

# REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, MARCH 11, 2015

- 1-

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on March 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Cochecton 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 PM.

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

Others Present:

Hollye Schulman --Town Clerk      Kevin Esselman --Highway Superintendent  
Karen Mannino --Attorney          Gregg Semenetz --CEO entered at 7:44 p.m.  
Michael Walter --SPO                Sharron Cardone --PB Chair  
Rosemary Barile --DCO              Eileen Hennessy -- Tax Collector

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to approve the minutes of February 11, 2015 and be accepted as submitted. Vote was 3/0 with Councilperson Grund abstaining as he was not at this meeting, and Councilperson Story absent

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to approve for payment the bills on abstract # 3 in the following amount.

General Account	Voucher # 89-119	\$9,460.40
Debit Card Account	Voucher #'s 120	\$1,573.02
Sewer Account	Voucher # 121-123	\$919.04
Lighting District Account	Voucher # 92 in prepaid	\$273.19
Highway Account	Voucher # 124-133	\$27,292.68

Claim #'s 95, 115 and 120 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Prepaid claims were paid on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

All board members present voted in favor.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Sullivan County Legislature: March 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. presentation savings up to 2017, 2018 and 2019 shared services

Sullivan County American Legion: Invitation to annual dinner visitation for dept. officers

Farr Engineering: looking to drum up business for his company

Supervisor Town of Tusten: restoration of bridge in Narrowsburg, wanting the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation to move up the time frame for the bridge repairs

Laberge Group: 2015 grant needs survey

Sullivan County Treasurer: inquiring as to any debt the town may have. We do not have any debt

State Dept. of Taxation and Finance Office of Real Property Tax Services: Notice of Tentative Special Franchise full value

NYS Ag & Markets: Municipal Shelter Inspection report: Humane Society of Middletown --passed

Spencer Daniels Agency: pricing for outdoor LED digital Display Boards

UDSB: Concerns re: Narrowsburg Bridge repairs

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to comment

Presentation by Tom Ward Jr: Proposed Campground --50 sites, requesting to extend the sewer district. Councilperson Richardson asked what kind of sites --RV and tents. Tom explained same -- it is 100 acres. Councilperson Richardson would not have a problem, but not the whole parcel. Councilperson Grund asked how much of the parcel is for campsites -- was told only about 15 acres. Councilperson Richardson would conceptually approve of the extension, but would need additional information. Town Board members agreed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**County Charter Commission:** Councilperson Richardson Planning Board has selected Marvin Newberg as their attorney. Sharon Cardone was asked how much Mr. Newberg charges and hour. He charges \$250.00 per hour for town related business. Individuals are charged more.

Scenic Byway: Held its reg. meeting on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Approved the budget for FY 2015. A new line item was added for "Vista Clearing and enhancements" Agreed that the board should begin to build some reserves to be used for opening up areas along Rte. 97 to allow views of the river. Anticipated we will have a new secretary hired by the March meeting. Sullivan County Charter Commission: held its second meeting and hear a presentation by Stephen Acquarip concerning what optional forms of government are available. There are three forms of county government currently in use in NY State. The counties are run as such: a government run by a board of supervisors, and elected legislature with an appointed county manager and an elected legislature with and elected County Executive. Gerald Benjamin an authority on local governments will make a presentation at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at 5:00 in the legislative room. Councilperson Richardson also touched on a Trial of Commercial Bus service from Manhattan to the Upper Delaware River Valley. Which will be for weekends of June 26-28, July 3-5, July 10-12 and July 17-19. With pick up at 33<sup>rd</sup> St. between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. at 4:00 p.m. Stops in Lumberland (TBD), Barryville at bridge, Narrowsburg Main street, Callicoon (TBD). Sunday pick up begins in Callicoon at 5:00 p.m. with stops in Narrowsburg, Main Street, Barryville at bridge, Lumberland (BD) 33<sup>rd</sup> St Manhattan. Fare: \$40.00 one way, discounted fares be considered after a trial period. Reservation: To be made online: [scva.net/eagleexpress](http://scva.net/eagleexpress). There are some restrictions

# REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, MARCH 11, 2015

- 2-

**Youth Commission:** Councilperson Edwin Grund: West Point Hockey Game Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> –12 youth attended good turnout for skiing and snow tubing at the Villa Roma, planning a trip to Dorney Park. A movie with Tusten on Saturday morning. Have mailed out fund raising letters to businesses. Swimming at Woodloch Pines coming up. Looking into other new events. Will have a new e-mail/gmaol/facebook page starting up soon. Facebook is now with an individual's account; it can't be changed to the youth board it has to start new. The Facebook page will be the youth boards so as members change it will stay the same. There is a bylaw meeting coming up to review the bylaws and see if anything needs to be changed. Next meeting will be April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Councilperson Richardson asked about looking into having grandparents that live in the town and have grandchildren visiting, could they have language put into the bylaws stating that if you pay taxes in the town grandchildren would be allowed to attend the events sponsored by the Youth Commission perhaps free or on a reduced rate. Councilperson Grund said he would mention it.

**Fire District and Website:** Councilperson Anna Story- not present. Supervisor reported

- Added February agenda with links to the upcoming meeting page.
- Review and corrections to meeting minutes
- Added January Town Board minutes to Board page
- Removed expired information
- Corrected youth board page - place of meetings to new town hall
- Added youth events and removed expired events
- Added December 2014 Planning Board minutes
- Added fire company field day to news alerts
- Worked on adding actual budget numbers into adopted budget

Total Hours Worked: 6 hours

## DEPARTMENT HEADS:

**SUPERVISOR:** (Gary Maas)

- Submitted a written report;
- Monthly Financial Report
- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$836.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,604.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$926.06 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$347.96 from HWY and \$3276.95 from General to Debit Card
- Deposited \$5,328.29 Mortgage Tax (this is way less than expected)
- Deposited \$37,103.90 IDA payment fro Millennium
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actual to board members. Also transferred \$500.00.00 from General and Highway to Cd's and \$100,00.00 from sewer to a CD

Activity: Calls or e-mails to Engineering Properties, Cooper Arias and 2014 financials have been completed. Meetings with Kevin Esselman, Nicholas Pasquale. SPDES Permit completed and has been issues. Also worked on application for Sewer Plant with DRBC. Filled out Workers Comp. for Mike Pomes on 3/6/15. Got a picture from Tusten –Cochecton Library of Mary Martin. Framed picture and hung in the Hallway by the Flag. Got paint for historical Signs. We have a volunteer to recondition sign in Lake Huntington. Received plans for new Sewer UV building, it has been sent to DEC for approval.

CONTRACTUAL		\$4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$271.17	\$3,728.83
Abstract #3	\$662.68	\$3,066.15
Abstract #4	\$	\$
Abstract #5	\$	\$
Abstract #6	\$	\$
Abstract #7	\$	\$
Abstract #8	\$	\$
Abstract #9	\$	\$
Abstract #10	\$	\$
Abstract #11	\$	\$
Abstract #12	\$	\$

Worked 87 1/2 hours

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (Kevin Esselman)

- Submitted written report
- Trucks out plowed and sanded roads as needed
- Had a few repairs
- Trucks out with cold patch
- Had sand hauled in
- Met with lawyer about accident on New Turnpike
- Has to repair a few mail boxes
- Diesel Delivered – 1,192.8 gals / Used – 1,617 gals
- Gas Delivered – no del / Used – 250 gals
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual Balance –\$2,607.32

Also asked permission to attend the HWY Superintendents School held in Ithaca, NY in June 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>

## REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, MARCH 11, 2015

- 3-

### RESOLUTION # 17

#### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT GRANTED PERMISSION TO ATTEND HIGHWAY SCHOOL JUNE 1-3

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent requested he be allowed to attend the Highway Superintendents School in Ithica from June 1-3, and

WHEREAS, this school is beneficial to the Highway Superintendents performing his duties, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Highway Superintendent is granted permission to attend the Highway Training School from June 1-3

**ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0** Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

HWY Superintendent would also like to move forward with getting the HWY program he mentioned earlier in the year, but would wait until closer to budget time. He also would like to put a pad on Nearing Road property for woodchips and if someone needs them they could get some. Town cannot make a gift; Attorney will look into this issue and get back to the Town Board. He also mentioned that the dirt roads are getting soft –stone will be delivered tomorrow and he will try and fill in the soft spots.

### TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

Re: monthly report

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- I had one FOIL request from the Deputy Supervisor from New Paltz, which was through e-mail, and was responded to also by e-mail.
- UDC check #1237 in the amount of \$100.00 received 2/27/2015 and turned over to the Supervisor the same Day
- 2 permanent and 2 temporary handicapped parking permits issued in February
- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I'm still getting calls for the CEO, Assessor, Planning Board and Tax Collector. As well as the Justice Court (people wanting to pay their tickets over the phone and wanting to know if Court is open).
- The office will be closed on March 23, 2015; I will be attending a NYSTCA Regional meeting in Binghamton. I will post the door and leave a message on the phone.
- Worked a total of 97 ¾ hours
- Contractual balance \$3,537.63

Town Clerk report to the Supervisor will be given to him tomorrow as I did not get printed. The collected fees for the month of February is \$799.05

### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours and traveled 782 miles.
- Issued 1 permit, there were no renewals.
- No C of O's and no notices of disapprovals.
- Issued 2 municipal search letters.
- There was no appearance tickets issued.
- Revenue was \$542.00
- Expenses \$489.10
- Contractual Balance is \$4,412.50

It has been a quiet month with the cold and snow. 1 permit for a new house. Working with Tom Ward since the fall –the proposal is within the code, and they are doing a pretty good job

### ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)

Submitted a written report of activities.

- Review Deed/ email Supervisor re: Corduroy Road
- Attended Board meeting
- Research into Corduroy Road issue / email

### TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report:

- Tax money Monies collected \$ 2,258,928.58
- Paid to Supervisor \$1,196,827.02 Gary Maas
- Paid to County \$900,000.00 Treasurer Nancy Buck
- Not cashed as of 3/11/2015 Checks #'s 331, 340, 345, 346, and 351
- Balance in checkbook \$165,271.77
- Worked 54 hours in January Contractual Balance \$2,673.53

### ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Submitted a written report; which the Supervisor went over

1. **Old Business:** Renewal exemption forms are mailed out and are due back March 1, 2015
2. On Thursday March 19, 2015, I will be at training in Montgomery, NY. This class is sponsored by the NYS Assessors Association, and part of the Continuing Education as required by law.

### New Business:

1. I have attached the Letter from the NYS Association of County Directors letter to Honorable Kathleen Marchione, and Honorable Sandra Galef regarding recommendations on the Governors proposed budget regarding the STAR exemption and the PIT (personal income tax credit).

# REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, MARCH 11, 2015

- 4-

## Assessor's report continues:

2. The LOA for the Town this year will be 79%. I was unsuccessful in challenging the States appraisals on our vacant and commercial lands, so our equalization rate maybe 79% this year. I have been informed that the State will be doing updated appraisals next year. Other Towns in the County were also unsuccessful in their challenges; however we fared better than most with our numbers.
3. Anyone who has the Alternative War, Combat or Disability Veterans exemption will automatically receive that exemption for Sullivan West School district as well.

## Data Collection Project

February – 2015

Terri 46 hours:	\$623.33	
Total for February	\$623.33	
Hours: Assessor:	31 ½	Clerk: 25 ¾
A 1355.400 Beginning balance:		\$3,460.00
NYS AA Class		\$110.00
Mileage		\$19.80
Total expenditures:		\$129.80
Contractual Balance February:		\$3,330.20

## PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Sharron Cardone)

Submitted a letter to the Town Board which she read

Dear Town Board Members: I am writing this letter on behalf of the Planning Board members for the Town of Cochection. The Planning Board was advised, that if the monthly meeting is cancelled, our clerk Lauren Bunch will not be paid her full salary for that month; she will only get half of her salary. The Planning Board members do not agree with this and as such we feel that Lauren should be paid her full salary regardless if there is a meeting or not. Lauren does not work on a contract basis and is an appointed member by the board. At the time of her employment nothing was mentioned that a meeting had to be held in order for her full salary to be paid. In the past, when a meeting was not held no mention of cutting her salary was even brought up by the Town Board. When a Town Board member misses a meeting they still get their full monthly paycheck as they are not subject to this new agenda. It seems to us that the Town Board is looking at ways to save money and the Planning Board is the way to do this. In the past the Planning Board can only spend the money allocated for items and services that the Town Board deems necessary. Seminars that require staying overnight etc. have been denied –even though the money is in our account. The Planning board has never overspent its budget as has been the case for other departments. Now, the Town Board wants to cut our clerks salary in half for non monthly meetings. WE ask that the Town Board reconsider this action, as even if a meeting is cancelled Lauren still has other items and work to do. Respectfully submitted, Sharron Cardone, Planning Board Chair

Supervisor Maas responded to her letter. Mentioned that last year there was probably 6 meeting cancelled or no quorum. This matter was discussed during budget time. Pointed out spelling the town name wrong in the first letter she emailed, as well as other spelling errors; he considered it in poor taste to not have spell checked before being sent out. Also there is a difference between being an elected official and an appointed position. Councilperson Richardson also responded that the board originally was not going to pay anything if a meeting was not held; however in fairness they felt half salary would be sufficient.

Supervisor Maas reminded Sharron that she needs to be appointed to the position of Planning Board Chair, since she did not come into sign her oath within the allotted time frame. Bring a letter back to the board after the Planning Board meeting

## SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter)

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 15,716 gallons per day for month of February
- Obtained 96 % C.B.O.D. and 95 % T.S.S. removal for February
- Spent a total of 65 hours attending to sewer district affairs in February
- Expenditures: \$919.04
- Contractual Balance: \$23,025.33

On 2/15/15 shut off the Trickling filter due to ice build up on media

## DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile)

Submitted a written report;

Worked 8 hours

Contractual balance of \$2,000.00

DCO last month was quite, not so this month so far-- mentioned there is a really big mean dog loose on State Route 52 in Cochection Center. This dog has destroyed the Town of Bethel large trap, This trap cost \$400.00, but DCO located it online for \$172.00 and ask that the town consider replacing the destroyed trap from the Town of Bethel and also buying one for the Town of Cochection

## RESOLUTION # 18

### REPLACE THE TOWN OF BETHEL LARGE DOG TRAP

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

WHEREAS, the town of Bethel loaned the Town of Cochection a large trap to try and catch the mean nasty dog loose on State Route 52, and

WHEREAS, the mean nasty dog destroyed the Town of Bethel large trap, and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Cochection does hereby approve the purchase of a large trap to replace the one destroyed by the mean nasty dog

**ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0** Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

**HISTORIAN:** (K. C. Garn) not present

- Submitted a written report:
- I was contacted by an author who's currently writing a book about Sullivan County. He had apparently been in touch with all Town Historians in the county in an effort to obtain information on the Ku Klux Klan; whether it had any existence within the town.
- I informed him that, as far as I was aware, there is no information concerning that organization ever having had a presence in our town.
- I wish you a pleasant Board meeting.

**UDC:** (Larry Richardson)

- Submitted a written report:
- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday March 5.
- It was reported that the Project Review Committee is reviewing three special use permit applications in the Town of Tusten. It is reviewing a proposed zoning change in the Town of Highland. The Committee is awaiting clarification from Pa DEP regarding what appears to be occasional illegal discharge of sewage from the Masthope Mountain Community. The progress of the Pond Eddy Bridge replacement was discussed and noted that the estimated repair is now \$17.5 million. The bridge serves 26 homes.
- The WURM Committee is discussing the issue of trains carrying dangerous crude oil along the Delaware River. More on this topic will be discussed at the March 17<sup>th</sup> committee meeting starting at 6:30.
- At the April Council meeting Shannon Thol will present her work on the GIS maps for the river corridor. Supervisors are invited to attend to see how this program can be useful on a town/township level.
- Although Bill Rudge was not in attendance, he provided several DEC handouts: a draft Fisher Management Plan and a draft Conservation Plan for Bald Eagles is now available for review and comments. The DEC is accepting applications for the pheasant release program, applications for American Eel Permits and applications for the Annual Environmental Excellence Awards.
- NPS Superintendent Heister presented a proposed Law Enforcement Collaboration Program to blend the services of the Upper Delaware River with those of the Middle Delaware River National Park. She also noted that her agency had received a grant to make some changes in the Zane Grey House to provide more of a visitors' center experience. The NPS is also in need of some housing for the summer interns. If anyone has facilities, they should contact the office.
- Jane Luchsinger presented the status of the proposed bus service from NYC to stops along the Delaware.

Actions taken:

- Approved a letter to Penn DOT expressing concerns about the plan to close both lanes of the bridge in Narrowsburg for periods of time during repairs.

**TOWN BOARD:**

**(Councilperson Richardson)** - Asked if mileage for the Sullivan County Charter Commission was allowed

**MOTION:** On motion of Supervisor Maas, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to allow mileage to attend the Sullivan County Charter Commission meetings. The vote was 3-0 with Councilperson Richardson abstaining

**(Councilperson Story)** – Not present

**(Councilperson Nearing)** --Nothing to report

**(Councilperson Grund)** - Nothing to report

**(Supervisor Maas)** Nothing more to add

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Unsafe buildings----Unsafe building on Stony Road- owner died, and the town has heard nothing re: this property - pending
2. Sewer Dept. – SPEIDES permit and DRBC permit—discussed earlier

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Bulletin Board –pending
2. Corduroy Road –discussed earlier

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to comment

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to move into executive session re possible purchase of land for sewer plant. Time 9:08 pm. All present board members voted in favor. Others present: Town Clerk, Attorney, SPO and CEO

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to move out of executive session. Time 9:24 pm. All present board members voted in favor

While in executive session no decision made.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to adjourn this Town Board meeting. Time 9:25 p.m. All board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk