PJH Construction LLC

Jeffersonville, NY

PRODUCT: ICE CONTROL SAND - \$12.95 DELIVERED PER TON

2. Resnick Energy

Callicoon, NY

PRODUCT: ICE CONTROL SAND - \$13.32 DELIVERED PER TON

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Walter, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following was to accept the Ice Control Sand bid of \$12.95 per ton delivered from PJH Construction LLC.

ADOPTED: AYES 5 NAYS 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilmen: Grund, Nearing, Salzberg and Walter

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to accept the **minutes of August 12, 2020** as submitted.

Supervisor Maas and Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter voted in favor.

BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 9

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg the following resolution was to accept the bills on abstract # 9 in the following amounts:

General Accounts: Claim #'s are 442 to 456 are to be paid.

Claim #'s 423, 429, 430, 432-435, 437, and 439-441, are in prepaids.

Total General Funds: **\$38,328.81**

Debit Card Account: Claim #457

Sewer Accounts: Claim # 458 to 461 to be paid.

Claim #'s 421, 424, 425, 427, 436, and 438 are in prepaids.

Total Sewer Accounts: **\$1,363.19**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim # 422 & 426 are in Prepaid

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$ 525.91**

Highway Accounts: Claim #'s 462 to 475 to be paid.

Claim #'s 428 and 431 are in prepaids.

Total Highway Accounts **\$183,605.78**

PREPAIDS were paid on 8/5, 8/13, 8/18, 8/27/2020.

Audit 09/04/2020 by Councilman Grund & 09/05/2020 by Councilman Salzberg

Supervisor Maas and Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Gary Maas

- Letter from NYMIR regarding cyber securities. The survey has been completed and sent back to them.
- Planning Board minutes regarding Site approval for Pine Meadow Farms. Supervisor will deposit \$6,035.00 check for subdivision fees into an account that had been set up for sewer reconciliation. There is

approximately \$15.00 total for three outstanding checks that have not been cashed. This will be zeroed out and account will be renamed for the Town Parks enhancement fund.

- Commerce Pride awards -

PUBLIC COMMENT: -none-

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UDC REPORT: Larry Richardson

The Council held its regular meeting in person on Thursday September 3 at the Narrowsburg Union to allow for social distancing.

At the start of the meeting we heard a presentation by DEC biologist Kevin Clarke on the Mongaup Unit Wildlife Area Management Plan. Their plan for habitat improvement targets the Eastern Whippoorwill, Golden Wing Warbler, and Ruffed Grouse.

Mr. Clarke noted that the utility right of way and gas pipeline are a benefit for many species since it provides for open space abutting mature forests. He noted there are three different clear cutting designs the DEC uses: total clearing, clearing while leaving selected seed trees and clear cutting with seed trees and pine tree thickets remaining. He also noted that sometimes they will remove fallen trees, sometimes they remove some logs and leave brush piles and sometimes leave mature trees to provide obstacles for whitetail deer to give new growth a better chance to get started.

Topics discussed in part:

Committee Reports: All Committee Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Members were provided an opportunity to ask questions of the Committees at this meeting.

Status Reports:

1. **Delaware Basin Commission** representative Kristen Bowman Kavanagh participated remotely.
2. **DEC Representative** Bill Rudge was in attendance.
3. **PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources representative Tim Dugan** participated remotely. He noted that Pennsylvania is supplying forest fire fighters on a rotating basis. I asked if the spotted the lantern fly has been found in either Wayne or pike counties. Tim said that as of yet it has not. The state is trying extremely hard to contain it in the counties where it has become established.
4. **NPS Acting Superintendent Darren Boch** again stressed how active it has been this summer and the stress put on many as to how to respond. He reminded the Council that his temporary term is up as of October 2. There should be a permanent replacement named by then. I asked Superintendent Boch to encourage his replacement to attend our 5-Year Plan retreat early in October so that he /she can better understand some of the issues the Council will deal with and how they will be handled while keeping in mind that most property within the corridor is privately owned.
5. **UDC Executive Director Ramie** reported that since the tag grant awarded to the town of Tusten came in thousands of dollars below the expected expenditures, that excess money now needs to find a home before the end of September and our budget year. At the October UDC meeting we are planning a repeat of the Knot Weed control presentation that was given at the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee meeting.

Actions taken:

- Approved a completed town of Tusten Technical Assistance Grant.
- Approved a letter to Upper Delaware Congressional Representatives re: Great American Outdoors Act
- Approved a letter to Sullivan County Legislature re: Callicoon Riverside Park support.

The next meeting and all regular UDC meetings through the rest of the year will be held at the Union in Narrowsburg. Committee meeting will be at the UDC office.

SCENIC BYWAY: Larry Richardson

The Committee held its regular meeting in person at the UDC office on Monday August 24.

Social distancing was in place and masks were worn.

The meeting opened with a presentation entitled "Knotweed: A tough Love" by Steve Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz reviewed the plan to test six plots on how best to control Knotweed. He also talked about the benefits of Knotweed: it is edible; it provides nesting opportunities particularly for red winged blackbirds provides pollen for different species and can be used creatively in landscape design.

Discussion items:

- A grant support letter for the Town of Delaware and Fremont for their River Trail Plan application. (*I expressed my concern for support by the committee for projects within nonmember towns. Fremont has made it clear on more than one occasion that they do not wish to be part of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.*) A letter was approved.
- Hawks nest ongoing graffiti problem
- Callicoon Train Depot and Visitor Center Project update and history.
- DOT work schedule update
- Anti-littering community signage program

- National Scenic Byway Foundation training for byway leaders. It will be held remotely and three of our members will be participating.

Actions Taken:

- Approved an addition to our website upgrade contract to provide for ADA compliance at a cost of \$300

Next Meeting Date: Monday September 28

YOUTH COMMISSION: Councilperson Grund

Youth are working on projects online. For more information contact **Sue Rodriguez** (845) 866-0853, or email: s_rod79@frontiernet.net

LAKE HUNTINGTON LAKE ASSOCIATION: Councilperson Salzberg

The Lake Huntington Lake Association will plan a general meeting – date TBA

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas

Monthly Financial Report

- Deposited \$.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$2,227.54 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$ 83.93 Final Tax Collector Payment

Made transfers and deposits as needed and given budget to actuals and distributed the Budget to Actual to Board Members.

Activity - Worked on LED lights conversion and signed contract with NYSEG; Clean up Days was a success, remarkably busy. Supervisor Maas thanked Jim Hughson for making it possible.

CONTRACTUAL \$4,000.00

Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 71.27	\$3,828.73
Abstract #3	\$ 966.00	\$2,908.73
Abstract #4	\$ 166.13	\$2,742.60
Abstract #5	\$ 200.00	\$2,542.60
Abstract #6	\$ 65.00	\$2,477.60
Abstract #7	\$ 50.00	\$2,427.60
Abstract #8	\$ 61.00	\$2,367.60
Abstract #9	\$ 50.00	\$2,317.60

Worked 103.5 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Kevin Esselman

- Was out mowing, patching, ditching, and cutting brush.
- Did most of our paving – paving 5 miles and chip and seal 5 miles
- Had a few repairs
- Replaced some pipes
- Replaced some road signs
- Sent legal notice for sand bids
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance is – \$ 3,062.43

He will find out in April 2021 if the Town will receive Winter Recovery fund. It is usually about \$130,000.00 that he would put towards paving.

TOWN CLERK: Margaret Richardson

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

- Prepared August 12, 2020 minutes.
- 9 dog licenses issued
- 3 copies death certificates
- Issued 1 marriage certificate and 2 certified marriage certificates
- Deposited Town fees including CEO fees
- Emails have been responded to and appropriately shared with Board Members
- I am working on creating 7-digit codes for our vendors to set them up in the Williamson Lawbook program for the monthly Abstracts. I asked Kristin if she had codes set up in her bookkeeping program that I could copy. Unfortunately, her program does not require vendor codes, just the names.
- Worked a total of 74.5 hours in August

Contractual balance: \$2,205.27

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Gregg Semenetz

Worked: 80 hours Mileage 705 Permits issued: 17 C of O's 2 Municipal search letters 6
 Revenues \$1,820.00 Expenses \$453.37 Contractual Balance: \$2,088.51

We are having a banner year. There is more vacant land being sold, municipal searches and Building Permits. It is not slowing down.

TAX COLLECTOR: Eileen Hennessy, not present

TOWN ATTORNEY: Karen Mannino

ASSESSOR: Lorry J. King - not present

Submitted written July report:

1. *I will be attending a zoom educational seminar next month. This was already paid for prior to the Covid-19 however we were not able to meet in classroom atmosphere at that time.*

Assessor Hours: 34.50

Clerk Hours: 34

Account Fund A 1355.400

Total August expenditure \$ 135.05

Contractual Balance: \$1,302.18

SEWER PLANT OFFICER: Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- Average Flow 33,193; Percentage C.B.O. D. 99 %; Percentage T.S.S. 99% for August 2020
- Worked 81 hours in August 2020

Expenditures were \$1,365.74

Contractual Balance: \$12,794.85

There was a lightning strike with a power surge that burned out the Control Panel, trickling filter and flow meter. American Electric repaired and changed out damaged parts. Their bill was submitted to the insurance company, Hartford Steam Boiler.

SPO Walter received three quotes for the repairing the beds: Wittcon, Aaron Esselman and Koberlein. Koberlein submitted the best price.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, to approve having Koberlein repair the sewer beds.

Supervisor Maas and Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund voted in favor and Walter recused himself.

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: Earl Bertsch - not present

Supervisor Maas commented that the Planning Board has been very busy and that Earl and Joy are to be commended for their dedication to details.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present

Written report of no expenditures for August; contractual balance is \$2,500.00

HISTORIAN: K. C. Garn - not present

Mr. Garn submitted a report regarding a local news article on the discovery of a professional baseball player, Frank "Wildfire" Schulte who was born in Cochecton in 1882. If you Google "Frank Schulte", you can read all about him.

TOWN BOARD:

Councilman Grund – no additional comments

Councilman Salzberg – no additional comments

Councilman Nearing – no additional comments

Councilman Walter – no additional comments

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe buildings
2. Dog Bill –
3. Solar Law-
4. Spring Cleanup 8/15 and Sunday 8/16 was a success. The Waste Management cancelled in the last minute. He was able to hire Hughson, but no laborers were available. Supervisor and Board members worked a schedule to help at the site.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to recess this meeting to Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6:30p.m.: Time 8:30 p.m. All Town Board members voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Margaret Richardson, Town Clerk