

A meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on November 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Cochecton Town Hall with the following members present:

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
 Margaret Richardson—Town Clerk
 UDC/UDSB Rep. Larry Richardson

Between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM is for the purpose of recap of Budget FY-2021.

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 by Councilman Grund, seconded by Councilman Nearing to authorize Town Clerk to submit the following Legal Notice:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following town roads in the Town of Cochecton will have no maintenance from December 1, 2020 to April 1, 2021. During that time there will be no Town services performed on these roads. The closing of the roads will take effect on the date indicated or when signs are placed, signs will be removed on April 1, 2021.

HAASE ROAD – from Stony Road to R. Haase driveway

STONY ROAD – from Rauch Road to Old County Road

MILL ROAD – after Sean Nearing driveway to M. Bernas driveway

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

RESOLUTION #38:

On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was RESOLVED, that this Town Board will consider request presented by Planning Board Chairman Earl Bertsch, and

RESOLVED, due to the COVID-19 Virus Pandemic making it difficult to complete certification requirement of four (4) training credits of each Planning Board Member for year 2020 the Cochecton Town Board will waive this requirement for year 2020.

APPROVED: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Grund Nearing, Salzberg and Walter

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to accept the **minutes of October 14th, 28th, and November 5th, 2020** as submitted.

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

BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 11

On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Walter the following resolution was to accept the bills on abstract # 11 in the following amounts:

Abstract # 11

General Accounts: Claim #'s are 550 to 565 are to be paid.

Claim #'s 534, 535, 537, 541, 543 to 549, are in prepaids.

Total General Funds: **\$ 6,825.32**

Debit Card Account: Claim # none

Sewer Accounts: Claim #566 to 570 be paid.

Claim #'s 533,538, and 539 are in prepaids.

Total Sewer Accounts: **\$ 1,237.67**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim #'s 533 and 536 are in Prepaid

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$555.02**

Highway Accounts: Claim #'s 571 to 586 to be paid.

Claim #'s 540 and 542 are in prepaids.

Total Highway Accounts **\$18,754.15**

PREPAIDS were paid 10/06, 10/15, 10/21 and 11/5

Claim #'s 562, 572 and 585 are split accounts paid on same voucher to Vendor.

Audit 11/09/2020 by Councilman Nearing & Councilman Walter

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Gary Maas

- Letter from Planning Board Chairman Earl Bertsch – requesting waiver of required training four (4) credits certification for each Planning Board Member. *See Resolution #38 pg. 1*
- Letter from Upper Delaware Council regarding a DEC grant program offered to towns for environment related projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT: -none-

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UDC REPORT: Larry Richardson

The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday November 1 at the Narrowsburg Union.

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

Status Reports:

1. **Delaware Basin Commission** representative Kristen Bowman Kavanagh participated remotely.
2. **DEC Representative** Bill Rudge was not in attendance
3. **PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources representative Tim Dugan** participated remotely. He was asked if the deer carcass restrictions due to chronic wasting disease remain in affect; they do.
4. **Don Hamilton** from NPS reported that the new Land Use Planner's start date has been pushed back and the new Superintendent will be Joseph A. Salvatore. His immediate past position has been the acting deputy superintendent at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. He will take over here on December 20. Mr. Hamilton shared the importance of the American Eel in the ecosystem of the Delaware River.
5. **UDC Executive Director Ramie** reported that through the initiative and efforts of staff Ashley and Shannon, we now have a presence on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.
6. **2021 Litter Sweep:** Staff will take over Dan Papparella's role as coordinator and pursue the canceled program for 2021. A letter will be sent to member towns/townships asking to have a local coordinator to work with the staff on planning for this corridor wide event.

Actions taken:

- Approved a contract with Courier Printing to again print the UDC Newsletter for 2021
- Approved a new Land Use Complaint Policy to address issues that might fall outside of the normal reporting process.
- Approved a letter commenting on the draft 2020 PA Forest Action Plan
- Created a Nomination Committee to present a slate of officers FY 2021 at the December meeting.

Full UDC meetings will continue at the UNION and committee meetings at the UDC office.

SCENIC BYWAY: Larry Richardson

The Committee held its regular meeting at the UDC office on Monday October 26.

Discussion items:

- Pizzolato said he received a call from Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson Rob Doherty who had been on vacation and saw some innovative, solar-powered trash and recycling compactor bins that he felt could work well in this area. There may have also been a built-in incinerator. The

receptacles were manufactured by Waste Management, Inc. Doherty suggested that UDSB, Inc. look into their costs and feasibility and maybe a pilot project could be initiated to introduce them at locations such as public river accesses where garbage has been problematic.

- **UDSB Website Update Status** – The business listing photos and the Rt. 97 map are the last major items that are to be added for the development of the updated website.
- **Byway Leader Training Report & Recommendations** – G. Dudko went through her notes from the Scenic Byway Leader Training held online by the National Scenic Byway Foundation over six sessions in September. Three board members participated in the training.
- **Hawk's Nest Complaint and Recent Activity** – Bill Dudko reported that NYS DOT had newly installed 35 mph. speed limit signs westbound and eastbound on Rt. 97 along the Hawk's Nest area in the Town of Deerpark. A Lincoln car commercial shoot there last month had expedited graffiti removal along the scenic overlook walls and a bad accident may have expedited the speed limit change.
- **Highland River Access Construction Update**
- **NYS DOT Region 9 Report** – A written report from Kris Gilbert was provided. Work on 18 runs of guiderail in the Towns of Delaware and Cochecton is anticipated to start the first week of November 2020 and be completed by 11/30.
- **Callicoon Train Depot and Visitor Center Project**– It was reported that the officers for the new Callicoon Depot, Inc. non-profit organization are to be: Nicole Vallance as president, John Erik Karkula as vice-president, Laurie Ramie as secretary, and John Pizzolato as treasurer.
- **The Kate Project Vista Enhancement Project** – Debra Conway emailed an update.
- **Anti-Littering Community Signage** – Pizzolato reported that they are in the final stages of submitting the work permits needed to install the circular anti-littering panels on the existing UDSB route markers.
- Copies are available online at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org of the 2020 River Valley Awards program.

Next Meeting Date: November 23, 2020 (4th Monday)

YOUTH COMMISSION: Councilperson Grund

Youth are working on projects online. The children had pumpkin carving kits shipped directly to their home from Amazon and then they had a drive through at the Town Hall to pick up their pumpkin. They are planning a similar activity for the Holidays. 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 \$ 208.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 293.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$2,179.51 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$ 240.63 Debit Card
- Deposited \$3,819.03 Mortgage Tax
- Deposited \$5,263.00 Insurance Refund for Lightning Damage at Sewer Plant

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

ACTIVITY:

Worked on Budget FY-2021 and filled in info for Tax Cap data for the NYS Comptroller. Insurance payment received for Sewer Plant lightning strike damage.

SUPERVISOR'S 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	\$ 226.70	\$2,090.90
Abstract #11	\$ 50.00	\$2,040.90

Worked 96 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Kevin Esselman, not present

- Trucks are inspected
- Sanders are mounted on the big trucks
- Had a few repairs
- Changed a driveway pipe and installed a catch basin
- Finished paving entrance to garage
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance is – \$ 3,008.68

Councilman Nearing mentioned that he would like to know why the fuel usage is no longer reported for the HWY trucks. Supervisor Maas will ask the HWY Superintendent.

TOWN CLERK: Margaret Richardson

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

- Prepared Abstract for audit.
- Prepared October 14th and 28th Board minutes.
- Submitted legal notice for Budget 2021 November 5th Public Hearing and prepared minutes
- 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.
- I worked a total of 76.5 hours in September

Contractual balance: \$1,919.48

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Gregg Semenetz

Worked: 80 hours Mileage 720 Permits issued: 11 C of O's 17

Municipal search letters 8 Revenues \$1,800.00 Expenses \$464.00

Contractual Balance: \$857.96

CEO Semenetz reported that he had to check out a home on Kelly Road where two (2) 275-gallon fuel oil tanks tipped over and spilled in the basement that is a dirt floor. The DEC was called who in turn hired a contractor to do remediation. It took nine (9) days to dig out the contaminated soil, 8-ft deep with picks, shovels and 5-gallon pails. The house at 75 Kelly Road is *not to be occupied until the DEC and the CEO are satisfied the site passes inspection*. Neighbors are also testing their water.

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

TOWN ATTORNEY: Karen Mannino

Attorney Mannino alerted the Board that the State is working on enacting a Pandemic Response Plan by local towns for year 2021.

ASSESSOR: Lorry J. King - not present

Submitted written report:

1. *Field work continues.*
2. *Our deeds and subdivisions from the County are slow to come*

New Business:

1. Participated in two small claims hearings. Awaiting decisions.

Assessor Hours: 39.20

Clerk Hours: 32

Account Fund A 1302.18

Total August expenditure \$ 40.83

Contractual Balance: \$1,261.35

SEWER PLANT OFFICER: Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- Average Flow 24,733; Percentage C.B.O. D. 97 %; Percentage T.S.S. 98% for October 2020
- Worked 74 hours in October 2020

Expenditures were \$1,237.67

Contractual Balance: \$5,450.48

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: Earl Bertsch - not present

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present

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

HISTORIAN: K. C. Garn - not present

TOWN BOARD:

Councilman Grund – Point of information: dead deer are not permitted to be brought in from Pennsylvania to avoid disease transmission. The latest disease found in PA deer is known to kill the animal within 36-hours. It disappears during cold weather. If you come across a dying or sick deer that has not been shot, please report its location to the DEC.

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: Larry Richardson praised the Board for their work on the 2021 Budget. He also asked if the Highway Dept. is still using the PC Program to track equipment and road repairs. No.

Linda Drollinger asked CEO Semenetz, “Who is liable for the expense of remediation of the oil spill?” He replied, “The homeowner.”

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Walter, to adjourn meeting at 8:18 p.m. All Town Board members voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Margaret Richardson, Town Clerk