

REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, MARCH 12, 2014
RECESSED PUBLIC HEARING

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A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on March 12, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Cochection Town Hall with the following members present:
(Between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM to hold the Public Hearing & 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 7:40 p.m.
Michael Walter --SPO

During the work session:

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to open the Public Hearing for the unsafe buildings on CR 116. Time 7:06 p.m. All board members present voted in favor

Supervisor Maas advised the Town Board members that the check was received for the legal and attorney fees regarding this property.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to accept the check and to close this Public Hearing. Time 7:08 p.m. All town board members present voted in favor.

Regular Town Board meeting opened:

Supervisor Maas mentioned he has correspondence from Sandy Hookers Triathlon Club and Split Second Racing, asking permission to hold part of their event in the Town of Cochection. They will provide all necessary information for road closing and safety measures.

Councilperson Richardson asked that they provide proof of insurance and name the Town an additional insured. Supervisor will get the information and report back to the board at the next meeting.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract for the Sandy Hookers Triathlon Club and Split Second Racing to hold a portion of their event in the Town of Cochection. The race will take place May3, 2014. All town board members present voted in favor.

Supervisor Maas read the following resolution.

Councilperson Richardson he could support 1 Casino but was not in favor of 2 casinos in Sullivan County

RESOLUTION # 20
CLASS III GAMING CASINO

On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was
WHEREAS, the exceptional efforts of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature brought about the enactment of the Upstate NY Gaming Economic Development Act, which included an amendment to the New York State Constitution to allow Class III Gaming in New York State,
WHEREAS New York State will now develop up to four casinos in upstate New York; and
WHEREAS, on November 5, 2013, the voters of the State of New York voted for and supported the enactment of the constitutional amendment authorizing Class III Gaming in New York State,
WHEREAS on November 5, 2013, the voters of Sullivan County provided the largest plurality of votes for such enactment of the constitutional amendment authorizing Class III Gaming in New York State,
WHEREAS, the passage of said constitutional amendment and the concurrent legislation authorized the establishment of four destination gaming resorts in three distinct regions (Regions 1, 2 and 5), in Upstate New York, with a maximum of two projects to be located in any one Region
WHEREAS, Sullivan County is located in the Catskill/Hudson Valley Region 1, and
WHEREAS, Sullivan County has been recognized as the premiere vacation destination in New York State for generations and has historically served as host to some of the world’s most famous destination resorts; and
WHEREAS, Sullivan County was home to multiple destination resorts which contained thousands of hotel rooms and accompanying amenities such as retail, entertainment, and sports attractions.
WHEREAS the local infrastructure of Sullivan County was always sufficiently able to handle all economic, social and environmental direct and indirect impacts of the many destination resorts; visiting tourists, and the employees who worked in these facilities; and
WHEREAS, Sullivan County’s tourist economy was one of the cornerstones of vibrant, middle class that comprised many of its towns, villages, and hamlets;
WHEREAS, Sullivan County, has experienced a significant downturn in its tourist economy over the last half century and stands now as one of the most economically challenged areas in New York State;
WHEREAS Sullivan County’s working class and small businesses, as well as tax ratables, have significantly suffered from this downturn;
WHEREAS, Sullivan County ranked last in New York State in year 2013 job creation and was the only area in the Hudson Valley that experienced a year-over-year decrease in private-sector employment, according to Johnny Nelson, labor market analyst for the state, and
WHEREAS, Sullivan County, through its local and state officials and local business community has historically sought the legalization of Class III Casino Gaming for more than four decades, and

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Resolution # 20 continues:

WHEREAS, gaming, as a single component within a destination resort, will provide the much needed catalyst to stimulate further economic growth in Sullivan County; and
WHEREAS the current proposals in Sullivan County are for sustainable resort destinations that will comply with New York State’s environmental regulations to mitigate all environmental impacts, and
WHEREAS, the development of destination gaming resorts and the siting of TWO Casino Gaming Destination Resorts would bring thousands of much needed quality jobs and economic growth to Sullivan County that now already exists in neighboring counties that are in the Catskill Region I; and
WHEREAS, the establishment of destination resorts in Sullivan County will provide financial support for education and desperately needed property tax relief for Sullivan County taxpayers and communities statewide; and
WHEREAS, the establishment of destination resorts will stop the flow of revenues for tourism and gaming crossing our borders into neighboring states and keep those dollars in Sullivan County and New York State; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Sullivan County enthusiastically supports the siting of TWO Class III Gaming Destination Resorts in Sullivan County to meet the intent and language of the constitutional amendment authorizing Class III Gaming in New York State.

ADOPTED: AYES: 3 NAYS: 1 Councilperson Richardson, and Councilperson Story absent
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons: Grund and Nearing

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to approve the minutes of February 12, 2014 and be accepted as submitted. All board members present voted in favor.

Supervisor mentioned that the electric bills were very high for this abstract, but he has another supplier for electric; Intergys at a cost of .0625 cents per kwh. This will save the town money, The service is for one year.

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

General Account	Voucher # 97-134	\$17,052.83
Debit Card Account	Voucher #’s 135	\$505.78
Sewer Account	Voucher # 136-141	\$1,931.05
Lighting District Account	Voucher # 142	\$888.04
Highway Account	Voucher # 143-156	\$42,461.42

Claim #’s 124, 128 and 130 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.
Prepaid claims were paid on Feb. 18, 19 and 24th 2014
All board members present voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter: NYS and Local Retirement Systems: wanted to know if they have the correct information.
Health Match: A healthcare recruitment letter—they would provide services if the town needed
Dept. of Ag & Markets: Municipal Shelter Inspection report- dog shelter is rated “Satisfactory”
Letter: Cooper Arias: Town of Cochecton’s Annual Financial Report. This report has been filed with NYS Office of the State Comptroller on Feb. 28, 2014
NYS Dept. of Transportation: there is availability of \$50 million in federal funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program.
Questionnaire: Sullivan County Agriculture – Municipal Officials Survey. Supervisor has completed this survey. Councilperson Richardson, stated that the Scenic Byways has asked that the Towns should look at the site distance on Route 97, State Route 97 is designated a Scenic Byway but in many place the river can not be seen. When the State upgrades the highway, it would be nice if they made it wider to provide for a bicycle route. Grant to clean some areas (not clear cut) but to make the river more visible from Route 97. Also mentioned the pull off areas are not cleaned out for visitors to pull over. Asking the town Highway crews to clean out the pull offs
Letter National Benefit Life Insurance Company: advising that Wesco Insurance Company (“Wesco”) has acquired National Benefit Life Insurance Company’s group statutory disability benefits business
Dennis Baker: BBQ at the Preservation Society
Sullivan County American Legion: will be honoring Sept. Commander, Ken Governor and their Auxiliary President, Barbara Corker and the detachment commander , Sons of the American Legion, John Chang. March 16th at the Eagle’s Nest in Bloomingburg

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board: Councilperson Richardson UDC will hold a cell tower work session on March 29th from 9-12 and it would be good if the Planning Board and Zoning Board members attended. They are looking into maybe getting credit for this work session

Youth Commission: Councilperson Edwin Grund mentioned the board agrees to open a new account at Jeff Bank with a debit card. Lexi Reeves came to the March meeting to see if she would be interested in the position of CYC Youth member. Ice Skating was Feb. 9th 19 children participated. Crystal Cabin Fever Event took place Feb. 22nd. Facebook and photos; they will try to add more photos to their facebook page as a way to advertise what they do. Skiing 21 children participated. West Point hockey game --20 total participants. Movies –Eileen will take care of booking of children’s movies. Bowling Honesdale –will be April 4th. Coal Mine Tour –Target date of April 26th Great Wolf Lodge is planned (date to be determined). There next meeting will be April 1st at 7:00 p.m.
Office of the Aging: Councilperson Grund—was not able to attend the meeting

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Fire District and Website: Councilperson Anna Story- not present. Supervisor reported Fire Dept. accepted a bid for the new fire truck in the amount of \$565,000.00. Anna worked 3 ½ hours on the website in the month of February

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- SUPERVISOR:** (Gary Maas)
- Submitted a written report;
 - Monthly Financial Report
 - Bank Information:
 - Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check
 - Deposited \$ 925.00 Judicial fees
 - Deposited \$ 881.00 Judicial fees
 - Deposited \$ 923.04 Town Clerk fees
 - Deposited \$23,720.96 from IDA
 - Deposited \$ 1000.00 from NYS for Youth Group
 - Deposited \$ 2091.49 Mortgage Tax
 - Deposited \$ 656.00 for Maps from UDC
 - Made transfers to reserve accounts and transferred \$1,100,000.00 to 3 CD’s for 6 months

- Activity
- Calls with Cooper Arias, Karen Mannino, NYS Health Dept., Sam Smith, George Walter, Sean Halligan, Sullivan County DPW , Nadia Rajsz, Ed Weitman, Bill Sipos, Jackie Kearns, Dan Sturn. Meeting- Anna Milucky, worked on Basement completion and Well Approval with Health Dept., Meeting for River Access Revitalization
 - Auditors worked on 2013 financials, Water Tests for basement

CONTRACTUAL		\$5,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 375.60	\$4,624.40
Abstract #2	\$ 716.78	\$3,907.62
Abstract#3	\$	\$
Abstract #4	\$	\$
Abstract #5	\$	\$
Abstract#6	\$	\$
Abstract#7	\$	\$
Abstract#8	\$	\$
Abstract#9	\$	\$
Abstract#10	\$	\$
Abstract#11	\$	\$
Abstract#12	\$	\$
Abstract#12A	\$	\$

Provided budget to actual to town board members

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

- Submitted written report
- Had a few minor repairs.
- Plowed and sanded as needed.
- Had sand hauled in.
- Diesel Delivered – 1,662.6 gals / Used – 1,792.9 gals
- Gas Delivered – 0 / Used – 90 gals
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual Balance –\$ 2,627.03

HWY Superintendent asked permission to attend the HWY class in Liberty at the Cornell Cooperative Extension building on local roads. Also permission to attend the HWY Superintendents School held in Ithaca, NY in June.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to allow the HWY Superintendent to attend both the Local Roads class, and the HWY Superintendents School. All present board members voted in favor.

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

- Re: monthly report
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
 - Continue to help Dee whenever I am able
 - Worked with Cooper Arias for the 2013 Audit
 - Answered questions for several people that received tickets 1 in our town and 1 in another town (wanting to know where he could call and get a copy of his ticket, as he lost it from Saturday until Monday).
 - UDC check # 3546 in the amount of \$100.00 received 2/27 /2014 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
 - I issued 1 temporary handicapped parking permit and 1 permanent parking permit
 - People coming in for their Court date at 10:00 a.m.; when Court is not in session. The Sheriff’s Dept. and the State Troopers are writing tickets for the wrong times. And people are losing work because of it. I just tell them to call the Court Clerk or come back when Court is in session.
 - Had a FOIL request re: gas drilling, wanted information and any laws passed from 2008 through 2012. Most everything requested is found on our web site. I contacted several other towns to see if they received the same request. Bethel, Forestburg have also received the request from the same person

Town Clerk report continues:

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- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I have received telephone calls for the Tax Collector, Assessor, CEO, Bookkeeper and Justice Court, still getting questions re: the ENHANCED STAR program. Told them they could register on line at the State website; or come in when the Assessor or her clerk were in the office.
- Worked a total of 110 1/2 hours
- Contractual balance: \$ 4,828.61

Supervisor mentioned that the Court Clerk gave her 2 week notice, he also authorized this position be advertised in both the River Reporter and Sullivan County Democrat as requested by the Justices. Town Clerk and Justices worked out the ad and it will be in both newspapers from March 13th through April 15th, 2014. It will also be posted on the town website.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)
Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours and traveled 678 miles.
- Issued 3 permits, there were no renewals.
- Issued 8 C of O's and no notices of disapprovals.
- Issued 3 municipal search letters.
- There was no appearance tickets issued.
- Revenue was \$625.00
- Expenses \$454.90
- Contractual Balance is \$4,478.80

It has been a quiet month with the cold and snow. Closing out old permits. Two buildings came down during the storm. CEO checked on both buildings. 1 on Shortcut and one on Mitchell Pond West.

ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)
Submitted a written report of activities.

- Official Undertaking Dep. Highway Sup./e-mail
- Attended Board meeting

Quiet month will discuss the fee schedule later

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy) not present
Submitted a written report: Which the Supervisor went over, the complete report is on file at the Town Clerk's office if anyone wishes to review it.

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present
Submitted a written report; which the Supervisor went over

Old Business:

1. Renewal exemption forms are mailed out and are due back March 1, 2014
2. Data Collection project: As in the prior month, I have been working on getting our photos back. At this time, Terri is able to enter the photos which she has already collected. She is continuing to review the building permit data, and as necessary make another inspection. In light of the weather, she was unable to get out in the field to finish up the photos, but spring is near!
3. I attended the mandatory training in Fishkill NY, it was the ethics class, which is required for all new Assessors, or reappointed Assessors. This class was the closest in proximity to our town.

New Business:

1. I will be attending a training class in Canton NY on March 28, 2014. This class and my lodging will be paid for by the Town of New Paltz.
2. Linda had a hip replacement on February 14th, at this time, she is recovering at home and hopes to return back to work on or around May 2014.

Feb	\$3,401.93			
		Data Collection		
			Feb	\$24,717.62
1355.4		Linda	0	
Sullivan CO aa	\$40.00	Terri	46	586.96
Lorry King	\$70.40	Total Feb	46	586.96
	\$110.40		March	\$24,130.66
Bal Total Feb	\$3,291.53			
		Hours:		
		Assessor:		
		39.50		

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Sharron Cardone) not present
No report submitted

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter)
Submitted a written report:

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- Average flow of 23,690 gallons per day for month of February
- Obtained 98 % C.B.O.D. and 97 % T.S.S. removal for February
- Spent a total of 66 hours attending to sewer district affairs in February
- Expenditures: \$1,931.05
- Contractual Balance: \$22,548.44

Plant is in compliance. DEC wants the pump station to have a generator (which we have been talking about, they also want a grinder pump and want UV lights. Supervisor contacted the Engineer, who suggested someone to look into this for us (Independent Contractor)

Supervisor –we need pump grinder and generator. Supervisor had a quote from Ned Lang for the pump grinder. The quote was for \$1,875.00.

RESOLUTION # 21
AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF PUMP GRINDER

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the Sewer Plant Pump Station is in need of a pump grinder as required by the DEC, and WHEREAS, the quote from Ned Lang is \$1,875.00 and therefore BE IT RESOLVED, the Sewer Plant Operator is hereby authorized to purchase pump grinder from Ned Lang to get the process started.

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

HWY: quotes and paper work for generator. Since both HWY and Sewer pump station need generators the cost would be \$1,199.00, but if inexpensive models are purchased you cannot get parts. Lake Huntington Auto for both 8KW cost approx. \$1,049.00. Sewer pump station needs a disconnect. Electric panel is also an issue; hookup 100 amp for 100 amp transfer switch. Thomas Electric could do the work. Building should be done before the generator and pump grinder installed. This was discussed.

Councilperson Nearing asked if anyone checked with Fosterdale Equipment.

RESOLUTION # 22
GENERATORS FOR BOTH THE SEWER PLANT PUMPING STATION AND HWY DEPT.

ON motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was WHEREAS, both the Sewer Plant Pumping Station and the HWY Dept. are in need of generators (8KW) both would cost approximately \$1,049.00 from Lake Huntington Auto Center as opposed to the quote of \$1,199.00 if purchased together, and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the generators will be purchased from Lake Huntington Auto Center at a cost of \$1,049.00
ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

Councilperson Richardson would like the building to look nice. Councilperson Nearing asked about air flow. CEO said there would be windows for cross ventilation.

Sewer Plant Operator said he needs to update the testing kits to be in compliance with the EPA.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile) not present
Submitted a written report;
Worked 6 hours
Contractual balance of \$3,000.00
Enumeration Contractual Balance: \$500.00

HISTORIAN: (K. C. Garn) not present
Submitted a written report:

- Surprisingly, I received no inquiries or requests for information this past month. Surely, as the weather warms, those amongst us who are "historically minded" (as well as inquisitive) will reappear loaded with interesting questions
- I did recently bump into Rob and Linda Guinan, of Hortonville, who told me they found some black and white photographs of an old boarding house in Cochection Center. They said the photos were from the early 1900's, that the place may have been called "The Algonquin" and that I could pick them up and add them to the Town's collection. I will do so...soon.
- Be well and enjoy your meeting.

UDC: (Larry Richardson)
Submitted a written report:

- The Upper Delaware Council held its regular meeting on Thursday March 6. During the year 2016, the National Park Service will be celebrating its Centennial. As a first glimpse of why and how the celebration will be conducted, Karen Henry from the NPS narrated a video from the National Director. One of the themes will be “Find Your Park”. There are currently 401 parks throughout the United States. We tend to think of the large well known parks such as Yellowstone, but there are many small parks readily available and relatively close. In providing a preliminary presentation, the NPS is asking for feed-back and suggestions from its partners such as the Upper Delaware Council.

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UDC report continues:

- For the first time in several years, we now have a full roster of representatives with the township of Westfall naming a rep. Tim Dugan a District Forester from PA DCNR will now represent PA. Mr. Dugan provided some interesting discussion about invasive species attacking the forests; specifically the Ash Borer. While the suggestion is to harvest ash timber while the trees are sound, it is not recommended to clear-cut all ash trees.
- Acting NPS Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur offered that a recent economic study for 2012 suggests that visitors to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreation River area contributed \$10,152,000.00 to the local economy. Based on how the Park Service counts noses, it would seem that this figure is low. The UDC staff was invited to sit with Park Service employees and provide input as to what characteristics and background we would like in a new permanent Superintendent. The NPS continues to work on digitalizing the oral history tapes made many years ago. They have found that there are many more than originally counted. They are working on the legality of how this valuable information might be made available to the public.
- The UDC will be holding a Cell Tower workshop on March 29, from 9-12:00am at the Tusten Town Hall. Presenters will be Frank Yoder, Pa. State Police Broadband Services Manger; David Church, the Orange Cty Planning Commissioner; and Richard Comi, co-owner of the Center for Municipal Solutions. It is hoped that this seminar will provide some basic education to planners in regards to where and how any proposed cell towers might be sited. Eventually, we would like to see a comprehensive plan that could be agreed to and used by municipalities on both sides of the Delaware. We recognize the desire and need for cell tower services, but the system should not sacrifice the beauty of the Delaware corridor. Travis O'Dell from the UDC office is working to make it possible that attendance at this presentation will count toward required training for planning and zoning boards. It is very important that all of our planning and zoning board members attend.
- The NPS has been asked to provide the boundaries of the River Corridor on a digital map. It will be important that all town zoning maps are also digitalized so that this information, when available can be over-laid.
- Actions taken:
 - A 4th draft letter to the Pa Environmental Quality Board with comments on Proposed PA Chapter 78 Regulations was approved. *(deals with proposed changes in well drilling regulations)*

TOWN BOARD:

(Councilperson Story) – Not present

(Councilperson Nearing) – Asked if anyone went to the play at the High School –they did a good job

(Councilperson Grund) - Nothing to report

(Councilperson Richardson) - Rick Landers – what to do with the Narrowsburg School. Visitors Center for the river valley, Environmental conference center, New home for NPS – Consolidation

New Home for UDC with access to auditorium, new home for Scenic By-way, Auditorium uses etc. just to name a few. Asking price \$700,000.00

(Supervisor Maas) Nothing more to add

OLD BUSNIESS:

1. Basement completion – Well Testing – Water treatment - pending
2. Unsafe Buildings – mentioned earlier – 2 trailers NTP – pending
3. Shared Services – hasn’t gotten anywhere

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Unsafe Buildings – discussed earlier
2. Rug Cleaner – should be commercial –Supervisor will look into this matter
3. Fee Schedule –Councilperson Richardson – may have on disc. Discuss at a later meeting
4. Sewer Services – discussed earlier

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No on wished to comment

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to recess this Town Board meeting; to March 27th at 6:30 p.m. Time 8:55 p.m. All board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk