

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on April 8, 2015 at 7:00PM 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 Gary 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 7:53 p.m.  
 Michael Walter –SPO entered at 7:42 p.m.      Eileen Hennessy –Tax collector

During the work session, Andrew Arias, rep: from Cooper, Arias & Co., - presented the Annual Audit Report for FY 2014 and explained same. The Town is in good financial shape. No long term debt. Healthy fund balances. Good tracking of expenses and revenues.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to approve the minutes of March 11<sup>th</sup> and be accepted as submitted. All board members present voted in favor.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Grund the following motion was to approve for payment the bills on abstract # 4 in the following amounts.

General Account	Voucher # 134-167	\$14,516.83
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 168	\$354.95
Sewer Account	Voucher # 169-173	\$1,397.19
Lighting District	Voucher # 136, 139	\$609.45
Highway Account	Voucher # 174-185	\$34,572.79

Voucher #'s 144, 157, 159, 160, 166, 167, 168 and 174 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.  
 Voucher #'s 134-147 are noted as PREPAID on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015. All board members present voted in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

RSVP: Luncheon will be May 11 at Villa Roma; \$25.00 guest fee  
 SWCS: Breakfast March 20<sup>th</sup> –Supervisor, HWS and Town Clerk attended. Shared services was the topic.  
 UDC: Annual Awards Ceremony April 26, 2015 at the Central House in Beach Lake. PA. Cost \$26.00 per person  
 NYMIR: Proxy for Annual Meeting  
 TWC: Town received a check in the amount of \$12,909.53 for franchise January 1 through December 31, 2014. Supervisor feels this is leveling off as there are not many new subscribers.  
 NYMIR: Drive to Survive training program is a 2 ½ hour, lecture based seminar, which addresses advanced topics that are not normally covered in basic driver training program. Mostly for operators of police and emergency vehicles

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to comment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**County Charter Commission:** Councilperson Richardson—Met on March 25. Dr. Gerald Benjamin a professor at SUNY New Paltz and an expert on State and local governments provided background information on the process and concerns regarding Ulster County’s move to an elected County Executive. Dr. Benjamin was 12 years a county legislature and served two years as Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature. He reviewed the positives as well as the negatives to consider when contemplating such a move; example an appointed county manager is a professional and if he/she surrounds themselves with good people, that can hide their incompetency for a long time. Might consider an elected County Comptroller as a watchdog over county spending. Term limits were discussed. For instance we might consider a term limit of 8 years for county executive and perhaps six years for county legislators. Following Dr. Benjamin’s presentation, the committee moved to have 3 Co-Chairs who will operate on a rotating basis. The chairs are Paul Burckard, Nadia Rajsz and J J Hanson. The next meeting is set for Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chamber. In the future we will plan to move the meetings around the county in an effort to get citizens participation. As always, if anyone has constructive suggestions, please contact me or any of the members

**Youth Commission:** Councilperson Grund – Meeting held April 7<sup>th</sup>. Planning a trip to Dorney Park on June 30<sup>th</sup>, Indoor Water Park on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> signups May 5<sup>th</sup>. Mailed out fund raising letters to businesses. Swimming at Woodlock Pines is coming up. Looking into other new events such as a Climbing wall, Villa Roma Bounce House, Museum Village, Scranton Cultural Center, The Castle and Bethel Woods. We have a new Email/ Gmail/Facebook. There is a bylaw meeting coming up to review the bylaws to see if anything needs changing. At the County meeting they discussed how some counties like Rockland and Westchester don’t use their allotted money. So they want the small towns to voucher all there expenses so if there is money left it can be split up to the towns that show they use it. Next meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

**Website and Fire District:** Councilperson Story –Website Report – March, 2015

- Added March agenda with links to the upcoming meeting page.
- Added approved March Town Board minutes
- Added approved Planning Board minutes
- Removed expired legal notices
- Added new youth events and removed expired events
- Added flyer with link for fire company field day to news alerts
- Added Preservation Society Meeting information (per Larry)
- Changed Highway Dept. County Commissioner (per Gary)
- Re-set hits on all the website pages
- Review and corrections to minutes for Hollye
- E-mail to Larry RE: Preservation Society
- Phone call and e-mail to Dorene Warner RE: website calendar
- Added Adopted Budget to Budget page (Noticed it was the Preliminary Budget)
- Archived Town Board and Planning Board minutes
- E-mail to Dorene Warner RE: website calendar (No response from first contact)

Total Hours Worked: 6 hours

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**SUPERVISOR/ DEPUTY SUPERVISOR** (Gary Maas) present

Submitted a written report;

- Monthly Financial Report
- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$1,062.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,051.50.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$799.05 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$1,400.00 for Youth and Rec
- Deposited \$1,048.00 for HWY and \$525.02 General on debit card
- Deposited \$1,528.06 from IDA for NY Central RR
- Deposited \$12,909.53 from TWC franchise
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actual to board members
- Activity: Calls or e-mails to Engineering Properties, Cooper Arias and 2014 financials have been completed. Meetings with Kevin Esselman, Steve Sauer. SPDES Permit completed and has been issued. Also have worked on application for Sewer Plant with DRBC Brought Historical Signs to Melanie Larkin. One sign done. Went to Supervisors Meeting. Received SPEDES permit. Ordered Dog trap. Received Financials from Cooper Arias

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	\$212.50	\$ 2,853.65
Abstract #5	\$	\$
Abstract #6	\$	\$
Abstract #7	\$	\$
Abstract #8	\$	\$
Abstract #9	\$	\$
Abstract #10	\$	\$
Abstract #11	\$	\$
Abstract #12	\$	\$

Worked 98 hours

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (Kevin Esselman) present

Submitted written report

- Out plowed and sanded as needed.
- Had repairs on equipment.
- Added stone to gravel roads due to frost going out
- Went to Albany for Advocacy Day for more CHIPS money.
- Out patching potholes.
- Started replacing the floor in the dump body on truck #30.
- Been servicing the equipment
- Handed Hollye a check for \$69.20 from shop scrap
- Went to a meeting at S.W. with Gary and Hollye over the tax freeze.
- Had sand hauled in for next year.
- Diesel Used – 1,134 gal / Del – 1,024 Gas Used – 164 gal / Del – 300.1
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual balance – \$2,336.62

HWY Superintendent needs to advertise bid for stone and blacktop

**RESOLUTION # 19****TOWN CLERK TO PLACE LEGAL NOTICE FOR STONE AND BLACKTOP**

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the Highway Department is in need of stone and blacktop to perform their duties, and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk place legal notices in The River Reporter for blacktop and stone bids for the Highway Dept. and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the bids shall be returnable by May 12, 2015 to the Town Clerk's office or sent to Town Clerk, PO Box 295, Lake Huntington, NY, 12752 and they will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular town board meeting on May 13, 2015

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

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

**TOWN CLERK:** (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report:

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk.
- UDC check #1280 in the amount of \$100.00 received 3/30/2015 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day.
- I have provided information to people looking for logging permits; I walk them through the town website so they can download the forms they need.
- 2 temporary handicapped parking permits and 0 permanent permits issued in March
- I provided 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 April 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending a NYSTCA Conference in Rochester I will post the door and leave a message on the phone.
- Worked a total of 128 1/2 hours
- Contractual balance \$3,385.70

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours
- Traveled 610 miles
- Issued 3 permit, no renewals, 0 C of O's 1 notice of disapproval and 1 municipal search letter, no appearance tickets
- Revenues: \$250.00
- Expenses \$437.50
- Contractual Balance: \$3,975.00

Attorney will start the process for the removal of the unsafe building on Stony Road.

Unsafe Building on Old County Road; property owner was notified of violation and the building was down very quickly. Lorry King and CEO looked at pictures on Shortcut Road, property owner looking to take down. Unsafe Building on Stony Road—the Town will have to have removed, as the property owners have no money for the removal. Spoke with Linda (Assessor's Clerk) re: unsafe buildings on New Turnpike Road—there is a person that wants to purchase and remove. Unsafe building on CR 114 due to fire will be removed—equipment is being put in place for the demo

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** (Karen Mannino)

Research potential sewer district expansion, email to Supervisor, call to supervisor

Attended Town Board meeting March 11, 2015

Researched the woodchip issue and seems OK for property owners to take some as it is a waste product.

Councilperson Richardson said there should be a sign that states no commercial use.

Councilperson Nearing asked if the area where the chips would be put is a wet area. He was told not so much as it is a high spot

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report:

- Check # 354 \$315,384.08 SC treasurer Nancy Buck
- Balance in check book \$8,643.41
- Collected 84.47% this year
- 2014 collected 83.61%
- Worked 43 hours in the month of March

Tax are done and handed books over to the County today

**ASSESSOR:** (Lorry J. King) not present

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over her report

*Old Business:*

1. *Nothing old lingering!*

*New Business:*

1. *The County is looking at changing the Veterans exemption to include the Gold Star Parents. All towns are being asked to also adopt this exemption as well. I will provide any updates as they are available.*

**Assessor's report continues:**

2. Our data collection project is coming to an end. We do have a few pictures that need to be entered and I expect Terri will be here finishing up before the end of July.

Data Collection Project March Balance  
 Terri 38 hours \$514.90  
 Total March \$514.90  
 Assessors hours 37 ¾  
 Clerk 38 hours  
 A 1355.400  
 Contractual Balance: \$3,330.20

**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR:** No one in this position at this time  
 They did not hold a meeting in March –no report

**SEWER OFFICER:** (Michael Walter)

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 55,286 gallons per day for month of March
- Obtained 89% C.B.O.D. and 95% T.S.S. removal for March
- Spent a total of 76 hours attending to sewer district affairs in March, Clerk 10 hours
- Expenditures \$1,450.69
- Contractual Balance: \$21,574.64

There's a bad motor on pump # 1, ordered new one which came in today, and will be installed tomorrow. American Electric gave a quote of \$395.00 for annual inspection of generator at sewer plant; but they would be willing to service both generators one at sewer plant and one at the Town Hall for \$586.50

Peak Power Systems quoted \$438.50 for annual inspection for the generator at the sewer plant

**RESOLUTION # 20****ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM AMERICAN ELECTRIC TO SERVICE BOTH GENERATORS**

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was  
 WHEREAS, the generator at the sewer plant is in need of annual servicing, and American Electric quoted \$395.00 for this annual servicing, and

WHEREAS, the generator at the Town Hall is in need of servicing, American Electric is willing to service both generators for \$586.50, and

NOWFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Town Board accepts the quote from American Electric to service both generators one at the sewer plant and one at the Town Hall for \$586.50

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

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson Grund and Nearing

There was a \$500.00 charge for the DRBC to put the Lake Huntington Sewer Plant into the system and this check was sent directly to the DRBC.

SPO feels it might be beneficial to use the Bio-block for grease removal; each bio-block cost approx. \$100.00. SPO is working on getting quotes for the solid waste removal

**DOG CONTROL OFFICER:** (Rosemary Barile) not present

Submitted a written report:

Traveled 198 miles; expenditures of \$299.85 and worked 20 hours

Contractual balance: \$1,700.15

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

Submitted a written report The Supervisor went over his report

Ms. Sue Nicoletti sent me several dozen letters written during World War I from Pvt. J. Benjamin Maas of Cochection Center to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Maas. Most of the letters are written while he was in training in New Jersey ("Camp Dix") and discuss army life. A couple of the letters, most notably one dated 11/18/1918 after the war ended, are written from France. There are also a couple of letters from Harold Maas (from Ft. Bliss, TX). I'm not sure how Ms. Nicoletti obtained possession of these letters, but she said they were located in a home in Orange County near, I believe, Warwick. They're available for viewing should anyone be interested.

Councilperson Richardson mentioned that the historian never makes mention of current events, and this is our history going forward

There were no other contacts from the public last month. Please enjoy your meeting.

**UDC:** (Larry Richardson)

Submitted a written report:

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday April 2
- **Following** roll call, Shannon Thol presented a prototype of a "Geographic Information System for the Upper Delaware River Region". This information system would seem to be an excellent tool for the UDC to use as well as local towns/townships when reviewing a proposal within or near the river corridor. An operator will be able to look at a specific property (much as with Google Earth) and retrieve geological and zoning information quickly. You will be able to measure distances between two fixed points, such as distance to boundary or waterway. The goal is to have much of the site ready by mid-year and fully ready to launch in 2016.
- **PA** representative Rhonda Manning reported that 27 counties have been placed under a drought watch because of the ground water recharge.

**UDC report continues:**

- **DRBC** representative Ken Najjar reported that there is about 6" on average of snow pack around the upstate reservoirs. Only about half of the snow will end up in the reservoir. We are still in a precipitation deficit in relation to last year. He also discussed outside funding for the agency.
- **DEC** reminded everyone that an outdoor burning ban is in effect.
- **NPS** Superintendent Heister stated that a representative will attend the Project Review Committee meeting in April to discuss the procedures followed when issuing a Commercial Use Authorization Permit such as for liveries or guides. She noted that there are almost as many licensed fishing guides in the Upper Delaware as there is in the entire Yellowstone Park.
- A letter was read from PennDot regarding closures at the Narrowsburg Bridge during reconstruction. The letter says closures when necessary will be very short, maybe 5 minutes to allow the contractor to relocate equipment.
- **The** question has been brought up as to whether the Council could bank funds in a dedicated account for a future project such as a comprehensive review of the River Management Plan. The preliminary answer is no.
- **Actions taken:**
  - Approved a letter to NPS Superintendent Heister supporting the Law Enforcement Collaboration Plan with the Delaware Water Gap region.
  - Approved a letter to PennDot commenting on the Boater Safety Plan to be used during the Pond Eddy Bridge replacement project.
  - Approved a letter to Central New York Railroad stressing the need to use the highest rated railroad containers for transporting hazardous material along the Delaware.

Councilperson Nearing asked if there were rules and regs. re: boats being cleaned. He was told there are rules and reg. in place for boats coming into different waterways

**TOWN BOARD:**

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Nearing and Supervisor Maas had nothing to add

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Unsafe Buildings – covered earlier
2. Sewer Dept. –SPEDES permit and DRBC permit –discussed earlier

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Bulletin Board –Supervisor asked the HWY to assist in getting the bulletin board here and put in place
2. Corduroy Road –walking trail OK, property owners need to sign off on right of way and would need to be named on the Town's insurance if this goes through
3. Clean up days –Town Board decided that May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> would be offered as the town's cleanup days.

**RESOLUTION # 21****TOWN CLERK TO PLACE DISPLAY AD FOR CLEANUP DAYS**

On motion of Councilperson Richardson,, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall place a display ad in The River Reporter advising the residents of the Town Cleanup Days May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

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

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Eileen Hennessy, asked if the Youth Commission needs to make copies are they allowed to use the Town Hall copier. Town Board said that would be allowed; but Eileen would be the one doing the copies as she has a key to the upstairs

No one else wished to comment.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was that this Town Board move into executive session –possible litigations. Time 8:37 pm. All present board members voted in favor

Others present Attorney and Town Clerk

**MOTION:** ON motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was that this Town Board move out of executive session. Time 8:52 pm. All present board members voted in favor

While in executive session no decision made.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to adjourn this meeting.. All board members present voted in favor. Time 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk