

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Cochection Town Hall with the following members present:

(Between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM for the purpose of auditing bills)

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Maas with the pledge to the flag at 7:29 PM.

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Maas
Councilperson Larry Richardson
Councilperson Edwin Grund
Councilperson Anna Story
Councilperson Sean Nearing

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hollye Schulman – Town Clerk
Gregg Semenetz – CEO entered at 7:40 p.m.
Karen Mannino --Attorney

Kevin Esselman – Highway Superintendent entered at 7:45 p.m.
Eileen Hennessy—Tax Collector

RESOLUTION # 14

OFFICIAL UNDERTAKINGS

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was

WHEREAS, Gary Maas, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Supervisor of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Hollye Schulman, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Clerk of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Eileen Hennessy, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Tax Collector of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Steven Sauer, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Justice of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Craig Fine, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Justice of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Kevin Esselman, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, AnnMary Hallen, of the Town of Tusten, County of Sullivan, New York, has been appointed to the office of Town Court Clerk of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Thomas Hennessy, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been appointed to the office of Town of Cochection Deputy Tax Collector, and

WHEREAS, Edwin Grund, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been appointed to the office of Town of Cochection Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Gregg Semenetz, of the Town of Callicoon, County of Sullivan, New York, has been appointed to the office of Town of Cochection Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Sharron Cardone, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been appointed to the office of Town of Cochection Planning Board Chair of the Town of Cochection, and

WHEREAS, Jerold Yavarkovsky, of the Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan, New York, has been appointed to the office of Zoning Board of Appeals Chair of the Town of Cochection, and

NOW, THEREFORE, we as respective officers above, do hereby undertake with the Town of Cochection that we will faithfully perform and discharge the duties of our office, and will promptly account for and pay over all monies or property received as a Town Officer, in accordance with the law, and

This undertaking of the Town Supervisor is further conditioned upon that he will well and duly keep, pay over and account for all monies and property, including any special district funds, belonging to the town and coming into his hands as such Supervisor, and

This undertaking of the Town Clerk is further conditioned upon that she will well and truly keep, pay over and account for all monies or and property, including any special district funds, belonging to the town and coming into her hands as such Town Clerk, and

This undertaking of the Town Tax Collector, and her Deputy Tax Collector is further conditioned that she/he will well and truly keep, pay over and account for all monies and property coming into her/his hands as such Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector, and

The Town does and shall maintain insurance coverage presently with NYMIR Insurance Company in the sum of \$992,450.00 plus thru (National Grange Mutual Public Employee Blanket Bond # F415046Y) which covers all Town employees in the amount of \$15,000.00 each, with an excess of \$600,000.00 for the Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector and \$250,000.00 for the Supervisor. For the Town Clerk to indemnify against losses through the failure of the officers, clerks and employees covered there under faithfully to perform their duties or to account properly for all monies or property received by virtue of their positions of employment, and through fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by the officers, clerks and employees covered there under.

ADOPTED – AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Story and Nearing

Supervisor read the Rules and Regulations for the Community Room downstairs

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to approve the Rules and Regulations as presented for the community room downstairs. All board members voted in favor

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to approve the minutes of December 30, 2014 and January 2, 2015, and be accepted as submitted. All board members voted in favor

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following resolution was to approve the bills on abstract # 1 in the following amounts.

General Account	Voucher # 1-17	\$4,808.50
Sewer Account	Voucher # 18-19	\$473.17
Highway Account	Voucher #'s 25-28	\$2,849.77

Claim #'s 16 split between funds/same voucher. All voted in favor.

Note: General Accounts totals for 2014 is \$1,414.50 expenditures
General Accounts totals for 2015 is \$3,394.00 expenditures
Sewer Accounts total for 2014 \$437.01
Sewer Accounts total for 2015 \$36.16
No Lighting District Accounts: for 2014 Or 2015 on this abstract
Highway Accounts totals for 2014 \$2,615.77
Highway Accounts totals for 2015 \$234.00

Supervisor mentioned the tax bill received for 74 Smales Road which was coded wrong and should not have been billed. Spoke to Nancy Buck the County Treasurer regarding this issue. Town will have to make the districts whole. Waiting on the attorney to find out more before the bill is paid. If bill needs to be paid it will have to be a prepaid for abstract # 2

CORRESPONDENCE:

SLAC: members suspended the meetings until March 27, 2015
Sullivan County Democrat: Will be one of the official newspapers for special postings for 2015
Letter from Gov. Como: Congratulating the County on the gaming facility to be constructed, and brighter future for Sullivan County
Public Service Commission: They will be flying over to inspect the electric lines as they do every year

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board - Councilperson Richardson – Just mentioned that the UDC held there presentation on Dec. 18, 2014.

Youth Commission – Councilperson Grund mentioned that the meeting was held on Jan. 5, 2015 they voted on officers for the ensuing year. Christmas party held on Dec. 6 at Angelina’s on the Hill It was well attended. They are going to the movies on Jan. 16 in Honesdale. They are looking into having a joint movie with the Tusten youth on a Saturday morning in March. The movies will run just for the Cochecton and Tusten Youth. He mentioned the other events planned and when to sign up and what time.

Office of the Aging - Councilperson Grund – no meeting yet

Fire District Liaison - Councilperson Story – Nothing much, as the rep. for the insurance co. did not show up.
Website – Councilperson Story – Removed old info added new info. Worked 3 3/4hours in December

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

- Submitted a written report, bank information:

1. Monthly Financial Report

Bank Information:

Deposited \$100.00 UDC check
Deposited \$2,401.00 Judicial fees
Deposited \$802.00 Judicial fees
Deposited \$944.52 Town Clerk fees
Deposited \$27,729.10 CHIPS
Made transfers and deposits as needed

2. Activity

Calls or emails to Nancy Buck regarding Tax bill for New Town Hall, Engineering Properties, Cooper Arias. Had meetings with Kevin Esselman, Ed Kraack, and Nicholas Pasquale. I also worked on SPEDES permit, and Lawsuit Documents. Also have new application for Sewer Plant with DRBC. Received reply back from TWC on new cable service...NO

CONTRACTUAL		\$5,000.00
Abstract #1	\$000.00	\$5,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 375.60	\$4, 624.40
Abstract#3	\$716.78	\$3,907.62
Abstract #4	\$132.80	\$3,774.82
Abstract #5	\$170.65	\$3,604.17
Abstract#6	\$122.61	\$3,481.56
Abstract#7	\$109.49	\$3,372.07
Abstract#8	\$177.39	\$3,194.68
Abstract#9	\$260.00	\$2,934.68
Abstract#10	\$ 69.90	\$2,864.78

Supervisor's report continues:

Abstract # 11	\$101.66	\$2,763.12
Abstract # 12	\$ 94.00	\$2,669.12
Abstract # 12-A	\$ 50.00	\$2,598.13
Worked 85 ½ hours		

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

- Submitted a written report:
- Out plowing and sanding as needed.
- Had some minor repairs on equipment.
- Cut and chipped brush.
- Out with crusher run.
- Had crusher run hauled in.
- Diesel 1054.5 Gal del / 886 Gal used
- Gas 372.1 Gal del / 213 Gal used
- Worked 160 HRS
- Contractual Balance -- \$45.50

Was asked about the Williamson Law Book program for Highway Superintendent's. Mentioned it was a lot to be entered, he is thinking about it. Did get a reduced price of \$2,600.00 with a \$750.00 per year maintenance. He explained some of the features of the program. Once information entered it would be easy to keep up. Hwy superintendent also presented the Highway agreement for 2015 to the board.

Councilperson Richardson asked about a bill on the abstract, what it was for and how many chainsaws the highway dept. has and what is done with old equip. It was a leaf blower and a chainsaw on that bill. Reason for the new chain saw was because one was stolen, and the leaf blower was worn out. Was told it isn't worth the metal in it, and will be junked. It needs to be taken off inventory and both new pieces of equipment need to be put on inventory list.

HWY Superintendent presented the Highway agreement for 2015 to the board. The board signed the agreement, which can be adjusted if needed

RESOLUTION # 15

ACCEPT HIGHWAY AGREEMENT AS SUBMITTED BY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following resolution was to accept the Highway agreement as submitted by the Highway Superintendent.

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Story and Nearing

Councilperson Richardson mentioned that when Matt Bernas was in a while back he mentioned that some better materials could be used on the town roads. HWY Superintendent said he is now using type 6 on the roads –it does a better job

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

- Submitted a written report; \$944.52 collected fees for December 2014
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk.
- UDC check #1104 in the amount of \$100.00 received 12/19/2014 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- 2 permanent and 1 temporary handicapped parking permits issued in December
- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I'm still getting calls for the CEO, Justice Court, Assessor, and Planning Board and Tax Collector
- I had one FOIL request via e-mail wanting information on the Town of Cochecton Peddler/Solicitor Licenses application and cost to obtain these permits. I e-mailed back that this information is on our web-site under Local Law # 1 of 1992
- Worked a total of 101 ¾ hours
- Contractual balance \$1,651.61

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

- Submitted a written report:
- Worked 80 hours, issued 2 building permits, no renewals
- 15 C of O's issued, 1 municipal search letters
- No Notice of disapproval
- No appearance tickets
- Revenues \$1,085.50, Expenses \$215.59
- Contractual Balance: \$0 for 2014

Has 3 new houses planned for the spring as well as several sub-divisions.. Issued a second stop work order on CR 114, as he did not heard back from the property owner on the first notice. Had a copy of the Town of Callicoon's Junk yard law which they are updating to bring junk cars into the language. If junk cars need to be removed by the town, fee can now re-levy on the property taxes if the property owner does not pay for the removal. Attorney will look over and get back to the board, she would like to see language more closely to our unsafe buildings. Unsafe building on Stony Road owner died and property is still in probate. CEO and Attorney will work on this and get back to the board.

TOWN ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)

Submitted a written report:

- Telephone calls with Supervisor
- Review of facility use agreement/email
- Attendance at Board meeting

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report:

- 2014 balance in checkbook \$0.03
- 2015 monies collected \$405,575.74
- Balance in checkbook \$405,679.41
- Refund checks: Ck. # 330 \$16.15, Check # 331 \$40.00, check # 332 \$45.00 and misc. \$2.52 for a total of \$103.676
- Wrote check k# 333 Supervisor Gary Maas, \$64,185.19 LH Sewer, check # 334 Supervisor Gary Maas, \$7,480.00 LH Light Dist, check # 335 Supervisor Gary Maas, \$139,899.26 LH & Kenoza Fire Dist for a total of \$211,564.45
- $\$405,575.74 + \$103.67 = \$405,679.41$
- Worked a total of 31 hours in December 2014
- Contractual balance: \$245.21

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report

Old Business:

1. Field review of sales and new construction continues
2. Terri has completed the residential collection, and she is currently working on adding those photos into our system, and updating the property record cards. She will be working with me on the commercial properties.
3. I attended the continuing education course in Middletown on December 10th.

New Business:

1. Ready for 2015 all exemptions renewals were mailed
2. Disk was prepared and sent to Nexlinx for the tax bills.

Hours

Assessor 30 Clerks 41

Data Collection Hours: Dec. Terri 40 \$542.00 Balance: 16,334.38

December:

Assessor Budget: 1355.400 \$2,685.22

Quill: 14.96

Terri Mileage: 18.98

Lorry Mileage: 39.60

Balance: \$2,611.68

PLANNING BOARD: (Sharron Cardone) not present

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over report

Letter to Town Clerk with actions taken at the December 2014 meeting. Recommendations for Sharron Cardone to remain as Chairperson, Earl Bertsch to remain as PB member (renew term), and Lauren Bunch remain as PB Clerk. PB members in attendance for the UDC presentation would like to ask the TB to extend points to those that attended (George Walter, George Blaso, Joe Manaseri, and Earl Bertsch)

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to allow 1 hour of credit for the UDC presentation for the PB members that attended. All board members voted in favor

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter) not present

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 58,227 gallons per day for month of December
- Obtained 94% C.B.O.D. and 91 % T.S.S. removal for December
- Spent a total of 68 ½ hours attending to sewer district affairs in December
- Expenditures: \$437.01
- Contractual balance \$1,039.53

DRBC want records of the flows from 1987- 1991, should be grandfathered.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile) not present

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over report. Contractual balance: \$2,205.15 for 2014

Worked 10 hours in December

HISTORIAN: (K.C. Garn) not present

Submitted a written report:

The year ended without any inquiries from the public. The Sullivan West student Leeann Bruetsch, who was working with me on her school history project, completed the project. She was required to put in an least 17 hours of research, which she did and then some. As you may recall, she was researching the reasons for our division into the Town of Delaware in 1869. Most of her time was spent in the Callicoon Library reading the Sullivan County newspapers from the late 1860's. While no definitive answer was found, it appears likely it was the product of several factors: severe flooding in Cochecton in the 1840/1850's; the construction of the Erie Railroad in 1850 or so and the resulting increased population and businesses in Callicoon (known as Callicoon Depot at the time). Hoping all of you had an enjoyable holiday season, I wish you a pleasant Board meeting

UDC: (Larry Richardson)

- The Council held its re-scheduled meeting on Thursday January 8.
- Following the Roll Call, the first order of business was election of officers for 2015. The following persons were elected by paper ballot:
 - Chairperson: Al Henry (Berlin Township)
 - Vice-Chairperson: Susan Sullivan (Tusten)
 - Treasurer: Jeffrey Dexter (Damascus Township)
- Highlights of the discussions from the three standing committees were presented. Project Review Committee reviewed a proposed archery range in the Town of Highland, a non-conforming camp ground in Damascus, a problem with the sewage discharges from a Masthope facility that occasionally exceeds the treatment plant's capacity.
- Executive Director Ramie noted that since we are a small business with only three employees having health insurance, under the new Health Care program, we will be receiving a refund of over \$2,000 dollars.
- NPS Superintendent encouraged everyone to visit the NPS Facebook page. It has been recently updated and enhanced. The address is <https://www.facebook.com/updeNPS>.
- Actions taken:
 - Authorized Signatories for the Banking Accounts FY2015
 - Approved a contract with Eckersley and Ostrowski to perform a financial review FY 2015.
 - Approved a resolution amending the current budget, since we had been advised to plan for a 1% reduction in funding however the new Federal Budget provides for the entire \$300,000 dollars.
 - Approved a letter to be sent to PA DEP Northeast Regional Office: Masthope Wastewater Plant.

TOWN BOARD:**(Councilperson Story)**

Wanted to know if the Planning Board has appointed a new Attorney. CEO said there will be some issues to go before the Planning Board that will need an attorney's input

(Councilperson Grund)

Nothing to report at this time

(Councilperson Richardson)

Nothing to report at this time

(Councilperson Nearing)

Nothing to report at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe Buildings: discussed earlier
2. Sewer Dept. – SPEIDIES permit and DRBC permit –discussed earlier

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bulletin Board – will be discussed at a later date. Can't be moved now
2. Facility Use Policy - Discussed earlier

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jack Nearing, said taxes are too high due to Planet Albany.

No one else wished to comment

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to adjourn this meeting. Time 8:30 p.m. All voted in favor

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk