

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on February 8, 2017 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 Anna Story absent
Councilperson Sean Nearing
Councilperson Paul Salzberg
Councilperson Edwin Grund

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hollye Schulman – Town Clerk Gregg Semenetz –CEO entered at 7:39 p.m.
Kevin Esselman – Highway Superintendent Eileen Hennessy –Tax Collector
Karen Mannino --Attorney

During the work session the Town Board and the Attorney discussed language for the proposed changes for draft Solar Zoning Law

Supervisor mentioned that the alarm system has been installed and he requested authorization to pay P.N. Alarm the remainder of the installation charges.

RESOLUTION # 16

AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO PAY P.N. ALARM THE BALANCE FOR ALARM SYSTEM

On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was WHEREAS, P.N. Alarm has installed the security system for both the Town Hall and the Highway Garage and there is a balance that needs to be paid, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay the balance to P.N.

Alarm when the final bill comes in

ADOPTED: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

RESOLUTION # 17

AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO PAY COCHECTION YOUTH COMMISSION

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the Town has agreed to pay the Youth Commission additional monies owed to them, and THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board has authorized the Supervisor to issue the check to the Cochection Youth Commission as stated earlier at the January meeting

ADOPTED: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to approve the minutes of January 11, 2017 and be accepted as submitted. All present board members voted in favor. Councilperson Story absent

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to approve the bills on Abstract # 2 in the following amounts:

General Account	Voucher # 38-71	\$6,328.43
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 72	\$1,190.50
Sewer Account	Voucher # (73-76)	\$1,484.38
Lighting Account	Voucher # 41 & 43	\$638.06 are prepaid
Highway Account	Voucher # 77-93	\$32,252.86

Claim #'s 45, 57, 58, 65, 68, 69, and 72 are split between funds/same voucher

Prepaid claims were paid on January 12th, 13th, 17th, 23rd, 30th, and Feb. 6th, 2017.

All present board members voted in favor. Councilpersons Story absent

CORRESPONDENCE:

Sullivan Renaissance Annual Conference: Building Beautiful, Healthy, Active Communities for March 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. To be held at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Doors open 9:00 a.m. Program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Sullivan County Visitors Association invitation to breakfast at Bernie Holiday Restaurant March 3, 2017: Regional Roundtables across the state to discuss issues affecting the tourism industry in NYS

Cooper Arias: Regarding Town of Cochection Audit—litigation. (only one filed on behalf of Dena Huertas et al.

Association of Towns: Assault on local governments by blaming us for NY high property taxes and proposed yet another unfunded state mandate requiring counties to develop new, voter approved efficiency plans

US Census: 2017 Boundary and Annexation survey (Supervisor has filled this out

United States Dept. of Commerce: In July 2017 your government will receive a formal invitation to participate in the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Operation

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Sullivan County Charter Commission;** Larry Richardson

- The Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday January 18.
- The meeting was chaired by Peggy Harrison.
- Most of the meeting was focused on refining the presentation to the Sullivan County Legislature supporting an elected County Executive. We also discussed the issue of retaining an elected Treasurer or having an Elected Comptroller. We further discussed the differences between the two positions. The consensus of the committee following the discussion was that the Commission should recommend providing for an Elected Comptroller. We also discussed the duties and responsibilities of the legislators following the creation of a county executive.
- We hope to have a presentation on both issues finalized at the February meeting with the aim of presenting our findings to the county Executive Committee later in February.
- I've been asked to make a presentation before the Leadership Sullivan group earlier on Wednesday February 8 at the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville. They have a segment entitled "Government and Politics" and are interested in hearing about the Charter Commission.
- As always should anyone have comments or suggestions for the commission, they can call me or email me through my town email address: lrichardson@townofcochectonny.org.

Larry Richardson the County really needs an elected County Executive

Upper Delaware Council; Larry Richardson

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday February 2.
- Prior to the regular meeting, the three standing committees held compressed meetings beginning at 6:00; WURM, Project Review and Operations. Each meeting held elections with the following results:
WURM; Chair -Fred Peckham, VC- Pat Jeffers
Project Review; Chair- Larry Richardson, VC -Harold Roeder
Operations; Chair- James Grier, VC- David Dean
- After the regular UDC meeting opened, Town of Fremont Supervisor George Conklin led the swearing-in ceremony; with James Grier taking the Chair, David Dean Vice Chair and Alan Henry returning as Secretary/Treasurer.
- Due to inclement weather in December, all three committees experienced cancellations.
- Bill Rudge the DEC representative distributed two handouts one of which discusses proposed updates to streamline environmental quality reviews (SEQR). This is the first update to the SEQR process in 20 years. The update is designed to encourage smart growth and sustainable development across the state. The second distribution announces new New York State initiatives to protect consumers and waterways from unsafe disposal of unused prescription medicines by encouraging pharmacies to take back unused or outdated medicines.
- Mr. Rudge was questioned about a report of pollutants down in a well near Sullivan County Airport. He confirmed that report to be true and that the well was not the source for drinking water and that the pollutant identified is common around airports since it is used in fire suppression chemicals. He suggested that the well will need to be cleaned up.
- DRBC Commission Chairman Tambini noted that the Upper Delaware River Basin has been removed from the drought watch but he did also note that the snowpack is lower than normal depths.

Actions taken:

- None

Scenic Byway: The UDSB held a rescheduled (due to weather) meeting on Monday January 30, 2017

Topics of Discussion in part:

- Establish Subcommittees for 2017 Priority Projects:
 - 1) Promotion & Marketing – Develop a Plan; Byway Beautification Day; Hiking Trails Brochure; Heritage Trail Concept
 - 2) Facilities – Bike Lane Feasibility; Public Restrooms; Selective Clearing of Vistas; Improve Pull-off Areas; Establish a Visitor Center and Satellite Information Centers and that can
- Further investigate possibility of a Visitor Center Presence at the Narrowsburg Union
- Signage: Continue to Explore Interstate Attraction Signage at the exits of Rte 84 and Rte 17.

Committee Reports:

- New Mobile Website Status: Nancy, Rosie, Glenn
- Educational Workshop to Protect Scenic Byway Values: Helen & Heather
- Pollinator Plant Seed Packets Fundraiser: Nancy

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting Date: will be on Monday, February 27, 2017 @ 7:00 P.M.

Note: Since the meeting I have been advised that the Sullivan County Budget was approved with \$20,000 allocated for the UDSB. Many of the initiatives the organization has explored have been stymied for lack of matching funds. **Also,** I took part in a meeting on Friday February 3 at the UDC office with representatives from NYS DOT.

Scenic Byway report continues:

The purpose of the meeting was to provide input to the DOT in regards to planned shoulder work along Rte 97 and how it might fit in with the needs of the Byway. Much of the discussion concerned the need for accommodations for bike riders.

The topic of vista enhancements along the route was also discussed as well as how the Byway might be raised on the priority list for funding. Since the route is not listed as high-volume traffic, limited maintenance funds are often sent elsewhere.

Youth Commission: Councilperson Grund

FEBRUARY 2017 TOWN BOARD REPORT

CYC met last night for their monthly meeting:

So far this year the CY has held 4 events:

- ◇ 1 trip to **DISNEY ON ICE**
 - 42 total participants
 - 22 Cochection Youth Attended
- ◇ 1 **daytime SKIING / SNOWBOARDING** event at the VILLA ROMA
 - 17 CY participants (provided youth with 17 lift tickets, 17 rentals and 5 CY took skiing lessons)
- ◇ On the same afternoon as skiing the CY had 4 children go **snow tubing at the VILLA ROMA**
- ◇ 1 evening **SKIING / SNOWBOARDING** event at the VILLA ROMA (6 participants)

Also in January....

THE CY ALSO HAD **SIGN UPS** FOR A BUS TRIP TO SEE THE NY GIANTS (38 of 47 seats are currently taken) 19 OF THOSE SEATS ARE COCHECTION YOUTH

*This coming Saturday, February 11, the CY will be going to West Point to see a hockey game. WEST POINT VS. NIAGARA

- ❖ 25 total participants attending
- ❖ 8 Cochection Youth are attending this event

*Numerous upcoming dates to SKI, SNOWBOARD, AND SNOWTUBE AT THE VILLA ROMA

*AN UPCOMING TRIP TO **BIG BEAR** TO SKI / SNOWBOARD

* MOVIES IN HONESDALE @ CINIMA 6

NEXT MONTH THE CY WILL HOLD SIGNUPS FOR

* BRONX ZOO TRIP IN MAY (1 OR 2 BUSES)

Fire District and Web Site: Councilperson Story was not present.

Website Report – January, 2017

- Added January 11 agenda
- Added December (approved) minutes and re-org minutes
- Reviewed Jan. 11 Minutes for Hollye
- Removed expired information in News Alerts Box
- Added a link for Tax Credit Card payments to news alerts
- Updated supervisor letter
- Updated entire website with new appointments and term expiration dates
- Removed Expired Legal Notices (re-org meeting)
- Communication with Dorene Warner regarding website password

Total Hours Worked: 4 ½ hours

Fire District – I have no new information from the Fire Commissioners.

Supervisor said the website is running but not working – should be up and running shortly

Seniors: Councilperson Salzberg – Nothing at this time

Keep Cochection Clean: Jerold Yavarkovsky: not present --No report

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

Submitted a written report:

.Monthly Financial Report

Bank Information:

- Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$ 2,046.50 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 946.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 711.02 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$ 1,207,142.29 from Tax Collector – in 11 payments
- Deposited 2 checks for sewer rent. Each were \$479.28. Blaso and Dietz
- Deposited \$ 1,304.46 General , and \$ 250.00 HWY for debit card
- Deposited \$11,982.07 for sewer rent for Sullivan West

Supervisor’s report continues:

Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actuals to board

Activity

Attended Supervisors Meeting. Calls to Cooper Arias and audit for 2016. Sent out W’2s. Worked on many updates for retirement. Security system installed. NYMIR came and inspected premises.

CONTRACTUAL		\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 413.66	\$3,586.34
Abstract#3	\$	\$
Abstract #4	\$	\$
Abstract #5	\$	\$
Abstract#6	\$	\$
Abstract#7	\$	\$
Abstract#8	\$	\$
Abstract#9	\$	\$
Abstract#10	\$	\$
Abstract#11	\$	\$
Abstract#12	\$	\$
Worked 89.5 hours		

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

Submitted a written report:

- Cut brush
- Patched on paved and dirt roads
- Plowed and sanded as needed
- Has a few repairs
- Diesel Del – 1050 gal / Used – 1,220.5 gal
- Gas Del – 305 gal / Used – 328.3 gal
- Worked 160 HRS
- Contractual Balance is \$3,669.60

HWY Superintendent mentioned that the Dodge Ram that he purchased 3years ago the warranty will run out and he would like to lease another truck while there is still a good trade in value on the truck. He priced 2 trucks; Dodge is less expensive by \$5,000.00. The one he priced is a 6.4 liter engine and would cost \$15,801.50 He was asked how many miles on the truck it now has 32,000 miles and warranty is for 36,000 miles. There have been no repairs to the truck he now has

Councilperson Nearing --\$5,000.00 per year with 11,000 miles put on truck

Councilperson Grund –good idea to upgrade

Councilperson Salzberg –sounds good to him

Supervisor asked are there many accessories on the truck: HWY Superintendent replied some- they would be removed and put on a new truck. There was some discussion. The board members will have time to think about this for the next Town Board meeting in March

HWY Superintendent asked permission to attend HWY schools in June and September

RESOLUTION #18

HWY SUPERINTENDENT PERMISSION TO ATTEND HWY SCHOOLS

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

WHEREAS, in order to continue is education as the HWY Superintendent, schools are held in June and September, and requesting permission to attend both of these schools, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the HWY Superintendent is granted permission to attend both HWY schools.

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilpersons Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

Supervisor mentioned that at the Supervisor’s meeting it discussed sales tax revenue sharing. The County brought in 39 million in 2016. A Union Rep. said the money should be used to pay for raises for their workers. This is still an ongoing issue

NYMIR has been down to do an inspection. The report has not as of this time been received

The Insurance Company feels there should be a waiver for anyone attending the Tai Chi classes. They have provided a form to be used for the waiver

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report;

- I am working from 9:00 am through 2:00 pm Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk.
- UDC check # 2427 in the amount of \$100.00 received 1/26/17 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- There was no OSTCA meeting in January
- Issued 4 permanent handicapped and 3 temporary parking permits in January

Town Clerk report continues:

- I provided telephone #'s for different departments. I'm still getting calls for the CEO, Assessor, Tax Collector, as well as the Justice Court, people wanting to pay their fines and some saying they sent their tickets in to the Court and have heard nothing back.
- Worked a total of 85 hours in January
- Contractual balance \$3,912.81

At this time I would like permission to attend the NYSTCA Training/Conference School in Rochester April 263rd –April 26th, 2017

RESOLUTION # 16**TOWN CLERK AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND NYSTCA CONFERENCE/TRAINING SCHOOL**

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to allow the Town Clerk to attend the NYSTCA Conference/training school in Rochester, NY from April 23-April 26, 2017

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilpersons Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours, mileage 630, permits issued 2, renewals 0, C of O's issued 1
- Notice of disapproval 0, Municipal search letters 5, Appearance tickets 0
- Revenues \$675.00, Expenses \$387.05
- Contractual Balance: \$5,112.95

CEO asked the town board if they came up with any buildings that needed to be address as unsafe. He also found buildings that were put up without permits. The unsafe buildings he came up with as unsafe 1 on sharp turn O'Shea 1 on Westshore (trees are a danger) and the Gasko house on Shortcut Road and Falk property

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report submitted:

- Monies collected \$ 2,282,167.20
- Paid to Supervisor \$1,207,142.29 Gary Maas
- Paid to County \$1,050,000.00 Treasurer Nancy Buck
- Total \$25,024.91
- Worked 84 hours in January Contractual Balance \$2,179.04

Tax Collector also mentioned that in tax year 2017 she had collected 73.13% at this time, and collected by credit card \$26,463.04

TOWN ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)

Submitted written report:

- Attendance at Board Meeting
- Review /Draft changes to Proposed Solar Law; email to Supervisor
- Audit letter to Cooper Arias; email to Supervisor
- Contracts for Men's Club, Heinle Field and Ambulance; email to supervisor
- Review/Draft changes to Proposed Solar Law/ email to Supervisor
- Phone call with Nancy Buck re: tax bill

Supervisor mentioned that DRS came to his office earlier this week. Did not seem happy about Proposed Solar Law

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Submitted a written report. Supervisor went over her report

Old Business:

1. Exemption renewals are due in the office by March 1, 2017
2. I would like to have a spot to put blank exemption forms for the convenience of our taxpayers. Possibly a wall unit affixed to the wall would help!

New Business:

1. Nothing new to report

Hours: Assessor: 26 1/4

Clerk: 26

Jan. -2017 A1355.400 \$3,000.00

NYSAA \$100.00

Quill \$57.65

Total Jan. \$157. 65

Contractual Balance: \$2,842.35

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter) not present

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 60,644 gallons per day for month of January
- Obtained 90% C.B.O.D. and 69 % T.S.S. removal for January

Sewer report continues:

- Spent a total of 72 hours attending to sewer district affairs in January
- Expenditures \$1,478.38
- Contractual Balance: \$23,521.62

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR (Earl Bertsch) not present

No report

Councilperson Nearing mentioned he spoke to George Walter, and he mentioned the PB was concerned about width of roadway and with setbacks. There was some discussion re: this issue

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile) not present

No report submitted. Her report was submitted later in the week—she had no expenditures and there were 3 lost dog calls

HISTORIAN: (K. C. Garn) not present

Submitted an email report

This past month, I received a request from a lady for information about a building she bought along County Road 114, the old turnpike. She apparently purchased the old “dance hall” located across the road from the intersection with Cross Road. I don’t have any history or photographs of that building and I can’t locate it on either the 1856 or 1875 maps. Cross Road was not in existence at the time those maps were made. I told her I would look up some deeds for the place to see what the history of the ownership is. There were no other inquiries.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS:

(Councilperson Salzberg) nothing to report

(Councilperson Nearing) nothing to report

(Councilperson Grund) received a call about garbage along road (3 bags) he picked it up and disposed of the three bags

(Supervisor Maas) Nothing new to add

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Alarm and Security for Town Buildings—discussed earlier
2. Commercial Solar Zoning Law review – discussed earlier
3. Contract for Transfer Station – has not been received at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe Buildings – 2017 discussed earlier
2. Tai Chi: --The town was provided with a sample generic release – Adult (to possibly be used for the persons taking this class)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Larry Richardson, Bernas Road, asked if building permits can be posted on the web-site. Permits can not as there is too much information, however the permit cards could be.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to adjourn this meeting. Time 8:33 p.m. All board members present voted in favor.

Councilpersons: Story absent

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk