

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on April 9, 2014 at 7:00PM 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 7:34 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

During the work session, Andrew Arias, rep: from Cooper, Arias & Co., - presented the Annual Audit Report for FY 2013 and explained same. The Town is in good financial shape. No long term debt. Good tracking of expenses and revenues.

After looking over the Schedule of Fees and making a few changes, the Town Board members are happy with the changes.

**RESOLUTION# 28**

**ADOPT SCHEDULE OF FEES WITH THE CHANGES AS DISCUSSED**

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was WHEREAS, after discussing the Schedule of Fees and having decided on what changes were needed and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schedule of Fees with the changes is hereby adopted

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

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to approve the minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 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 # 157-186	\$13,538.20
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 187	\$100.00
Sewer Account	Voucher # 188-193	\$1,708.49
Lighting District	Voucher # 194	\$379.73
Highway Account	Voucher # 195-203	\$22,480.73

Voucher #'s 162 and 179 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Voucher #'s 157-166 are noted as PREPAID on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> 2014. All board members present voted in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Time Warner Cable with programming changes and also franchise check in the amount of \$12,243.06  
 Sullivan County Youth Commission – regarding Insurance for Cochecton Youth group, Supervisor took care of this issue through NYMIR and sent documents to the County  
 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway –Councilperson Richardson’s thoughts on how to improve State Route 97 to make it safer. Including suggestions for roadway conditions, sight distance, turning radius, speed limits, lane width etc.  
 Cohen Law Group – re: Cable Franchises Transfer from Time Warner to Comcast  
 Letter from Crystal Run Healthcare – re: Linda Schwartz on medical leave due to left hip replacement  
 UDC – announcing Annual awards ceremony to be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Henning’s Local, Eldred, NY, at a cost of \$26.00 per person  
 Delaware Liquor License Services – re: Matsons Ruffcut Grill Inc. 30 day waiver  
 Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce—announcing their annual fundraiser April 12, 2014 7:30 – 11:30 p.m. at Monticello Casino & Raceway  
 Letter from Helene Indelicato thanking the Town Board for the very nice framed Resolution in memory of Sal; this framed resolution hangs proudly in their home

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one else wished to comment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Planning Board: Councilperson Richardson mentioned the presentation in Tusten, re: sighting of cell towers was well attended by members of the Planning Board and Zoning board. Would encourage the Planning Board to take some time to look at the Zoning and Sub-division and Comprehensive plans to see what changes might be needed  
 Youth Commission: Councilperson Grund – received donation for \$500.00 from the Cochecton’s Men’s Club.  
 Wendy Kraack –Mentioned the Lake Huntington Fire Department will hold their event July 12 re: A Day on the Lake, asked the Youth Commission to take part with the Bounce Houses.

Movies – Captain America, the Winter Soldier Callicoon Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.  
 Bowling check in 6-8 p.m. held in Honesdale Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Coal Mine Tour April 26<sup>th</sup>, Great Wolf Lodge Nov. 8, 2014 June 3<sup>rd</sup>, sign ups Lazar Tag  
 Claws and Paws sign ups are June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Office of The Aging: Councilperson Grund –nothing to report

Website: Councilperson Story –Website Report – March, 2014  
 Added March 12 and 27 agenda with links to Upcoming Meetings, Added January Planning Board Minutes  
 Added February Town Board minutes, Added Help Wanted ad to Legal Notices and News Alerts box (front page)  
 Added youth bowling event and sign up date to youth page and calendar. Worked a total of 3 ½ hours in March.

I worked a total of 4.25 hours in February. I added a public library link to Our Community page at the request of the Library organizer. I also fixed the broken link to ORPS on assessor’s page and Board of assessment review page. I also did the regular monthly work such as adding agenda, minutes and youth events to the various pages.

I will be working on archiving the minutes but I have been holding off on that because I’m still waiting for planning board minutes from last year to be approved.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:  
 SUPERVISOR/ DEPUTY SUPERVISOR (Gary Maas) present**

- Submitted written report:
  1. Monthly Financial Report

Bank Information:

Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check  
 Deposited \$623.00 Judicial fees  
 Deposited \$925.00 Judicial fees  
 Deposited \$1,411.71 Town Clerk fees  
 Deposited \$505.78 for Debit Card  
 Deposited \$12,243.06 from Time Earner  
 Deposited \$15,000.0 Transfer Station rent  
 Made transfers and deposits as needed

2. Activity

Calls with Karen Mannino, NYS Health Dept, George Walter, Ed Weitman, Dan Sturn, Bipkin Ganhdi, Tom Bose, Ed Sykes, Engineering Properties, Mike Preis, attended interviews for court clerk

Attended Supervisors Meeting, filled out survey for SC Planning on Agriculture, Meeting with Bipkin Ganhdi, ordered Historical Marker, acquired ins. Certificate for Youth Board,

CONTRACTUAL		\$5,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 375.60	\$4,624.40
Abstract #2	\$ 716.78	\$3,907.62
Abstract#3	\$ 132.80	\$3,774.82
Abstract #4	\$	\$
Abstract #5	\$	\$
Abstract#6	\$	\$
Abstract#7	\$	\$
Abstract#8	\$	\$
Abstract#9	\$	\$
Abstract#10	\$	\$
Abstract#11	\$	\$
Abstract#12	\$	\$
Abstract#12A		

Worked 95 hours

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

- Submitted written report:
- Sanded roads as needed.
- Out filling potholes on both paved and gravel roads.
- Serviced some of the equipment
- Removed a few fallen trees.
- Opened up a few frozen pipes.
- Started sweeping the roads.
- Diesel Delivered – 580 gals / Used – 312 gals
- Gas Delivered – 300 gals / Used – 157 gals
- Worked 160 hrs
- My contractual balance is \$ 2,436.72

Quotes for generator hookup – JS Electric quite a bit lower - \$1,450.00  
 HWS wants to put out a bid for blacktop and stone.

**RESOLUTION # 29****TOWN CLERK TO PLACE LEGAL NOTICE FOR STONE AND BLACKTOP**

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, 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 for blacktop and stone bids for the Highway Dept. and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the bids shall be returnable by May 13, 2014 to the Town Clerk's office and they will be opened at the regular town board meeting on May 14, 2014

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

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

Pickup truck should be in soon.

**RESOLUTION # 30****AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO ISSUE CHECK FOR DODGE 2500 PICKUP TRUCK WHEN IT ARRIVES**

On motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was, RESOLVED, that when the Dodge 2500 series pickup truck with crew cab and 8' body is received, and therefore IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to write the check for payment of the truck in the amount of \$29,622.80 to Robert Green, Inc.

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

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

**TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)**

- Submitted a written report: Collected \$659.07 fees for March
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk. Continue to help Dee whenever I am able
- Getting calls that are for the Justice Court – when court is held etc.
- UDC check # 3602 in the amount of \$100.00 received 3/27 /2014 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I issued 6 permanent handicapped parking permit
- Had people come in to pay their fines and also to pay their taxes
- Attended the OSTCA meeting in Slate Hill on March 19<sup>th</sup> had a round table discussion regarding official undertakings, most towns are doing them, and it was recently found out that a large town of Long Island had a new Town Clerk and a new Supervisor, and they did not have anyone sign an oath of office nor did they file any official undertakings. The State came down and all the officials in the Town lost their positions, they had a special resolution to have the fired personnel finish out the year, but they all need to run for the positions at the General Election in November. There was also some discussion regarding DEC licenses and the problems the clerks are having with the new software.
- I also tried to help the girls in the office at the Town of Callicoon as their clerk is in the hospital, and will be for some time yet. Helped them with monthly reports etc.
- 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 STAR program. Told them to come in when the Assessor or her clerk were in the office.
- Worked a total of 125 ¾ hours
- Contractual balance: \$ 4,442.87

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

Submitted a written report:

- Issued 3 permit, no renewals, 1 C of O's and 1 municipal search letter, 0 notice of disapproval
- Worked 80 hours
- Traveled 6722 miles
- Revenues: \$475.00
- Expenses \$490.71
- Contractual Balance: \$4,078.09

Starting to get busy, unsafe buildings – sent letters: Genco will remove the 3 buildings. Unsafe building on Shortcut Road will probably be a couple of months before the property owner can have them removed.

Unsafe building (barn) on Mitchell Pond West; property owner is submitting information to their insurance company to see if it is covered. CEO feels that the 3 trailers on New Turnpike Road will need to be addressed by the town. The unsafe trailer on Stony Road; property owner is having a difficult time right now; CEO will not pursue this at this time. CEO will need to speak to Rory Gerstler regarding garbage on his property on Shortcut Road again. CEO also mentioned that Gloria Smith may be looking to move back into town.

Councilperson Richardson mentioned that the Pines property looks good – clean up was nice

**TOWN ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)**

Attended Town Board meeting on March 12, 2014, it was a quiet month

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy)

- Submitted a written report:
- Money collected \$2,427,844.57
- Paid Supervisor Maas \$1,171,357.74
- PAID Ira Cohen County Treasurer \$1,253,065.91
- Balance in checkbook \$3,478.15
- Taxes collected in 2014 83.61% and in 2013 81.89%
- Credit Card payments \$39,546.26
- Contractual balance: \$1,301.38 \Worked 43 hours in March

Tax Collector thinks that once people learn about paying their taxes by credit card this amount will increase

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

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over her report

**Old Business:**

1. **Data Collection project: Terri is back out in the field, she will be completing Section 9, and onto her next section. She is continuing to review the building permit data, and as necessary make another inspection**
2. **I attended the “Not for Profit” class in Canton NY on March 28<sup>th</sup>, the class was informative and a great refresher. In light of the many not for profits on our tax rolls, it was a good class to take at this time of year.**

**New Business:**

**Nothing new to report!**

<b>March</b>		
	1355.4	\$3,291.53
<b>Total March</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$3,291.53</b>

**Assessor Hrs.:30**

**Clerk Hrs: 0**

**Data Collection**

<b>March</b>		<b>\$24,130.66</b>
<b>Linda</b>		
<b>Terri</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$765.60</b>
<b>Total March</b>		<b>\$23,365.06</b>

**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR:** (Sharron Cardone) not present

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report

Meeting opened by me at 7:45 --all members except Joe Manaseri and Jim Crowley were present

Minutes of February meeting were approved

No new correspondence – but Larry Richardson who was in the building advised board that a meeting will be at the Town Hall in Narrowsburg re: Cell Towers on 3/29/14 at 9:00 AM –to 12. This is good for 3 credits

Old Business –Badger subdivision –client needs to give us \$25.00 more for preliminary and final fee. Also as I was not at the February meeting –Earl advised me that perk test still needed to be done for this subdivision and also maps need to be signed –client will bring in documentation that perk test was done and I will sign maps at the April meeting.

Old Business – C Meyer lot –for David Lieber – 4 lots and 1 lot doesn’t meet our standards & Fanny Mae would not finance this --needed a letter from Planning Board for separate SBL for the County ---Letter sent to David Lieber for this –for SBL # 12.-1-25.1 for pre-existing non-conforming with existing housing and all required improvements for the dwelling to agree to obtain a separate SBL #. It will be known as parcel portion # 1 on the map. Existing 3 lots to remain as they are.

Other Business –Reviewed Fee Schedule

Meeting was adjourned at 8PM

**SEWER OFFICER:** (Michael Walter)

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 62,583 gallons per day for month of March
- Obtained 99% C.B.O.D. and 98% T.S.S. removal for March
- Spent a total of 71 hours attending to sewer district affairs in March, Clerk 10 hours
- Expenditures \$1,708.49
- Contractual Balance: \$20,839.95

Sewer Plant is running fine.

Councilperson asked the Sewer Plant operator if he had any information on the UV system for the Sewer Plant.

Supervisor Maas mentioned the Bipkin Gandhi suggested that he would expect bids for the UV system to come around 80K – 90K

Supervisor mentioned that there was a problem with the quotes for the building on Nearing Road for the pump station. SPO asked that new quotes be issues. STJ came in at \$8,600.00 while Casey quote was \$9,100.00

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to vacate RESOLUTION # 27, where the incorrect quote was accepted at the March 27<sup>th</sup> recessed Town Board meeting. All present board members voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION # 31****ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM STJ CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BUILDING FOR THE PUMPSTATION ON NEARING ROAD**

On motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following resolution was WHEREAS, there is need for a new building at the Pump Station on Nearing Road, and WHEREAS, STJ Construction was the lowest quote, and now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the quote from STJ Construction is hereby accepted in the amount of \$8,600.00 for construction of the building

**ADOPTED – AYES: 3                      NAYS: 0** Councilperson Story absent, Councilperson Grund abstained  
Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons: Richardson and Nearing

There is some erosion at the corner by the sewer plant, and SPO would like to have someone come in to repair, as it is about 20 to 30' long. Also he would like new valves for the sewer plant

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

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report.

Dog at large, dog seized and dropped off at Town of Bethel. Skinner Falls report of 2 dogs at large 1 pit bull, and 1 small dog. - Negative results. Spoke with Tiffany Snyder and Andrea Mathews and Julie Burlingame re: dog license past due. Traveled 36 miles

Contractual balance: \$2,845.30 Worked 10 hours

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

Submitted a written report The Supervisor went over his report

I was contacted by a Sullivan County resident who was inquiring as to the whereabouts of St. Lucy's Cemetery in Cochection. I gave him directions and also sent him a copy of our records of burials in that cemetery.

That was the only inquiry I received this month. I'm in the process of contacting our State Historian for some assistance in uncovering why it is, in 1869, that we gave up so much of our township so as to form the Town of Delaware. I'll let you know the results.

I hope your meeting is constructive and engaging and that all of you enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

**UDC:** (Larry Richardson)

- Submitted a written report:

Prior to the meeting I took a few minutes to introduce Sean to the members. At the start of business Bud Cook; the Northeast Pa Director of the Nature Conservancy; William Penn Foundation's Watershed Protection Program provided an overview of what the Program can offer. These funds are not for public programs but rather for private willing participants. The funds could be used for purchasing lands, or development rights for conservation enhancement. He did say that money could be available for enhancing zoning regulations to encourage conservation

- The Cell Tower Seminar sponsored by the UDC was well attended with 40 people present. Cochection had a nice representation. Attendees were advised as to the technical side of cell tower communication (Frank Yoder) as well as planning opportunities (David Church) and how a community can take control of the project (Dick Combi). Interesting to note that Mr. Combi stated his firm advises many municipalities on cell tower projects. He stated the average application fee is \$5,000.00
- Executive Director Ramie stated that \$21,000 dollars of the sequestered funds have been restored. The Council would need to spend this money before the budget year ends in October. Upgrading the office building with a new door and front windows is being considered as well as converting the existing AC system to a Heat Pump system.
- NPS Archive Records Team is providing some suggestions to the Council staff on how and what records should be retained. There currently are boxes and boxes of paper records saved from the time the Council started. The NPS also continues to work on the accumulated historical tapes.
- The Acting NPS Superintendent Malcolm Wilbur was asked to consider restoring funding for the river bank cleanup program. Currently Highland and Lumberland are picked up the funding since the NPS terminated the program.
- One suggestion from the Cell Tower program was that municipalities should conduct a Natural Resources and Open Space inventory. Tusten performed such a survey with the help of a UDC Tag grant in 2010. Although a municipality cannot institute a town-wide ban on cell towers, it can tell companies where they are not appropriate. An inventory would support such a decision.
- The Little Joseph Mining permit has been re-issued and the UDC and NPS are reviewing it to see if any conditions have been changed from the original permit.
- Actions taken:
- Approved a recommended letter from the Project Review Committee advising PA DCNR that the PA Governor had signed an Executive Order advising agencies to work within the parameters of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan. The UDC and the NPS feel that the cell towers proposed for Damascus are not compatible with the River Management Plan.

**TOWN BOARD:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Basement Completion – Well Testing-Water Treatment –Quotes – Facility Use: need engineer to design system and then put it out to bid. Also working of affluent, water samples SPEDES
2. Unsafe Buildings – covered earlier

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. New Unsafe Buildings –pending
2. Rug Cleaner –pending
3. Bulletin Board –Jerold Yavarkovsky is having the bulletin board moved from the Ambulance Park to the Town Hall, discussed where to put it, Jerold will also take care of postings each week. Attorney mentioned that the Town would need a letter donating the bulletin board to the town from Jerold or the Ambulance Corp. Councilperson Richardson asked about rules. Was told there can be no political ads or advertisements for businesses. There are already rules in place would stay the same as when at the Ambulance Building
4. Sewer Plant –UV and pump house –discussed earlier
5. Litter pluck and Clean-up days –April 26, 2014 County advised, and litter pluck bags can be dropped off until May 4<sup>th</sup>. Clean-up days will be May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor will contact Sullivan First to provide containers for clean-up days as they have done in the past. – haven't received the allotted tonnage from the County, but will move ahead with this service for the community members.

**RESOLUTION # 32**

**TOWN CLERK TO PLACE DISPLAY AD FOR CLEANUP DAYS**

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall place a display ad in The Sullivan County Democrat advising the residents of the Town Cleanup Days May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

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

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Nearing

A Law Suit received regarding an accident that occurred in town, and this was turned over to the attorney representing the Town of Cochecton

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mike Attianese, Pinewood Road, asked about cable service –did the Supervisor know if Time Warner Cable was going to put cable down his road. Supervisor may look into this issue.

Peter Grosser, Mill Road, inquired if there are any grants for the UV system at the Sewer Plant. This can be looked into for additional information if indeed there are grants available

Councilperson Richardson, - asked about rules and regulations for the Town Hall basement. Supervisor not really in favor as it would require someone to open, close up and someone would need to keep track of the deposit etc. Would like to keep the use as it is now.

No one else wished to comment.

**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 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk