

A meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on October 14, 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 workshop Budget FY 2021.

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

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 102020 #35

WHEREAS the Highway Department needs additional funding in one of its contractual lines so that it will have sufficient funds for the remainder of year, and therefore,

To fund line DA 5130.400 MACHINERY CONTRACTUAL sufficiently for FY 2020, \$10,000.00 will be needed for the above-mentioned line and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that budget line DA 5110.400 GENERAL REPAIR CONTRACTUAL in the amount of \$10,000.00 be transferred to line DA 5130.400 MACHINERY CONTRACTUAL so that line DA 5110.400 GENERAL REPAIR CONTRACTUAL shows \$105,000.00 and line DA 5130.400 MACHINERY CONTRACTUAL shows \$95,000.00.

Moved by Councilman Grund and Seconded by Councilman Walter

ADOPTED: AYES 5 NAYS 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilmen: Grund, Nearing, Salzberg and Walter

Supervisor Maas called for next action:

RESOLUTION 102020 #36

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 2021 will be \$60,878.00 if paid by February 1, 2021 and the pre-payment amount is discounted if paid by December 15, 2020, and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cochecton Board authorizes the Supervisor to pre-pay the NYS & Local Retirement System invoice before December 15, 2020 for the amount of \$ 60,380.00 for a savings to the Town of Cochecton in the amount of \$ 498.00.

Moved by Councilman Grund and Seconded by Councilman Walter

ADOPTED: AYES 5 NAYS 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilmen: Grund, Nearing, Salzberg and Walter

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to accept the **minutes of September 9 and 21, 2020** as submitted.

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

BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 10

On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Walter the following resolution was to accept the bills on abstract # 10 in the following amounts:

General Accounts: Claim #'s are 494 to 509 are to be paid.

Claim #'s 477, 482, 483, 485,488, to 492, are in prepaids.

Total General Funds: **\$6,558.17**

Debit Card Account: Claim #510 for \$165.00

Total Debit Card Funds **\$ 165.00**

Sewer Accounts: Claim # 511 to 514 to be paid.

Claim #'s 478 479, 481, 486, 493, are in prepaids.

Total Sewer Accounts: **\$6,106.70**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim # 476 & 480 are in Prepaid

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$ 540.78**

Highway Accounts Claim #'s 515 to 531 to be paid.

Claim #'s 484 and 487 are in prepaids.

Total Highway Accounts **\$81,382.11**

PREPAIDS were paid on 9/15, 9/21, 9/29, 10/6

Audit 10/13 by Councilman Nearing & Councilman Walter

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Gary Maas

- Letter from Sullivan County Workers Comp
- Time Warner Cable letter advising Town that contract renewal is scheduled for *July 28, 2023*.
- Letter regarding Equipment Finance – passed on to Highway Superintendent Esselman.
- Letter from Upper Delaware Council introducing newly hired Resources and Land Use Specialist, Shannon Cilento. She would like to attend a town board, planning board or zoning board meeting and give copies of the new Project Review Workbook 2.0.
- Two months ago, Supervisor Maas submitted a request to the DOT for a speed reduction on CR112 – no response yet.
- Letter for COBRA renewal

PUBLIC COMMENT: -none-

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UDC REPORT: Larry Richardson

The Council held its regular meeting in person on Thursday October 1, at the Narrowsburg Union to allow for social distancing.

The meeting started with a presentation by Steven Schwartz and Jeff Felding: “Knotweed a Tough Love”. This was the same presentation from the UDSB meeting last month. The only thing different was prior to the meeting Mr. Schwartz told me that a biological control experiment has started.

Topics discussed in part:

Committee Reports: As with all Council meetings since the Covid outbreak, 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 not in attendance, but we heard that a Spotted Lanternfly was identified in the Port Jervis area. The public is encouraged to be diligent and report any sightings to the DEC or Cornell Extension offices. Mr. Rudge had sent word that the DEC is receptive to the plan to reconfigure the parking area around the Delaware River access in the Mongaup area to help alleviate visitor’s congestion.
3. **NPS Acting Superintendent Darren Boch** expressed his appreciation and admiration for what is being done locally by the council and communities along the upper Delaware. His temporary assignment is up and he anticipates a new permanent superintendent will take over in November. He also named the new planning person for the NPS as Cody Hendricks. Mr. Hendricks will take part in the planning retreat Saturday October 3 remotely even though he is not officially on the books.
4. **UDC Executive Director Ramie** reported that funding has been approved through December.

Other: Shannon Cilento our Resource Management person is meeting with towns/townships and planning boards to introduce her and present a New Land and Water Use Guideline.

Actions taken:

- Approved the technical assistance grant applications as recommended by the project review committee
- Approved the UDC Social Media Policy
- Approved a letter of commendation for acting Superintendent Darren Boch

SCENIC BYWAY: Larry Richardson

The Committee held its regular meeting in person at the UDC office on Monday September 28.

Social distancing was in place and masks were worn.

Discussion items:

- An offer to have one or two seats on the board of a new non-profit organization to be formed to over-see the operation of the Visitors Center in the Callicoon Train station.
- A Butterfly Grant application from the Trust for Public Lands. This is the organization that purchased the land next to the Community Center in Callicoon. Some of the land will be sold to the DEC to provide river access and recreation. Some of the land will be sold to the Town of Delaware to allow for a new sewer treatment facility. And some of the land will be developed as a community park. The grant was to provide native plants attractive to butterflies for people attending the river harvest festival scheduled for October 10 in Callicoon.
- Progress on the website update
- The National Scenic Byway Foundations Byway Leader Training Lessons perceptions from our attendees.
- Anti-littering community signage update
- Supplemental funding for the Barryville river access engineer’s drawings.

Actions Taken:

- Approved the butterfly grant application for \$990 as noted above
- Approved \$720 for professional photos of member businesses along the byway.

Next Meeting Date: Monday October 26.

YOUTH COMMISSION: Councilperson Grund

Youth are working on projects online. December 10, 2020 is a *Laurel's Paint and Eat* class to create a beautiful cardinal (bird) masterpiece on a glass block. Tickets are free for Cochecton Youth and \$45 for out of town and adults. 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 did not have a general meeting. The Lake Association Officers have nothing planned for the rest of the year.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas

Monthly Financial Report

- Deposited \$.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$2,179.51 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited

Made transfers and deposits as needed and given budget to actuals and distributed the Budget to Actual to Board Members. Sewer account CD matures next month, \$25,000.00. The \$85,000.00 loan from General to Sewer line for sewer plant upgrade will be paid off in 4-years. Supervisor Maas mentioned that he has been driving around the roads of town. He thanked Highway Superintendent Esselman and Highway crew for the conditions of the roads.

Activity -

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
Abstract #10	\$ 61.70	\$2,255.90

Worked 103.5 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Kevin Esselman

- Rented boom mower and mowed R.O.W.'s.
- Cutting brush, patching and ditches
- Had a few repairs
- Replaced some pipes
- Started work on sanders
- Finished up paving
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance is – \$ 3,008.68

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:

- Abstract audit on September 5th.
- Prepared September 9th and 21st Board minutes.
- 12 dog licenses issued
- Issued 1 burial transit
- Issued 1 certified marriage certificate
- Issued 3 accessible Parking Permits
- 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; and copy of death certificate for Sullivan County Public Health Services.
- I am still working on entering codes for our vendors in the Williamson Lawbook program for the monthly Abstracts. My Tech support is working with me. When Maryanne assumes the position and I take her through all that I know, the Tech support can do a 1-hour proper training with her for \$95.00 via phone.
- I worked a total of 80.5 hours in September

Contractual balance: \$1,982.59.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Gregg Semenetz

Worked: 80 hours Mileage 594 Permits issued: 8 C of O's 2 Municipal search letters 7
Revenues \$2,786.00 Expenses \$766.55 Contractual Balance: \$1,696.96

We are having a banner year. He mentioned that the Municipal Searches are much easier to do since Assessor Clerk Terri Fountain merged the old files stored in the vault with his office files. There is more vacant land being sold, municipal searches and Building Permits. It is not slowing down. The auction held on Saturday, October 10th Supervisor Maas told CEO Semenetz that the Board is proposing a \$15,000.00 budget for A 1620.401, Old Town Hall to cover the cost of roof shingles replacement. He asked CEO to look at it to estimate what the options are. The Board discussed either calling contractors for 3-quotes or advertising for sealed bids to be opened at the next regular meeting.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Walter, to authorize Supervisor to advertise for sealed bids to be opened at the next regular board meeting.
Supervisor Maas and Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter all voted in favor.

TAX COLLECTOR: Eileen Hennessy, not present. Tax collection will begin January 1, 2021.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Karen Mannino

ASSESSOR: Lorry J. King - not present

Submitted written July report:

1. *Field work continues.*
2. *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.*
3. *I have completed the mandatory harassment training and filed my certificate with the Town Clerk.*
4. *Our deeds and subdivisions from the County are slowly coming in.*

Assessor Hours: 33

Clerk Hours: 31

Account Fund A 1355.400

Total August expenditure \$ 00.00

Contractual Balance: \$1,302.18

SEWER PLANT OFFICER: Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- Average Flow 21,919; Percentage C.B.O. D. 98 %; Percentage T.S.S. 99% for September 2020
- Worked 69.5 hours in September 2020

Expenditures were \$6,106.70

Contractual Balance: \$6,688.15

Koberlein will do repairs to the sewer beds November 3rd and 4th. The Flow meter data is now on thumb drive.

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: Earl Bertsch - not present

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present

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

HISTORIAN: K. C. Garn - not present

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. Street Light LED replacements will begin soon

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing to move into executive session regarding a personnel issue. Time 8:30p.m.

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

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg to close executive session at 8:35p.m. with no action taken.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to recess this meeting to Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 6:30p.m.: Time 8:40 p.m. All Town Board members voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Margaret Richardson, Town Clerk