

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on April 10, 2013 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 7:31 PM.

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hollye Schulman –Town Clerk Kevin Esselman –Highway Superintendent
Karen Mannino – interim Attorney Gregg Semenetz –CEO entered at 8:00 p.m.
Michael Walter -SPO

During the work session, Andrew Arias, rep: from Cooper, Niemann & Co., - presented the Annual Audit Report for FY 2012 and explained same. The Town is in good financial shape. Good tracking of expenses and revenues.

Susan Zieres – from Sullivan West Central School updated the Town Board on the road closure for the 5 K run in support of SADD, PTO and Student Council. She expects 100- 150 runners. Road will only be closed for a short time at the beginning and again at the end. She will get additional information from Luis Alvarez, notify the Town Board of the exact times for the road closure. The event will take place on May 19th

Supervisor opened the regular meeting with the pledge to the flag at 7:31 p.m.

RESOLUTION# 36

COCHECTON TOWN BOARD WHEN ADOPTING FY 2013 BUDGET UNAWARE OF EXACT AMOUNT ALLOCATED FOR CHIPS

On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the COCHECTON TOWN BOARD when adopting the FY 2013 budget was unaware of the exact amount allocated for the CHIPS Fund and until being notified could not accurately state so in the FY 2013 Budget, therefore

WHEREAS, the town has been informed that the apportionment for 2013 will be \$94,548.00 and also carrying over from last year the amount of \$232.38 and now just being informed that we will be receiving an additional \$26,907.00 for a total of \$121,687.38 increasing the revenue and expense lines by \$46,687.38, and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that budget line DA 5112.400 CAPITAL OUTLAY- CHIPS instead of reading \$75,000.00, read \$121,687.38 and revenue line DA 3501.00 STATE AID-CHIPS CAPITAL instead of reading \$75,000.00 should read \$121,687.38 to cover actual and anticipated expenditures.

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Schulman

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to approve the minutes of March 13th and March 21st 2013 and be accepted as submitted. All board members present voted in favor.

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

General Account	Voucher # 142-171	\$7,858.76
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 172	\$926.70
Sewer Account	Voucher # 173-174	\$211.90
Lighting District	Voucher # 175	\$573.99
Highway Account	Voucher # 176-188	\$13,688.74

Voucher #'s 144, 148, 151, 155, 159, 161 and 172 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Voucher #'s 142-146 are noted as PREPAID on March 18th, 24th and April 2, 2013. All board members present voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Codification – Town thought something was missing, but General Codes said the information was just in a different place- everything OK regarding this issue

RSVP – Senior Volunteer County now picks the person and does not ask the Town for any input. Luncheon will be May 13th at the Villa Roma at noon

NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance Office of Real Property Tax Service – Sent Municipality's Certificate of Final Special Franchise Full Values for the 2013 assessment roll

UDC: 25th Annual Awards Ceremony Sunday April 28th at the Lackawaxen Inn, Lackawaxen, PA at 3:00 p.m.

Jerold Yavarkovsky will be honored this year for his volunteerism.

Notified the Planning Board meeting was cancelled

NYS 2013 Bridge and Culvert Maintenance Expo: will be held May 22-23 at Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, NY

Humane Society of Middletown, NY has been re-inspected by Dept of Ag & Markets and received a satisfactory rating

SLAC: will hold their monthly meeting on Friday April 26th at the Legislative Hearing Room of the Government Center at 10:00 A.M. – Aileen Gunther will be the guest speaker

NIMR: request for proxy and attendance - Supervisor faxed on 4/8/2013 to accept the slate of candidates

DEC: will offer a two –part training on the emerald ash borer on Friday April 12th at 12:00 p.m. in the Legislative Hearing Room at the Government Center

DPW: They are ending the snow & ice watch April 12th

SC Cooperative-Extension asking for donations to replace the money cut from their budget

Letter: Emma Guerhing – noise on CR 116 – nothing on CR 116 to cause the noise, trouble with her hearing-aids

e-mail: State Forest ranger- burning ban in effect March 16th – May 14th

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one else wished to comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Route 97 Pull-off: Councilperson Richardson,- he and his wife pulled ½ dozen tires and a bag of trash from the site down the hill, he stated there is more trash there

Youth Commission: Councilperson Grund – 18 youth went to the movies, letter sent for donations, there will be bowling, car wash (June 30, 2013) They are looking for new board members to fill a vacancy and possibly another vacancy (don't have a resignation yet)

Office of The Aging: Councilperson Schulman –there was no meeting

Website: Councilperson Story –not present: Supervisor went over her report. Added Franchise Legal notice for Public Hearing. Added January Planning Board minutes, added Youth Board by-laws. Added March 13th agenda and minutes and resolutions to the upcoming meeting page. Added Town Board minutes to Board page and placed Clerks office closing in News alerts. Added March 21st agenda and resolutions Worked 3/75 hours

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR/ DEPUTY SUPERVISOR (Gary Maas) present

- Submitted written report:

1. Monthly Financial Report

Bank Information:

Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check

Deposited \$502.50 Judicial fees

Deposited \$549.56 Town Clerk fees

Deposited \$17,078.47 IDA- Millennium

Deposited \$1346.50 Tax Collector fines and fees

Made transfers and deposits as needed

2. Activity

Calls with John Cappello, Heather Brown, Cooper Niemann, Tom Bose, Alexandra Bounrne, John Keating

Attended Supervisors Meeting and Sullivan West School

Contract officially signed with Labor with copies distributed. Worked on Climate Smart resolution, CD rates,

ordered Stove and Dishwasher, Computer security, completed Time Warner agreement. Meeting with Karen

Mannino, Emma Guerhing

Contractual:		\$5,000.00
Abstract #1	\$11.89	\$4,988.11
Abstract #2	\$287.91	\$4,700.20
Abstract#3	\$576.92	\$4,123.28
Abstract #4	\$154.12	\$3,969.16
Abstract #5		
Abstract#6		
Abstract#7		
Abstract#8		
Abstract#9		
Abstract#10		
Abstract#11		
Abstract#12		
Abstract#12A		

Thanked Councilperson Grund for covering for him while he was on vacation. Worked 107 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman) present

- Submitted written report:
- Plowed and sanded roads as needed.
- Serviced dirt roller and sweeper.
- Had repairs to a couple of trucks.
- Cut trees and brush on New Turnpike, Buff and Tomel
- Patched on both our dirt and blacktop roads.

Highway report continues:

- Demoed two chippers.

- Went to my Superintendents meeting. Superintendents through out the state lobbied in Albany to increase CHIPS. The state passed there budget and added 75 million into CHIPS state wide. Our town will be receiving an additional \$26,907 dollars.
 - Started having sand hauled in for next winter.
 - Worked 168 hrs
 - My contractual balance is \$ 2,506.76
- HWS wants to put out a bid for blacktop and stone.

RESOLUTION # 37**TOWN CLERK TO PLACE LEGAL NOTICE FOR STONE AND BLACKTOP**

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

WHEREAS, the Highway Department is in need of stone and blacktop to perform their duties,

NOW 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 7, 2013 to the Town Clerk's office and they will be opened at the regular town board meeting on May 8, 2013

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Schulman

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report: Collected \$983.53 fees for March

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- I attended the NYSTCA regional meeting in Latham on March 18th. The guest speaker was Laura Rodolakis from the Comptroller's office. Most of what she spoke about we already knew. She didn't spend as much time on the Financial Accountability for Town Clerks as we would have liked, she spent more time addressing the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors and their duties. She only spent the last 15 minutes quickly going over what to expect from an Office of State Comptroller Audit.
- I attended the meeting at the Sullivan West Central School in Jeffersonville on March 18th along with the Supervisor, it was interesting, and we heard about the plans for fixing the roof on the 1938 building, as well as the updates for the fields.
- I attended the OSTCA meeting in Chester on March 20th, the guest speakers were Tom Augostini, Benefit Consultant who spoke about Strategies for Controlling Health Insurance Costs. And Michael Caton –a Computel Consultant, who proposes to review the telephone, electric and natural gas accounts – as well as cable television franchise agreement utilizing the following process: reviews municipal contracts, franchise agreements, customer service records, bills and other relevant documentation. They obtain as much information as possible directly from the utility providers. They offer their services at the reduced contingency fee rate of 40% of any refund they secure for the municipality. All refunds go directly to the Town and the fee is not due until after the refund is received. If no refunds received there is no charge at all for their service. I have made copies for the board members of the handout from Computel Consultants for review
- The UDC check # 2990 in the amount of \$100.00 received 3/28/2013 and turned over to the Deputy Supervisor the same day
- Issued 1 temporary handicapped parking permit
- The Fire Dept. request for a Bingo license, they have a # but have not gotten a license as they have not come in with the information that I need to process it
- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I have received telephone calls for the Tax Collector, Assessor, CEO, Bookkeeper and Justice Court as well as other tax questions. Also questions regarding the Western Sullivan Transfer Station hours
- I will be out of the office April 12th through the 22nd. I will post this information on the door, as well as on my phone message
- Worked a total of 130 1/4 hours
- Contractual balance: \$6,152.48

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report:

- Issued 3 permit, no renewals, 8 C of O's and 3 municipal search letters, 1 notice of disapproval
- Worked 80 hours
- Traveled 692 miles
- Revenues: \$725.00
- Expenses \$430.60
- Contractual Balance: \$4,262.26

Fees up a little this month, trailer demoed will put in a single wide -12 Buff Road 14' X 70'. Five projected new ones – Bernas Road (well, foundation) No building permit – weekender. Issued a temporary C of O for the former Heinle building for the first floor, they are still working on the second floor. Trailer on CR 115 has been removed and will be replaced with a double wide. Structure with unsafe roof (back taxes and is in limbo). Pines in foreclosure would cost approx \$40,000.00 for town to take down. Trailer on New Turnpike – no response will send second notice. Szabo property is on schedule maybe within the next 2 weeks. CEO will notify the County of violation on CR 116, if sold new owners will have violation, property is up for tax sale. Downstairs – electric needs to be done, cabinets, sink and dishwasher are installed – looking good

TOWN ATTORNEY: (John J. Keating) not present

Interim Attorney Karen Mannino present

Provided a lot of information re: codification language and fees and explained same

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy) not present

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report

Warrant: - \$2,926,905.43, Adjustment \$-8,925.68, Money to be collected \$2,926,906.43 money collected \$2,394,110.49. Paid to Supervisor Maas \$1,160,317.07. Paid to Supervisor Maas - penalties - \$1,346.50. Paid to County Treasurer Ira Cohen \$1,228,989.50. Balance in checkbook \$4,430.45, Out standing checks \$963.03.

Balance in check book \$3,467.42

2013 - Collected 81.89% and 2012 - 81.98% so we are down

Contractual Balance: \$3,150.82

ASSESSOR: (Lorry J. King) not present

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over her report

Old Business:

1. Working on data collection project with 911 numbers from the County
2. The training for the Board of Assessment Review will be on Wednesday May 1st, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Legislative Hearing Room, at the Government Center, Monticello, NY

New Business:

1. Data Collection project: Terri is updating the lap map with addresses to use for the field review, and making copies of the old data collection cards for her field verification use/ she is up to Map section 19 with only a few left to do. She has received several 911 numbers back from the County.
Linda is following up by doing data entry for the address updates as well as data collection letter updates. We have received the car sign magnets, as well as business cards. In the next few weeks, Terri will be in the field. At this time I will be issuing a letter to the Sheriff Dept. as well as the State Police with Terri's car information so that they know she is a town employee in the event that a taxpayer reports a suspicious vehicle in the area. Terri will also have a photo ID with her at all times.
 2. On Thursday March 14th, I met with Office of Real Property rep (Diana Burke) to update my laptop with our local file.
 3. On March 26th, I attended a policy and procedure conference with the Sullivan CO IDA. At this conference,, the IDA went over each program they offer. I asked a few questions regarding what the procedure was for IDA projects that fail. How they recoup any owed funds. It was explained that all projects are billed in real time, so if there is a projection of 12 jobs and only 6 were created, the benefit is only 50%. Several different projects were discussed. The IDA is looking for projects and ideas to bring to the table for discussion.
 4. The State budget proposal includes a provision that would require all Basic STAR recipients to register with the State Tax dept. in order to receive or continue to receive STAR. This would only apply to the Basic STAR and the program would apply to the 2014 roll year. The taxpayer does not have to take any action right now; everyone will be notified by the State
- Total expenses: \$212.88
 - Hours worked Assessor= 42, Clerk = 83 Data Collection Budget Beginning balance March \$24,130.66 new balance \$23,422.48. Linda worked 12.5 hours and Terri worked 43 hours Spent \$708.18 on Data Collection
 - Contractual Balance: \$3,228.05

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Sharron Cardone) not present

Meeting cancelled – no report

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter)

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 46,762 gallons per day for month of March
- Obtained 94% C.B.O.D. and 88.2% T.S.S. removal for March
- Spent a total of 71 ½ hours attending to sewer district affairs in March
- Expenditures \$211.90
- Contractual Balance: \$18,515.85

Alls well, no problems. Has 3 quotes on building- will discuss with Supervisor. George Walter Assistant SPO wanted to know if the Town Board would pay for him to go to school to keep his license. Cost approx \$360.00 for 4 days room and board. There may be some additional expenses

RESOLUTION # 38

TOWN TO PAY FOR GEORGE TO ATTEND SCHOOL TO KEEP HIS SPO LICENSE

On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following resolution was, the town will pay for George Walter to attend school to keep his license as a SPO in force for an additional 5 years.

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Schulman

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile)

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over her report.

Opening balance \$3,000.00 Ending balance \$2,944.45 2 lost dogs, 1 call dog at large, 2 dogs seized and 1 dog redeemed. Collected \$100.00 for redemption of dog and worked 14 ½ hours

HISTORIAN: (K.C. Garn) not present

Submitted a written report The Supervisor went over his report

Since my last report, I've been contacted by the Sullivan County Museum regarding cemeteries in Cochection. A Ms. O'Leary from the museum has requested that I verify their records of our cemeteries and include tax map numbers and maps.

I'll be working on that project as soon as I return from vacation. I have cemetery records for Cochection, compiled by the late Emily Hallock, that list the names of every grave in town and they should be helpful.

A lady contacted me wishing to review any historical records we have and I'll be meeting with her in the near future. Our Supervisor (along with others) recovered some of our old 1800's tax records from the "attic" of the old Town Hall. They appeared well preserved and are interesting to read.

Enjoy the spring weather,

UDC: (Larry Richardson)

- Submitted a written report:
- The Upper Delaware Council held its regular meeting on Thursday April 4.
- Following attendance, Aaron Robinson (Chairman of Shohola's Planning Board) and Brian Smith a Wayne County Commissioner gave presentations against a new policy planned by the Pennsylvania DEP dealing with nitrate abatement. The measures as presented would impose extreme hardships on many people with existing homes or those planning new construction near bodies of water. Among other requirements would be digging a trench down to within 1-foot of the water level and completely encircling a septic system. The trench would then be filled with sawdust in an unproven effort to capture nitrates. Since this is a policy change and not a regulation, PA DEP is able to unilaterally implement the policy.
- The DRBC Deputy Executive Director Bob Tudor presented the monthly hydrological report. While the reservoir storage is about normal, the precipitation is low. (*I had a local farmer comment to me that the soil moisture level for this time of year is a concern.*) Mr. Tudor mentioned that there are 15 gas pipeline permit applications in the works. When asked where they were going, he commented that some are going to New York some to south Jersey and in that area. He also stated that pipelines are planned to provide gas to processing facilities in the Chesapeake area to be readied for export.
- The DRBC is establishing many water testing stations to create baseline water quality data in an effort to monitor the affects of gas drilling activities. These stations are in the main stem of the Delaware and also in some tributaries up and down and also outside the Delaware Basin area
- DEC reminds everyone of the outdoor burning ban.
- The UDC new Visitors Map and Guide Brochure will be available later this month. The brochure has been completely redone.
- The UDC Awards Banquet is set for Sunday April 28 at the Lackawaxen Inn. Reservations are \$27.00. The reception starts at 3:00 P. M. and the buffet dinner at 4:00. Our very own Jerold Yavarkovsky is being presented with the Volunteer Award.
- The UDC will be sponsoring it's annual river raft trip in August and a 5K Run in September as we celebrate 25 years in existence. Tee shirts with the UDC logo on the front and a map of the river corridor on the back are available.
- Actions taken:
 - Approved a letter to be sent in support of the Sullivan County Trail keeper grant application
 - Move to have the Project Review Committee send a letter in support of the PA townships protesting the proposed PA DEC policy on lot sewage systems as discussed above.

TOWN BOARD:

Councilperson Grund, Schulman and Supervisor Maas had nothing to add. Councilperson Richardson mentioned he met with Sullivan County Planning DPWQ regarding the Visitors Center which has been on hold a long time. The A UDC Grant of \$25,000.00, as well as Senator Bonacic grant money of \$250,000.00 for the project. However Rep. Hinchey grant money may not be available; (there are new players – legislators) UDC sent out letters of support for the project.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Basement Completion – earlier
2. Unsafe Buildings – earlier
3. Codify Local Laws – Tag Grant – earlier
4. generator for Sewer Dept. - will be discussed at the next meeting
5. Article 78 – completed
6. Re-levy – Lennox Bailey keeping on agenda so we don't forget

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Computer server security – Supervisor is working on it
2. Attorney for traffic tickets – Alexandra Borune, from Rock Hill has said she would help out.

RESOLUTION # 39

RETAIN ALEXANDRA BOURNE AS ATTORNEY TO PROCURE TRAFFIC TICKETS

On motion by councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the town is in need of an Attorney to prosecute traffic tickets in the absence of the Town Attorney, and WHEREAS, Alexandra Bourne has said she will provide this service for the Town at a set rate, and NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town will hire Alexandra Bourne to provide this service

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Schulman

3. Heat Pump for Court Room –Compressor is hooked together, and the company is out of business. Councilperson Richardson asked to bid or not to bid. Emergency repair Town Board will probably retain Don Bellotti and he was the one to install the unit in the first place.
4. Clean-up Days – May 18th and 19th – haven't received the allotted tonnage from the County, but will move ahead with this service for the community members.

RESOLUTION # 22

TOWN CLERK TO PLACE DISPLAY AD FOR CLEANUP DAYS

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, 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 19th and 20th 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Story absent

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund and Schulman

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joan Glase, Cross Road. Pull-off on Route 97, nice area, why did Councilperson Richardson and his wife have to get the tires and trash when we have a Highway Dept.

Kevin said he volunteered to put down the blacktop and crusher run. He has more important things to do

Councilperson Richardson you have volunteers or pay someone to clean up the site

Supervisor Maas said the Town Board can not tell the Highway Superintendent what to do, they just appropriate his budget and he has the authority to spend it as he sees fit and wisely

No one else wished to comment.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to recess this Town Board meeting until April 24th at 6: 30 p.m. All board members present voted in favor. Time 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk