

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on February 8, 2012 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 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Maas
Councilperson Larry Richardson
Councilperson Edwin Grund
Councilperson Richard Schulman
Councilperson Anna Story

OTHERS PRESENT:
Hollye Schulman – Town Clerk
Kevin Esselman – Highway Superintendent
Gregg Semenetz –CEO entered at 7:48 p.m.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to approve the minutes of January 11th and be accepted as submitted. All voted in favor.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was
To approve the bills on Abstract # 2 in the following amounts:

General Account	Voucher # 28-68	\$16,391.35
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 69	\$32.42
Sewer Account	Voucher # 70-72	\$1,774.15
Lighting Account	Voucher # 73	\$616.20
Highway Account	Voucher # 74-78	\$18,873.02

Claim #'s 36, 39, 46, 56, 58, and 59 are split between funds/same voucher
Prepaid claims were paid on 1/17/2012 and 1/24/2012. All voted in favor.

At this time Supervisor introduced Katy Strong; she gave an overview of the Allyson Whitney Foundation Inc. They are asking for permission to have a 3.1 mile 5 K run/walk around the Lake. They would like to make this an annual event. They have secured parking at the SWCS and they are holding a wellness fair at the school.

Councilperson Richardson asked what their purpose was: The purpose is to raise money for patients with rare cancers.

The group is developing a web site for marketing, posting of upcoming events etc. The papers required for a non-profit have already been filed.

Supervisor has spoken with the sheriff's dept. re: closing the road. The group will take care of everything and have it in place before the event. They just need permission from the town to hold the event.

All Town Board members agreed to let the event move forward.

PROPOSED POLICIES: Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Harassment, and Code of Ethics

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to approve all the policies. All voted in favor.

Discussion re: Zoning Advisory Committee; All town board members gave their thoughts and after much discussion the board and both sides were not in favor of continuing the committee. The issue can certainly be revisited in the future.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bonacic mailing; Supervisor thought every household in the community received a mailing regarding gas drilling.

A letter from the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce; requesting a name as a representative for pride of Cochection. Supervisor submitted name – will wait to see if accepted.

Letter from Peak Power Systems: concern that the generator at the sewer plant has not been serviced in many years. The service is taken care of by a local electrical service

Time Warner Cable – with program changes

e-mail NYSE&G new phone and fax information

Rural Health – re: Smoke out protect young lungs at play at town parks. The Ambulance Corps would have to take care of this as it is not a town owned park

Sullivan County final assessment roll on forest and agriculture exempt properties in the county; percentage and number of acres involved

The tax warrant for the town has been satisfied

Letter NYSE&G their customer information has been compromised

State Comptroller – online contacts

NYS new law re: posting to web site

MMTF conference call; next month road assessment agreement- March 2, a meeting in Tusten from 10:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Risk Management stating we had no claims

Dept. of Civil Service thanking the town for their compliance

Flood Aid, \$21,000,000.00 available as grants for flood damage from Hurricane Irene

Up dated list for Sullivan County Legislative meeting for the year

UDSB appreciation for town support in the amount of \$1,000.00

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Allan Rubin, New Turnpike Rd., Would not relish butting heads with the rest of the ZAC. Would remind the board that nowhere on the planet is it completely safe to drill. Should not depend on NYS to protect the town, should be something in the zoning. Industrialization another layer of review from DEC. DEC may not recognize. Take an umbrella in case it rains, rather than be without and need one. Unlimited unimpeded gas drilling. Retain rural flavor of the town.

Councilperson Story, a compromise to restrict # of wells and setbacks wouldn't that raise a red flag for DEC. (Because Allan Rubin earlier stated that if there is no wording in our zoning regarding gas drilling; the DEC would hand out permits. If there is wording it raises a red flag for DEC. This compromise was rejected in the Zoning Advisory Committee)

Earl Bertsch, Bertsch Rd., stated that during the Zoning Advisory Committee meetings he was the one to suggest limiting the # of gas wells and setbacks 3-5 wells and do it slow and gradual thus just limiting the flow of traffic. (Allan Rubin refused this suggestion at the meetings).

Grace Van Hulsteyn, New Turnpike Rd .language, DEC just jumping over local controls

Earl Bertsch, Bertsch Rd., State and DEC back and forth- won't hold up in court

No one else wished to comment

Councilperson Richardson, Number 1 concern not gas drilling but the process of gas drilling – wording in zoning during Public Hearing people voiced concerns that the Town would allow gas drilling – all language was taken out of the Zoning. Suggested people write letters re: reinstating Home Rule

Michael Labron, CR 114, weakness in the Town Zoning is inconsistency

Councilperson Richardson, asked where the weakness was other than gas drilling

Michael Labron, CR 114, left the town open for gas drilling – he did not answer the question. Feels we should use the umbrella that Allan spoke about

Dennis Nearing, Nearing Rd., there has not been much land leased in the Town of Cochection

Willy Gardner, Cr 116, with all the setbacks; where can you drill in town?

Councilperson Richardson, asked Katy Strong about emergency personnel, and CEO asked about bathrooms along the way for the participants in the run/walk event. They will be provided

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Route 97 Pull-off: Councilperson Richardson had some figures re: cost estimates \$11, 230.00 including blacktop, and the Highway workers doing most of the work. He also had a sketch of what he proposed be done at the site; bushes, flowers and gravel and measurements. This was discussed. The Supervisor has looked into the insurance issue and we would be covered under the Town's insurance policy

Youth Commission: Councilperson Grund gave his report and explained how many persons participated in each event so far. The Youth Board will soon have a page on the Town's web-site. Still looking for a board member to take the place of Jerold Yavarkovsky

Office of the Aging: Councilperson Schulman –the meeting was cancelled- nothing to report

Web Site: Councilperson Story – worked 18 ¼ hours- made updates , added meeting minutes, added and removed information to the News alerts. I updated information on the new pages that have been created. I typed the new Discrimination Policy and Sexual Harassment Policy that will be included on the web site, spent hours on phone with Dorene re: web site; added e-mail addresses for both Youth Board and Historian.. The complete report is on file at the Town Clerk's office if anyone wishes to view it.

Councilperson Schulman feels Councilperson Story should be compensated for her work on the web site. There was some discussion, no decision was made

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

.Monthly Financial Report

1. Bank Information:
Deposited \$100.00 UDC check

Supervisor’s report continues:

Deposited \$6,265.00 Judicial fees
Deposited \$915.00 Judicial fees
Deposited \$1,212.09 Town Clerk fees
Deposited \$406.38 Sewer Rent- Deitz
Deposited \$1,153,719.20 Tax Collector- 8 Deposits
Deposited \$12,800.97 School Sewer Rent
Deposited \$4,000.00 Tag Grant 09-07
Deposited \$4,06.38 Sewer Rent – Blaso
Made transfers as needed

2. Activity
Opened new CD for Machinery Capital Reserve
Worked on Harassment Policies
Worked on Web Site Updates
Calls to Justin, Ross, and John Keating in regards to American Electric Release
Meetings & Calls with CEO, Highway supt., FEMA, Ethan Cohen, Mike Preis, and Sheriff’s office
Made deposits and transfers as needed and closed Building accounts
Returned calls and emails with David Bloodgood on town policy and risks and internet policy
Worked with Juan Rigal on MAP Grant

CONTRACTUAL		\$5,500.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$5,500.00
Abstract #2	\$ 456.88	\$5043.12

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

Submitted a written report:

- Plowed and sanded the roads as needed
- Started servicing some of the equipment
- Put a phone call into F.E.M.A and found out they handed over this district to a different person. Gary and I met with him and found he had very little information about our damage, do to the fact that the first person from F.E.M.A. did not do his job right. So over the course of the last few weeks I’ve gone out with him and got GPS readings on all the sites. Spent several hours on the computer filling in all the man hours, equipmen, time and material list that was used. With the help of the town clerk collected all the invoices needed. Was told should hear from him in couple of weeks on a dollar amount. The men and I were doing some brush work on several roads
- Did some patching on both our paved roads and crusher run roads
- Attended a Partner & Safety class on reasonable suspicion with drug and alcohol in the work place
- Had two trucks go to Palmer’s for repairs
- After two months and several phone calls our new sander still does not work. Amthor’s and a representative from the sander company are coming up next week
- Hours worked – 106
- Contractual balance: \$1,307.05

On Tuesday the rep: from Amthor’s finally got the sander working on the new truck

Councilperson Richardson asked about incident, sign should go up, park truck with lights on, and should put something in writing

Councilperson Schulman asked what needed repairs. Highway Superintendent responded truck needed an air dryer, brake canister. Should have one of the men certified, otherwise they cannot make adjustments on brakes etc. To what extent have the men made repairs? Highway Superintendent responded changing oil and paver repairs, some maintenance had not been done for several years. Highway Superintendent wants to have a schedule for repairs.

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report; collected \$1,268.28 for the month of January

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- I filed all the reports required to the State, County and ORPS, updated personnel records for the NPS, Audit and Control, and UDC as well as Sullivan County for their directory
- I received checks for the sewer rental from Irene Dietz 1/9/12 in the amount of \$406.38, Sullivan West Central School check # 7178 on 1/19/2012 for sewer use in the amount of \$12,800.97 and Lakeview Cottages & Motel check # 1054 in the amount of \$406.38, all checks were turned over to the Supervisor as they were received
- I attended the OSTCA meeting January 18, 2012 held in Middletown, we discussed the requirements for posting information on the town website. Also, discussed the Town Clerk’s collecting during the month of February for the food pantries (items can be dropped off at the New Town Hall during regular business hours if anyone wishes to contribute)
- The UDC check # 2224 in the amount of \$100.00 received 1/26/ 2012 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day. Also received UDC check # 2248 in the amount of \$4,000.00 1/26/2012 and turned over to Supervisor the same day -- this check was for the UDC Tag Grant 2007 for Zoning update
- I issued 2 permanent handicapped parking permits in the month of January
- I also helped Highway Superintendent with some paperwork
- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I have received telephone calls for the Tax Collector, Assessor, CEO, bookkeeper and Justice Court and a lot of calls regarding the letter sent out for dog enumerations. We are having a good response to the letter

Town Clerk report continues:

- Contractual balance: \$6,397.8

At this time I would like permission to attend the NYSTCA Training School to be held in Saratoga Springs, NY from April 22- 25

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to allow the Town Clerk to attend the NYSTCA Conference/training school in Saratoga Springs, NY from April 22-25. Vote was 4 to 0 with Councilperson Schulman abstaining.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours, mileage 624, permits issued 4, renewals 0, C of O's issued 0, notice of disapproval 0, Municipal search letters 4, appearance tickets 1, Revenues \$843.20, Expenses \$415.12
- Contractual Balance: \$4,584.88
Single family homes – permits up, cell tower on Muller Road – will start work sometime within the next 30 days. The project should take a month to a month and a half. Issued 5 stop work orders, some for fire safety issues, gas water heaters need higher stacks. Letters were sent out for unsafe buildings that the town identified that they would like taken care of this year

Supervisor mentioned that Joe Aditzer was interested in having camping and weekend activities at the Meadows. Requires a site plan and review from the Planning Board.; and the Code Enforcement Officer can issue a yearly permit for up to 200-500 persons for camping. There was some discussion.

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy) no longer present

Written report submitted:

- Tax money collected \$1,910,554.15
- Paid out to Supervisor Gary Maas: \$1,153,719.20
- Paid to Ira Cohen (County Treasurer) \$650,000.00
- Balance in check book \$105,546.53
- Contractual balance: \$3,754.18 worked 111 hours in January
2/15/2011 - 70.83% and 2/8/2012 – (70.72 % percentage of taxes collected so far this year)

HISTORIAN: (K. C. Garn) not present

Submitted a written report which is on file at the Town Clerk's office if anyone wishes to view it

TOWN ATTORNEY: (John J. Keating) not present

Submitted written report:

- Attended monthly meeting
- Review/research proposed discrimination/harassment policies
- Process and close out final Town Hall construction dispute

ASSESSOR: (Lorry J. King) not present

Submitted: written report:

Old Business: Field review of sales and new construction continues

New Business:

I will be attending continued education training in Albany, weather permitting on Friday February 10th Sullivan Co. report on Ag and Forest exemptions for 2011 roll year

Contractual Balance: \$3,330.30

Hours worked 30 3/4 -- clerk 30 hours

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR (Sharron Cardone) not present

Due to inclement weather the meeting was cancelled

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to have the Planning Board Chair vote in the affirmative on the 14 Resolutions before the Association training session Feb. 22-25 in NYC. All voted in favor

SEWER OFFICER: (George Walter) not present

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 41,263 gallons per day for month of January
- Obtained 96.4% C.B.O.D. and 95 % T.S.S. removal for January
- Spent a total of 73 hours attending to sewer district affairs in January
- Expenditures \$209.31
- Contractual Balance: \$19,790.69

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile) not present

Submitted a written report:

- Opening balance Contractual Line A 3510.400 \$1,500.00 spent nothing, Line A 3510.401 enumeration \$1,000.00 which was also the closing balance
- 1 dogs at large
- 2 unlicensed dogs contacts
- Mailings completed

Dog Control report continues:

- Worked 25 hours
- Contractual Balance: Closing balance \$1,500.00

UDC: (Larry Richardson)

Submitted a written report:

- The Upper Delaware Council held its regular meeting on Thursday February 2. Various committee reports were presented.
- The Council held the annual swearing of its new officers. I was privileged to be asked to perform the swearing in ceremony. As I reported last month, the new Chairperson is Nadia Rajs, the Secretary/Treasurer is once again Jack Niflot and Jeffrey Dexter from Damascus has been elected Vice-Chair. The Committee Chairs are as follows: WURM-Tony Ritter, OPS-Nadia Rajs and Project Review is Larry Richardson.
- The WURM committee reported on the proposed UDSB Visitors Center. The center as envisioned by the Architects and approved by the UDSB has an estimated cost of \$1,400,000.00. As you know the funds available for the project currently amount to about \$750,000, with the County providing some in-kind services. Obviously it will be a challenge to secure additional funding.
- Much discussion took place in committee and at the Council meeting regarding the proposed replacement bridge at Pond Eddy. We have been advised after the first design committee meeting that what Penn DOT is proposing is a 40 ton modern bridge very similar to what crosses at Barryville to Shohola. Many of us expected a modern looking bridge but nothing on that scale. A point to remember is that this bridge serves 24 homes on the PA side. The estimated cost to build the bridge as proposed is \$12 million of which NYS would pay \$ 4 million. The UDSB and the Council is trying again to see if something smaller and more aesthetically pleasing could be built and still satisfy the current and future needs of the community.
- The annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Carriage House in Barryville on April 22.
- DEC representative Bill Rudge reported that the Little Joseph Sand & Gravel operation has been inspected and they have been instructed to make some changes to minimize storm water runoff. The DEC will do a follow-up inspection. He also reported that the DEC is seeking \$187,500.00 from U.S. Energy, a gas drilling company, for allowing polluted water from a drill site in PA to enter NYS waters.
- NPS is forwarding a check for \$20,000 to offset legal fees incurred by the Council in its challenge to a Lackawaxen Township ruling regarding the Holbert Brothers mining application. Legal fees to date are approaching \$40,000.
- The UDC is scheduling an informational meeting on a review of the River Management Plan for March 24, from 10:00 to 3:30 probably in the Tusten Town Hall. This meeting is by invitation only. All Town boards along with Planning and Zoning, ZBAs and other partnering officials will be invited. A lot of time has passed since the UDC originated and the River Management Plan (RMP) was put in force, therefore it is very important that local officials understand the reasoning behind the RMP and how it affects us today and if it should be changed.
- For budget reasons, the summer Trash Removal Program funded by the NPS has been terminated. However since several river towns have expressed a strong desire to see it re-instated, the NPS will review options.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS:

(Councilperson Story) nothing to report

(Councilperson Schulman) nothing to report

(Councilperson Grund) nothing to report

(Councilperson Richardson) Asked the Highway Superintendent to purchase or make a sign for Devils Road as the sign is missing

OLD BUSINESS:

1. New Town Hall – landscaping – some discussion re: flag pole
2. MMTF update – meeting tomorrow night in Tusten. re: the Road Assessment the County wanted to be brought on board, but the committee does not want to wait another 6 month or longer to get the project finished
3. Pull off Route 97 for byway – discussed earlier
4. NYMIR Review- discussed earlier
5. Water System – there were three quotes, 1. From Schmidt's Wholesale Inc. in the amount of \$708.60 2 was Yorgey Supply in the amount of \$732.80, and 3. Yaun Co. Inc. in the amount of \$716.50. these quotes were for a water softening system. After much discussion it was decided to go with the quote from Yaun Co. Inc.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Schulman, the following motion was to accept the quote submitted by Yaun Co. Inc. in the amount of \$716.50. Vote was 4 ayes, and 0 nays with Councilperson Richardson abstaining

6. Basement completion – Supervisor will get in touch with the Engineer about plans for the basement, perhaps it can be done in stages. Need to decide what will be done first.
7. Old Town Hall – Paint exterior – this was discussed and quotes will be requested
8. New Town Hall update: settling and closed account. Shingles will be taken care of in the spring, Councilperson Grund will look into getting information to install a 4' stoop off the kitchen area
9. NYS Association of Towns Resolutions- discussed earlier

10. Unsafe Buildings – Code Enforcement Officer has a list of buildings the board would like to see taken care of this year
11. Hand book – the Supervisor had a copy of the Town of Delaware handbook, the town board will use it as an example
- 12.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Councilperson Richardson mentioned there has not been a NIMS meeting in a while, Supervisor will see about setting one up in the near future

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Bonanza, CR 116, had some old photos of properties in town. Asked about Cohecton Day on the Lake and the Fire Company and what the plans were. They are planning a joint event on July 14th with a parade, breakfast and chicken barbeque as well as having vendors

No one else wished to comment

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to adjourn this meeting.. Time 10:15 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk