

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on March 14, 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 PM.

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

Others Present:
Hollye Schulman --Town Clerk Kevin Esselman –Highway Superintendent John J. Keating –Attorney
Gregg Semenetz –CEO Sharron Cardone—Planning Board Chair Entered at 7:38 p.m.
Eileen Hennessy –Tax Collector

RESOLUTION # 15
WEBSITE UPDATE

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was
WHEREAS, the Cochection Town Board created a web site for the Town of Cochection so that anyone would be able to gain current contact information for all department heads and board members, public notices, upcoming meeting information, current budget information, local policies, and current zoning laws. Also updated is the Event Calendar for local meetings and events and gallery of pictures of Cochection scenes and events. To keep the site updated since it was created requires several updates monthly and someone who has the ability to do it. The Town of Cochection Board realizes the ability and effort to do this and would like to enter into a contract with Anna Story who has currently been trained and keeping the website up to date. For the services, the town is willing to contract with Anna Story for the yearly amount of \$720.00 to maintain the Town of Cochection website
ADOPTED: AYES – 4 NAYS – 0 Councilperson Story abstained
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Schulman

Attorney mentioned that the Town needs to enter a contract with Anna Story which he will get ready for her signature and the Supervisor’s.

RESOLUTION # 16
SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZED TO SIGN CONTRACT ENTERED INTO WITH ANNA STORY FOR UPDATING THE TOWN OF COCHECTON WEBSITE

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was
WHEREAS, the Town Board has agreed to enter into a contract with Anna Story to update the Town’s website for a sum of \$720.00 per year, and the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the contact when it is ready
ADOPTED: AYES – 4 NAYS – 0 Councilperson Story abstained
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Schulman

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story the following motion was to approve the minutes of February 8, 2012 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 for payment the bills on abstract # 3 in the following amount.

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| General Account | Voucher # 79-122 | \$19,025.65 |
| Debit Card Account | Voucher #'s 123-124 | \$601.42 |
| Sewer Account | Voucher # 125-127 | \$2,099.79 |
| Lighting District Account | Voucher # 128 | \$562.84 |
| Highway Account | Voucher # 129-143 | \$33,055.34 |

Claim #'s 84, 93, 97, 107, 109, 110 and 116 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.
Prepaid claims were paid on 2/14/2012 and 2/21/2021
All voted in favor.

Presentation by Katy Strong for the Allyson Whitney Foundation, Inc. –Katy contacted the Supervisor and informed him the school has denied use of the facility, they have another event scheduled; she is scrambling to find an alternate site

CORRESPONDENCE:
Letter: USI willing to help the town with the GASBY requirement
Letter: Time Warner Cable with updated channels
NYMIR letter on how to report accidents
Time Warner Cable notifying where they have run internet cable in the town. 16 new homes on Westervelt Road now can have access to high-speed internet; they also ran internet cable from Devils Road past Richardson’s home on Bernas Road.
Supervisor mentioned e-mails from Allan Rubin regarding an article in the Sullivan County Democrat stating that the town was pro gas drilling. Councilperson Richardson takes offense to the statement as the town board is neither pro or against gas drilling; and that was a false statement in the newspaper. Supervisor Maas read his e-mail response
There will be a workshop on March 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Tusten regarding the River Management Plan. Councilperson Richardson stated this is a very important meeting and strongly recommends that all Boards attend. There are a lot of new persons that may not be aware of the River Management Plan.

Robert Freeman will be the guest speaker on May 16, 2012 at the Wallkill Country Club—this is also the OSTCA meeting date and place
Brunch – Ferndale Loomis Road ??????
Allan Rubin info regarding gas drilling
Travis Rhodes, inquiring about holding a 5K run around the lake. Supervisor read his response asking for additional information for this 5K run. Councilperson Richardson –asked when does closing the road become a burden?
There will be a SLAC meeting on March 30th at the Government Center. Maria Alvarez will discuss the NYS budget
Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP U.S. Patent—nothing would prevent the Town from using the Delta Program

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Michael Attianese, Pinewood Road, asked if someone leased property for gas drilling and they are tax exempt now, who would pay the taxes. He was told the gas company would pay fine for the property owner
No one else wished to comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
97 Pull off: Councilperson Richardson had some photos where the pull off would be, board needs to decide where sign should be located, and also how the apron will be configured. The whole project does not need to be finished at one time
Councilperson Story mentioned that perhaps students in the Government Class at the high school could do some of the work for their community service

Youth Commission: Councilperson Edwin Grund said the Youth Commission should have a name for the new member by the next meeting to fill the vacant spot left when Jerold Yavarkovsky retired his position. On April 14 they will be going to the movies. Joan Ernst will be the rep. for the County for the proposal review committee

Office of the Aging: Councilperson Richard Schulman reported that there will be a meeting at the Co-op Extension re; discussing family long term care, there will be light refreshments. On May 5, 2012 at the Loch Sheldrake fire co. there will be 4 bays available to help elderly persons with making sure their vehicles are appropriate for them, check mirrors, brakes, turn signals etc. Phone Office of Aging at 807-0241 for an appointment. Also mentioned Sullivan County Triad will present a program on how to reduce elderly abuse etc.

Litter Pluck, Website: Councilperson Anna Story- spoke to Kristen Porter—she doesn’t know if the County is sponsoring litter pluck this year. Anna is waiting for more information, she has a list of who covered what roads and will contact them to see if they are willing to do litter pluck again this year. Also mentioned updating the website and what has been taken off the website and what has been put on the different pages to keep the site up to date She worked 9 hours on the website in the month of February

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

- Submitted a written report;
- 1. Monthly Financial Report
 - Bank Information:
 - Deposited \$100.00 UDC check
 - Deposited \$925.00 Judicial fees
 - Deposited \$785.00 Judicial fees
 - Deposited \$1,268.28 Town Clerk fees
 - Deposited \$15.00 Poundage
 - Deposited \$20,767.37 IDA check
 - Deposited \$8,468.56 Mortgage Tax
 - Made transfers as needed
- 2. Activity
 - Closed Building Capital Accounts
 - Returned letter to Sullivan County Business Chamber
 - Got quotes for water softener and painting old town hall
 - Meetings & Calls with CEO, Highway supt., FEMA, Ethan Cohen, and Sheriff’s office
 - Updated Payroll program and renewed payroll subscription
 - Called and met with Ross Winglovitz on completing community room
 - Letters to attorney general on code of ethics and letter to state comptroller for extension
 - Calls to Time Warner for internet service for highway dept.
 - Audit for 2011 with Cooper Neiman

| | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| CONTRACTUAL | | \$5,500.00 |
| Abstract #1 | \$0.00 | \$5,500.00 |
| Abstract #2 | \$456.88 | \$5,043.12 |
| Abstract#3 | \$634.15 | \$4,408.97 |

Old Town Hall painting quote -- so far only one response. Waiting to hear from the other persons contacted

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

- Submitted written report, plowed and sanded as needed
- Brushing roads that we plan to work on in the summer

- All equipment has been serviced and repaired as needed
- I've followed up with FEMA and expect to receive a good sum of money
- Worked 156 hours
- Contractual Balance:\$1,017.05

Highway Superintendent mentioned that on Feb. 27th a cable broke on one of the original overhead doors on the Town barn. Although we are able to repair it, the cable should be replaced. After further inspection of the door it didn't make sense to put money into something that should be replaced. The panels have holes in them, the bottom of the door is rotted out and the track and rollers are in poor shape. Also there is a lot of heat being lost. I had gotten two quotes to replace the door. I would like to go ahead and have Sullivan Overhead Doors come in and replace it. The quote Are Sullivan Overhead Doors \$2,075.00 and Dutchess Overhead Doors quote is \$3,270.00.

The Town Board gave permission for the Highway Superintendent to purchase the door from Sullivan Overhead Doors for the quoted amount of \$2,075.00

Highway Superintendent mentioned that the Highway Superintendents give a scholarship to a senior that is going into public service within their community. Several persons mentioned that if you call the school they will give you a recommendation on who they feel should receive the scholarship

Councilperson Schulman asked the Highway Superintendent if he was going to have any of the men become certified so they could adjust breaks and other things that are required by municipalities in order to fix or repair their own equipment. Highway Superintendent is looking into it

There are two stop signs down on Devils Road; this may be something the County needs to take care of at least off of State Route 52 or County Road 113

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

Re: monthly report

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- Collected fees for the month of February \$722.54
- There was no OSTCA meeting in February
- The UDC check # 2286 in the amount of \$100.00 received 3/1/ 2012 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I issued 2 permanent and 1 temporary handicapped parking permits in the month of February
- I also printed applications for Agri. Exemptions and building permit forms from our web site for several property owners
- I provided information for Copper –Niemann Co. Auditors for the Town of Cochection for FY 2011
- Councilperson Grund measured my office for some shelving.
- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I have received telephone calls for the Tax Collector, Assessor, CEO, bookkeeper and Justice Court and still receiving a few calls regarding the letter sent out for dog enumerations. We are having a good response to the letter
- Contractual balance: \$6,307.96

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report:

- Worked a total of 80 hours
- Total mileage 665
- Permits issued: 1
- Renewals: 0, C of O's issued: 6
- Notice of Disapproval: 5, Municipal search letters: 1, Appearance tickets: 0,
- Revenues: \$175.00, Expenses: \$415.75
- Contractual balance: \$4,169.13

Of the four unsafe building letters sent out, so far there were 2 responses. The Pines Hotel being a commercial building will be costly for the town to removed, if the owner does not take care of it. Cannot be buried on site, debris will have to be hauled away

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy)

- Tax money collected \$2,080,652.97
- Paid out to Supervisor Gary Maas \$1,153,719.20
- Paid to Ira Cohen, County Treasurer \$850,000.00
- Balance in Checkbook \$79,080.01
- Worked 59 hours in February
- Contractual Balance: \$3,575.98

So far this year we are at 77.2% slightly ahead of last year

HISTORIAN: (K. C. Garn) absent

Submitted a written report: Which the Supervisor went over

An inquiry regarding a Martin Bodnar of Fosterdale was referred to me this past week or so. The inquiry was concerning Mr. Bodnar's ownership of property in the Fosterdale area. I found he had purchased 2 parcels of land in that area, totaling about 18 acres or so, in 1922. He sold them in the early 1940's and had no other estate in Sullivan County. That information, including addresses and the dates of the deeds, seemed to answer the lady's questions. If anyone has any further information regarding the Bodnar family, please let me know. There were no other inquiries that I could assist with. Another person contacted me asking if Cochection had ever held a "Green Corn Festival", but no one I spoke to had ever heard of such a thing.

Hope you're all well and enjoying this warm, so far, March weather

Councilperson Richardson said K.C. is doing a great job, just wants to know if he is keeping up with current events, which will be our history in later years

ATTORNEY: (John J. Keating)

- Submitted a written report:
- Prosecute Justice Court matters (two dates)
- Prepare annual audit report

Nothing more to add

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Submitted a written report; which the Supervisor went over

Old Business: Continually reviewing of all sales and related inventory. Exemption/renewals are due by March 1, 2012

New Business: Reviewed the PDC from State and am waiting on our tentative eq rate and Residential Assessment Raito Expenses \$17.79

Worked 37.75 hours, Clerk worked 54.5 hours

Contractual Balance: \$3,320.59

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Sharron Cardone)

- Meeting was opened at 7:30 PM – all members except Joe Manaseri, George Blaso and Neal Halloran were present.
- Minutes of December meeting were not approved. Hopefully we can do this at the March meeting
- . Read correspondence from Sullivan Cty Planning – training session to be held on February 29th at the Government Center. From 4 to 6 pm session on State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and from 6:30 to 8pm session on Farmland Protection and Agricultural Viability. Planning and Zoning Board of appeals members can receive all 4 hours of their State mandated Training credits in one day. Earl, James and George Walters are planning on attending.
- No old business
- New Business – Fredenburg Subdivision on Buff Rd was presented by Ward Engineering. Dividing one 2.69 acre parcel from the 62+ acre parent parcel. Need to have driveway site distance put on map. Perk test was done and all was OK. Setting this up for Public Hearing for the March meeting
- .No other new business.
- Other business – Earl advised that the zoning advisory committee was not reappointed by the Town Board. I handed out some info regarding Planning boards that I received at the Association of Towns seminar that I attended from 2/19 to 2/22. I also discussed some of the classes I took at this seminar. Took 3 different classes on gas drilling. One class by a drilling company that is actively drilling in Pennsylvania, one by attorneys given to help towns in zoning this out and one by DEC going over some of what their new regulations that they are putting together on drilling will be. While I was taking the class by the attorneys – someone came in and advised that the court had made a decision stating that towns have the right to zone out drilling in their towns.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM
- I will be doing a report on my attendance at the 2012 Association of Towns and will present it to the board at the April meeting

Councilperson Richardson is reducing some of the information he has on disc –giving the disc to the Planning Board

SEWER OFFICER: (George Walter) not present

- Submitted a written report:
- Average flow of 29,701 gallons per day for month of February
- Obtained 95.8.0 % C.B.O.D. and 94.5 % T.S.S. removal for February
- Spent a total of 70 1/2 hours attending to sewer district affairs in February
- Expenditures: \$534.95
- Contractual Balance: \$19,255.74

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile) not present

Submitted a written report; The Supervisor went over the report

Worked 43 hours –seized 2 dogs

Had to take a dog to the vet, had broken leg this bill alone was \$430.00

Spent \$555.95 leaving the contractual balance of \$944.05

Enumeration Contractual Balance: \$1,000.00

UDC: (Larry Richardson)

Due to the weather, the regular meeting for March of the Upper Delaware Council was canceled.

Some topics that were discussed in the Project Review Committee:

- Pond Eddy Bridge proposals. One concern that has been expressed is that the construction of the replacement bridge may necessitate the blocking off of the river for river users. Anyone traveling on the river would have to exit the water and portage around the construction area.
 - Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1100 and House Bill 1950 were passed over the objections of local townships. This bill takes away the limited rights local townships had to regulate gas drilling and puts it in the hands of the state.
 - Town of Lumberland proposed zoning changes; one change noted is that conservation subdivisions will not be mandated but rather preferred.
 - Town of Hancock is working on a flood damage prevention ordinance.
 - Wireless communication plan for western Sullivan County by the County
- Topics discussed in the Operations Committee:

UDC report continues:

- Up coming River Management Plan workshop at the Tusten Town Hall on March 24. All town and township boards should plan on attending.
- Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 22 at the Carriage House in Barryville.

Nan Hayworth has agreed to be the guest speaker

TOWN BOARD:

(Councilperson Story) – Nothing to report
(Councilperson Schulman) – Asked Supervisor to explain the IDS figures
(Councilperson Grund) - Nothing to report
(Councilperson Richardson) - Nothing more to add
(Supervisor Maas) Nothing more to add

OLD BUSNISS:

1. New Town Hall –landscaping—pending
2. MMTF update –Fri. there is a meeting in Narrowsburg—road use may need some tweaking
3. Pull-off Rte 97 for byway –discussed earlier
4. NYMIR Review – this has been done
5. Water system – the water softener is in just need to be installed
6. Basement completion – spoke about earlier should know more next month
7. Old Town Hall –Paint exterior –mentioned earlier waiting on several more quotes
8. New Town Hall update: settling and closed account –Justin will take care of this shortly
9. Unsafe buildings – update –CEO spoke about this earlier

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NIMS –waiting on additional information
2. Litter pluck –date not confirmed usually end of April beginning of May. Last year it was April 30th, but the trash was accepted until May 7th
3. Spring Cleanup days—to be held the weekend prior to Memorial Day. The date will be May 19th & 20th. Town may limit to one trip per household this has yet to be decide; will depend on what the County allows in tonnage

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to adjourn this Town Board meeting. Time 9:18 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk