

A meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on December 09, 2020 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
Kevin Esselman, Hwy. Supt.	Margaret Richardson—Town Clerk
Maryann Oumrim	Linda Drollinger
Donald Dittmer	Dave Lieber
William Boucher	

Between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM is a work session, to review budget to actual. Attorney Mannino and Supervisor Maas noted that the Town will have an emergency response plan in place before the required April 2021 date.

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 Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Walter, the following motion was to accept the **minutes of November 11th and 23rd, 2020** as submitted. Supervisor Maas and Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg, Grund and Walter voted in favor.

BILLS ON ABSTRACT # 12

On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg to accept the bills on abstract # 12 in the following amounts:

General Accounts: Claim #'s are 606 to 623 are to be paid.

Claim #'s 590, 591, 597, 599, 600, and 601 are in prepaids.

Total General Funds: **\$ 33,762.56**

Debit Card Account: Claim # none

Sewer Accounts: Claim #624 to 626 to be paid.

Claim #'s 587,588,592,593,594,600,602, and 605 are in prepaids.

Total Sewer Accounts: **\$9,570.80**

Lighting District Accounts: Claim #'s 589 and 596 are in Prep

Total Lighting District Funds: **\$578.61**

Highway Accounts Claim #'s 627 to 636 to be paid.

Claim #'s 598, 600, 603 and 604 are in prepaids.

Total Highway Accounts **\$36,638.30**

PREPAIDS were paid 11/10, 11/16, 11/25, 11/26 and 11/30

Claim #'s 600, 621 and 629 are split accounts paid on same voucher to Vendor.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Gary Maas

- Letter from County – workers comp – charges and charge backs
- Letter from Association of Towns 2021 dues are due, \$800.00
- Letter from Strategic Wireless – interesting opportunity to build revenue for the Town.
- The paperwork for the Transfer Station that Supervisor submitted June 18, 2020 finally came back to finalize.
- Letter from Public Health regarding Highway Department.
- Cooper-Arias is scheduled to conduct audit December 28 and 29th.

- Letter from Michael Bruce on behalf of the Cochecton Ambulance Squad regarding the Ambulance Park. They need a new push mower, weed trimmer, repair of flower boxes, repairs on the Bocci court and Corn Hole game, repairs to the swing set and picnic tables. Therefore, Mr. Bruce is submitting a request for assistance from the "Recreation Park Fund" created 08/12/2020 from subdivision fees collected from Pine Meadow Farm.

Refer to Town Board Meeting 08/12/2020:

Supervisor Maas called for a motion to decline the offer of a land dedication from Pine Meadow Farm in lieu of the \$12,750.00 major subdivision fee, and to adjust this fee to 17 lots at \$355.00 per lot, for a total of \$6,035.00, and this fee will be set up as a recreation park fund, **which the Town Board will oversee to be used to enhance the three (3) existing Town Parks.**

Motion moved by Councilman Grund; seconded by Councilman Walter.

ADOPTED: AYES 5 NAYS 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilmen: Grund, Nearing, Salzberg and Walter

Supervisor Maas told the Board that they need to discuss setting up guidelines later, next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: -none-

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UDC REPORT: Larry Richardson – not present

The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday December 3, at the Narrowsburg Union to allow for social distancing.

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 as has been the procedure since the pandemic.

Status Reports:

1. **Delaware Basin Commission** representative Kristen Bowman Kavanagh participated remotely adhering to a travel restriction
2. **NYS DEC** Representative Bill Rudge participated remotely adhering to a travel restriction. Mr. Rudge provided information about the final Trout Stream Management Plan that will improve the management of trout streams across the state. The proposed regulations are available for public comment until January 25 2021. The plan is considering year-round trout fishing with catch and release restrictions. We were also supplied with information about DEC's draft Deer Management Plan. Public comment will be accepted through December 28, 2021. Among the considerations:
 - Desired deer population trajectories
 - Monitoring deer populations for diseases
 - Maintaining a voluntary approach for letting young bucks go and re- evaluating mandatory antler restrictions
3. **PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources** Tim Dugan participated remotely also adhering to a travel restriction. Tim noted that in his area of northeastern Pennsylvania there is a shortage of acorns and they are studying wildlife to see where they are going to forage.
4. **NPS** was represented by Don Hamilton who noted that new Superintendent Salvatore will begin work on December 11 and the new planner Cody Hendricks who was in attendance at this meeting was to officially start on December 7.
5. **Executive Director** Ramie noted that the final edits have been made on the Land and Water Use Guideline video. We will decide when and how to roll out the introduction. We're planning to get approval to allow for earned credits for planning and zoning board members in New York State resulting from viewing the video. Ramie reported that she was able to secure a drawdown of Federal funding for our budget for December. Any further monies await passage of a Federal budget.

Actions taken:

- Accepted the Nominating Committee's officers FY 2021; Chairman Jeffrey Dexter, V-C Susan Sullivan, and Treasurer once again Alan Henry.
- Approved the accountants review and IRS Form 990
- Approved development of a River Management Plan Addendum Procedure
- Approved a comment letter on Sullivan County's Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan

Agreed that for the foreseeable future UDC meetings shall be held remotely`

SCENIC BYWAY: was cancelled, not report.

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 did not have a general meeting because there was a fire at their meeting place, American Electric on Nearing Road.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas

Monthly Financial Report

Deposited	\$ 388.00	Judicial fees
Deposited	\$ 611.00	Judicial fees
Deposited	\$ 2,024.01	Town Clerk fees
Deposited	\$ 1,760.00	Sullivan West Sand and Salt Purchase
Deposited	\$ 7,500.00	Youth Service Account
Deposited	\$ 6,035.00	Youth deposited in Account

- Made transfers and deposits as needed and have given budget actuals to board
- Activity Worked on Budget converted to PDF and made copies for County and Board.
- Meeting with Jessica on Health Insurance and signed up for 2021.
- Addressed Covid 19 issue at Highway Dept. and called for an Emergency Meeting.

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
Abstract #12	\$ 96.00	\$1,944.40

Worked 101 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Kevin Esselman, not present

- Put up Road Closed signs
- Had a few repairs
- Issued three driveway permits
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance is – \$ 3,008.68

Councilman Nearing asked that Supt. Esselman add the fuel usage on his monthly reports for the HWY trucks. Supt. Esselman said that he will do so.

TOWN CLERK: Margaret Richardson

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

- Prepared Abstract for audit.
- Prepared minutes for November 5th, 11th and 23rd Board minutes.
- Deposited Town fees including CEO fees
- The winter maintenance road closing notice was submitted and published in the SC Democrat November 27th.
- 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 training Maryann Oumrim
- We had requests for notary, fishing, and hunting licenses – Maryann has ordered the training manual for Notary.
- I worked a total of 73 hours in November

Contractual balance: \$1,790.99

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Gregg Semenetz

Worked: 80 hours Mileage 716 Permits issued: 10 C of O's 3

Municipal search letters 13 Revenues \$2,350.00 Expenses \$461.70

Contractual Balance: \$396.26

CEO Semenetz reported that he is semi-retiring December 25, 2020. Jim Crowley is appointed as co-CEO. Gregg will return as CEO for summer and Jim will cover the winter months. Terri Fountain is appointed to be Jim's clerk.

TAX COLLECTOR: Eileen Hennessy, not present. Tax collection will begin January 1, 2021. Ms. Hennessy informed Supervisor that her deputy tax clerk may not be able to continue to work with her. If she needs to appoint a replacement, can the person be from another town? The attorney will get back to supervisor on that.

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*
3. *Received decisions from hearing officers*

New Business:

1. *On November 19 I attended a continuing education class on Pilot Programs*
2. *Updated software on RPS*

Assessor Hours: 34

Clerk Hours: 28

Account Fund A 1302.18

Total expenditure \$ 31.09

Contractual Balance: \$1,230.26

SEWER PLANT OFFICER: Michael Walter

Submitted a written report:

- Average Flow 24,632; Percentage C.B.O. D. 96 %; Percentage T.S.S. 96% for November 2020
- Worked 69 hours in November 2020

Expenditures were \$ 4975.43

Contractual Balance: \$ 475.05

The renovation and repairs to the beds are scheduled for December 16 and 17; sand delivery is December 10.

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: Earl Bertsch - not present

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present

Written report of no expenditures for November; contractual balance is \$2,240.00

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 nearly completed
3. The reroofing of the old town hall is tabled for next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Plans for an addition to the Highway Barn/Garage are being considered. Engineer Ross Winglovitz may be appointed to the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dave Leiber addressed the Board and gave them an update on his project for the Pump Station on Route 97.

The Board agreed on the reorganizational meeting to be on January 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Walter to authorize the Town Clerk to publish a notice in the Sullivan County Democrat for the January 4, 2021 Reorganizational Meeting at 7:00 PM.

All Town Board members voted in favor.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Walter, to recess meeting to Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 7:00PM.

All Town Board members voted in favor. Time 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Margaret Richardson, Town Clerk