

A meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on January 10, 2024, at the Cochection Town Hall

With the following members present:

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Maas
Deputy Supervisor /Councilperson Edwin Grund
Councilperson Sean Nearing
Councilperson/SPO Michael Walter
Councilperson John Nober

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maryann Oumrim- Town Clerk	Robert Smith Attorney
Jeffrey Daub, Hwy. Supt.	Charles Nystrum -CEO
Larry Richardson/UDC	Michael Attianese / Ambulance
Bill Boucher/ Grounds Keeper	April Norvello -CYC

Between 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM is a work session

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 –

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Nearing seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to accept the minutes of December 13, 2023.

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

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to accept the minutes of December 27, 2023.and January 2nd, 2024, Reorganizational meeting as submitted.

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

Resolution #14

BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 1

On motion of Councilperson Nober, seconded by Councilperson Grund to accept the bills on abstract # 1 in the following amounts:

General Accounts: Claim #'s 3-8 are in prepaid's. Clam numbers 13-26, are to be paid

Total General Funds: **\$29,968.12**

Debit Card Account: Claim #27

Total Debit Card: **\$ 433.68**

Sewer Accounts: Claim #-9 and 10 are in prepaids

Claim #'s 28 to be paid.

Total Sewer Accounts: **\$894.84**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim #10 and 12 are in Prepaid

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$379.19**

Highway Accounts: Claim #'s 1 and 2 are in prepaid

29-34 to be paid.

Total Highway Accounts **\$8,554.17**

PREPAIDS were paid 12/29 and 1/8

Audit 1/08/24 by Councilmen Grund & Nober

Correspondences:

- Catskill Delaware Democrat – looking to be the Town's official Newspaper
- Youth / Sullivan County

PUBLIC COMMENT: -None.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The regular meeting started on January 4, at 7:00 p.m. with a zoom option.

Moment of Silence for Town of Fremont Alternate Dennis Bernitt

Election of 2024 Officers by Ballot Vote: Chairperson-Virgina Dudko (Deer Park), Vice-Chairman Jeff Dexter (Damascus) and Secretary/Treasurer Al Henry (Berlin)

Presentation Zoom): "Orange County's Last Remaining Wilderness" by Orange County Land Trust (OCLT) Director of Conservation Kyle Sanduski

Reports- Minutes for the three standing committees were distributed prior to the meeting.

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

Status Reports

- **Delaware River Basin Commission** -(Kristen Bowman Kavanagh) reported via zoom.
- **NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation** (Ryan Coulter) (zoom)- reported that the Long Eddy River Access was do to be finished on Friday.
- **PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources** (Tim Dugan) -reported
- **National Park Service** (Lindsey Kurnath):- they have a temporary person to assume some of the retired Don Hamilton's duties. She is working remotely. Lindsey also talked about the car that went in the river at the Callicoon access in PA and the difficulties they are experiencing trying to safely extract it.
- **UDC Executive Director** (Laurie Ramie) reported receiving several donations. One of which came from Chuck Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman's firm worked closely with the UDC during the early years to help inform the public about the responsibilities of the Council and the municipal members.

New Business

- Approved:
- Resolution 2024-01: Signatories for Bank Accounts in 2024
- Resolution 2024-02: Granting Permanent Employee Status to Stephanie Driscoll
- Resolution 2024-03: Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy Reaffirmation
- Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements

Old Business

- UDC Support Letter: Rt. 97 Dedicated Pedestrian Lane and Safety Improvements Project – Town of Highland TAP Grant Application *

YOUTH COMMISSION: Councilperson Grund

For more information contact **Sue Rodriguez** (845) 866-0853, or email: s_rod79@frontiernet.net

- Youth are working upcoming events: Posting on the Town Website
- Introduction of two new Youth Board members
- April Norvello: Volunteering for over a year and looks forward to being a part f the Youth Group
- Katherin Living in Cochection full time since 2020 and has been volunteering with the Youth board for a year now.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: John Nober

Announce that they are Involved with Sullivan 180 Healthy Fire Department event.

AMBULANCE : Michael Attianese

Cut some trees down at the playground, and going to level things out as to add some new equipment for the kids

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DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas

Bank Information:

Deposited	\$ 1,075.00	Judicial fees
Deposited	\$ 175.00	Judicial fees
Deposited	\$265.68	Debit Card
Deposited	\$ 3,448.54	Town Clerk
Deposited	\$ 150.00	Escrow

Made transfers and deposits as needed. Worked on Budget and attended to my duties. Worked on Youth Programs and contract. Went to Supervisor meeting. Worked on CSEA paperwork for the new year. Checked out alternator at sewer facility.

CONTRACTUAL		\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,000.00

Worked 98 hours.

HIGHWAY: Kevin Esselman

December Report

Out plowing and sanding as needed
Rented a man lift and out cutting brush
Put legal notices in paper for road closings for winter maintenance and put signs up
Patched potholes
Had few repairs
Worked 160 hours
Contractual Balance- \$ 2,694.53

Introduction of our New Highway Superintendent Jeff Daub

Spent some time driving around town to get an oversite, moved machinery out of storage shed and moved salt into the shed.

Nearing road- ditching area fixed

Bernas Road – Pipe put in

A few break downs Hydraulic lines and a few repairs were done.

Single Axel Truck on order from Tracey, but body was not ordered from Reed.

Would like to cancel the order for the single axel and order a Tandem truck in its place.

MOTION made by Nober seconded by Grund to Change Present order at Tracey Tandem in place of a single Axel, and to order a second single Axel to come after.

Discussion with Board Pro's & Con's of trading Backhoe for an excavator at H.O.PENN.
The Town Board will discuss it next month.

Town Highway Building doors have a gap at floor level, and the floor is extremely pitted from salt coming off the trucks. Need to remove the old floor and pour new garage floor. To be further discussed

SIGNING of the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys by all Town Board members- Copies given to all members of the Board.

TOWN CLERK: Maryann Oumrim

To: Supervisor and Town Board Members

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

- Prepared Abstract #1 and for audit.
- Prepared Minutes for December Regular Meetings and Year End
- Emails have been responded to and appropriately shared with Board Members.
- 4 trips to the bank to make deposits.
- CEO Report / deposit
- Dog -- New 1 Licenses and 4 Renewals.

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- Marriage License -0
- Parking Tags- 0 P and 0 T
- Monthly reports sent to Agriculture & Markets and DOH for marriage and death.
- DECALS- Hunting & Fishing Licensing –2
- Website Maintenance
- Updated minutes book.
- I worked a total of 96 **hours**.
- **Contractual balance: \$794.94**

TAX COLLECTOR Eileen Hennessy

Money Collected \$413,175.35

Paid out to Supervisor Maas \$185,509.17

Refund Checks (2) \$83.37

Worked 29 Hours Contractual Balance \$900.14

TOWN ATTORNEY: Robert Smith- Present

Discussion regarding dogs on Quails Road. A letter was sent out to the homeowner letter was “Return to sender” Letter was sent out to a second address on file.

Sewer District- Letter to be drafted regarding runoff water

ASSESSOR: Lorry King - not present - Submitted written report:

Old Business:

1. Field work continues.
2. Terri and I attended the overhead viewer presentation from the Eagle view program.
3. Moving files work continues

New Business:

1. Nothing new to report.

December

	1355.4	\$1,159.86
		\$
Lorry King	38.11	
		\$
Terri Fountain	66.67	
Postage		\$660.00
Total		\$764.78
Balance		\$395.08

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Jim Crowley

(December report given by Jim Crowley)

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: James Crowley

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hrs.
- mileage 91
- Permits issued 5
- Demo Permit-1
- Cert. of Occupancy issued 0 and C of C - 0
- Municipal search letters -8
- Plan Review Inspections -9
- Revenues \$1145.00
- Expenses \$109.61
- Contractual Balance: \$1969.00

Introduction of our New Code Officer Charles Nystrom

Acclimating to office and returning phone calls, emails

Approved 1 logging permit

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New Program IPS program- for Permits and Enforcement an efficient module that bolsters your data for tracking and retention.

SEWER PLANT OFFICER: Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- Average Flow 60,267 Percentage C.B.O. D. 99 %; Percentage T.S.S. 99% - December 2023
- Worked 79 hours in December 2023

Expenditures were \$ 3303.33

Contractual Balance: - \$- 1,565.88

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: Earl Bertsch - not present.

Jim Crowley – Resigned

Jeff Nober- Will be new Member of Planning Board

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present.

HISTORIAN: Kristina Snedeker- not present

TOWN BOARD:

Councilman Grund – no additional comments

Councilman Nearing – no additional comments

Councilman Walter – no additional comments.

Councilman Nearing – no additional comments

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

MOTION: On a motion by Councilperson Nober, seconded by Councilperson Grund, to Adjourn meeting

All Town Board members voted in favor. Time 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Maryann Oumrim

Maryann Oumrim Town Clerk