

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on April 13, 2016 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 7:32 PM.

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Maas  
Councilperson Anna Story absent  
Councilperson Sean Nearing  
Councilperson Paul Salzberg  
Councilperson Edwin Grund

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hollye Schulman –Town Clerk  
Karen Mannino –Attorney  
Michael Walter –SPO  
Kevin Esselman –Highway Superintendent  
Gregg Semenetz –CEO  
Eileen Hennessy –Tax collector

**RESOLUTION # 30**

**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PAY FOR PURCHASE OF LAND FOR SEWER PLANT**

On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was

WHEREAS, in order to have enough land for upgrading the sewer plant to a UV disinfecting system the town needs to purchase an additional 3 + acres for this purpose to provide for the building and

WHEREAS, the land purchase has been approved and confirmed and the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay for the purchase of the land in the amount of \$13,500.00

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

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Nearing, Salzberg and Grund

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to approve the minutes of March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 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 # 144-180	\$6,609.85
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 181	\$571.98
Sewer Account	Voucher # 182-187	\$1,737.94
Lighting District	Voucher # 145, 188	\$796.46
Highway Account	Voucher # 189-203	\$26,057.41

Voucher #'s 155, 164, 173, 177, 181, 189 and 192 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Voucher #'s 144-158 are noted as PREPAID on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and April 5<sup>th</sup> 2016. All board members present voted in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Sullivan County Senior Volunteer Program: Celebrating our 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016—Annual Recognition Day Luncheon

PA DOT: re; Skinner's Falls Bridge NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Bridge # 5 over the Delaware River Bridge was closed Dec. 11, 2015 due to worsening deficiencies and signs of overload. The bridge will remain closed while an evaluation is performed, a repair plan developed that meets minimum loading, and safety requirements to reopen the bridge to its previous posting limit of 4-tons. At this time we anticipate having a plan prepared for bid on April 21, 2016, and the long-term needs of the structure continue to be investigated

NYMIR: Annual Meeting notice, (Supervisor sent proxy)

Sullivan County Personnel: updating information for current and past employees—some that have been unemployed for over 5 years have not been taken out of the system Anna Story will have to be classified as a Clerk Part-time not Website Maintenance ( if Website Maintenance title it would be a competitive title and a test would need to be given)

Update Web page: Municipal Clean up: May 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>,

Litter Pluck: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, through May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway: UDSB is chagrined over the latest damage to and apparent theft of the 24" X 48" outdoor graphic panel that provided historical orientation to the Town of Cochecton and highlighted the town's participation in the NYS Route 97 Scenic Byway designated route. They have offered to cover \$210.00 with the condition that it is moved from the current location at the NYS Route 97 pull-off near County Route 116 to a potentially less vandal-prone site

UDC: Annual Awards Ceremony April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Tennenah Lake Golf and Tennis Club

Sullivan County DPW: Ending snow and ice watch on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

UDC: John Bonacic, and Aileen Gunther re: cell-tower based communications systems that could provide consistent reliable emergency communication constitute an incompatible land use within the river corridor. Although there are various proprietary radio antennas installed to specifically provide communications for law enforcement and emergency services, none are accessible by the public.

SLAC newsletter: SLAC is dedicated to informing our fellow voters, old and new where threats and opportunities exist on three federal issues vital to our security. Three areas of concern—Social Security Medicare and Medicaid

NYMIR: Offering a free seminar on Municipal Liability for Streets, Sidewalks & Parks and Dig Safely Plus Road Maintenance Liability/Signage Requirements; Date and Location May 3, 2016 Town of Mamaroneck Town Center Court Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY

**Correspondence continues:**

Cornell University: Inviting the Highway Superintendent to attend the 71<sup>st</sup> annual School for Highway June 6-8 at Ithaca College Campus

Timothy Avery: NYS DEC Flood Training Coordinator: upcoming training on a series of Floodplain Management Trainings across the state. Free Training- Liberty, NY April 14, 2016

DOH-- Pubic water system more testing, and quarterly reporting

Supervisor had some information re: Transfer Station: Our lease runs out this year, and he is trying to get information from other towns re: how they operate their transfer stations. Neversink runs their own.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to comment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**County Charter Commission:** Larry Richardson

The Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday March 16, 2016. The meeting was chaired by Peggy Harrison.

Ms. Harrison introduced Paul Rouis who worked 25 years in government. Some of the opinions Mr. Rouis shared:

- Does not support an elected County Executive
- Perhaps the number of legislators should be increased to 11 or 15 to disperse the concentration of power
- Legislators should be setting policy not getting involved with day-to-day running of government
- Legislators position is part time and \$ is not the attraction
- Advocates for county wide assessments and collection of property taxes
- Does not see the need for staggered terms

Following the presentation from Mr. Rouis, the commission members had a lengthy discussion about the need for staggered terms. It was decided unanimously that the legislators' terms should not end at the same time to allow for a smoother transition of government. Following the vote, I drafted a resolution to present to the Executive Committee on March 17. The Executive Committee has some questions for me after which all those present agreed to accept the recommendation and move forward with its implementation. The terms affected will begin with elections in 2019.

Freda Eisenberg from Sullivan County Planning has agreed to present at the next meeting on April 20. I am slated to Chair that meeting.

As always should anyone have comments or suggestions for the commission, they can call me or email me through my town email address: [lrichardson@townofcochectonny.org](mailto:lrichardson@townofcochectonny.org).

There was some discussion re: terms of the legislators

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**Note:** Neither I nor Jerry were in attendance at the UDSB meeting and therefore no report.

**UDC:** Larry Richardson

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday April 7. Following the roll call we heard a presentation from DRBC Executive Director Steve Tampini outlining the responsibilities of the Delaware River Basin Commission and its authority in relation to the Decree parties.
- It was reported that the Pennsylvania DOT is planning on making of emergency repairs to the Skinners Falls Bridge. The plan is to repair it to a 4-ton limit. A long-term plan for the bridge has not been revealed.
- Executive Director Ramie reported that a bill introduced by Congressman Chris Gibson is now moving through the Senate; the bill is to extend the NYC Hydroelectric Project permit deadline.
- There will be a National Geographic Geotourism project introduction to the public at the Narrowsburg School on May 5 at 3:30 p.m.
- Governor Cuomo is planning on paddling on the Delaware this summer as part of the Catskill Challenge.
- The Personnel Committee received 17 very good applications for the Resource Specialist position. We selected six to be interviewed. We then narrowed the selection to two applicants and held follow-up interviews. A recommendation was then made to the full council which was accepted. Pending some further confirmations Executive Director Ramie hopes to announce the new hire very soon.
- A reminder; that the Upper Delaware Council's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday April 24. Reservations are required by April 15, the cost is \$28.00 per person. This year's event will be held at the Tennenah Lake Golf and Tennis Club in the town of Fremont.
- Sullivan County Emergency Response coordinator Richard Martinkovitz has confirmed that he will make a presentation at the start of the council meeting in June. His presentation will review plans in place to respond to an emergency in the Delaware corridor.

**Youth Commission:** Councilperson Grund – Meeting April 5, Bird house building at Jerry's went well. Ed thanked Jerry and Judy for the use of their home for this project

The lumber and paint were donated. 3 older youth helped at this event ( Alex, Trista and Skylar)

Looking for a youth member to serve on the board. Bowling is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Looking into Coal Mine Tour, Zoo trip, Outdoor Waterpark, movies, car wash. Wayne County Fair in August. A penny social is being planned for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Working on different fundraising events. Next meeting is on May 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7 pm

**Keep Cochecton Clean:** Jerold Yavarkovsky

Litter pluck will take place from April 23 –May 1, 2016. Cochecton clean up days are May 21 and May 22.

The "Keep Cochecton Clean" signs will be put out in the next few days. We have located several new roads which could use a sign. We still have several signs available and are asking for suggestions as to where to put them. I am continuing to make phone calls and, so far, have signed up about 40 people to litter pluck.

**Keep Cochecton Clean continues:**

We encourage young people (teenagers) to join their parents (under parental supervision) in this campaign. High School students who need community service credit will be given a letter of thanks from the Keep Cochecton Clean committee for their service. The Cochecton Democratic Club has adopted Route 17B from the Town line to Fosterdale (2.1 miles) and will litter pluck this road at least twice a year. We encourage other groups to do likewise. We are looking for new volunteers. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join us by calling Jerold Yavarkovsky at 932-8210

**Website and Fire District:** Councilperson Story –Website Report – March, 2016

Supervisor went over her report

- Added agenda for March 9 meeting
- Added Feb. 10 Town Board Minutes to board page
- Added Youth Board Penny Social information to youth page and news alerts
- Removed expired youth events
- Removed expired Legal Notices
- Added Cochecton Men’s Club Easter Egg Hunt
- Review and corrections of March 9 and March 22 minutes for Hollye
- Total Hours Worked: 2 3/4 hours

**Fire District –** Councilperson Story –Not present

Meeting was held on April 11. Mike Preis Insurance presented their insurance quote for the Fire Company. Two Fire Fighters will be taking the Dive course for certification. They will pay the fee for the course and be reimbursed half with a 3 year commitment to the fire company. If the fireman leaves before 3 years, they won’t be reimbursed

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

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

Submitted a written report;

- Monthly Financial Report
- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$986.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$175.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$551.15 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$69.00 & \$670.92 Debit Card
- Deposited \$13,966.02 Time Warner franchise
- Deposited \$5,904.45 Mortgage Tax
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actual to board
- Activity: Attended Supervisor Meeting and County Sales Tax Sharing Meeting. Took care of Property Description for Sewer Dept. project and Land Purchase with Karen Mannino. Calls to Cooper Arias, Earl Bertsch, Engineering Properties. Sent out W3’s. Signed documents for Youth Board. Worked on Phil Grisafe’s retirement paperwork.

CONTRACTUAL		\$4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$97.11	\$3,902.89
Abstract #3	\$723.32	\$3,179.57
Abstract #4	\$180.00	\$ 2,999.57
Abstract #5	\$	\$
Abstract #6	\$	\$
Abstract #7	\$	\$
Abstract #8	\$	\$
Abstract #9	\$	\$
Abstract #10	\$	\$
Abstract #11	\$	\$
Abstract #12	\$	\$

Worked 102 hours

Working on Transfer Station possibly being taken over by the Town. Checking with other towns to see what they do. Neversink takes care of their own Transfer Station. While our contract with the County runs out the end of this year, and Town of Rockland asked the County for compensation, and they were told no. Also there are about 5 trees that need to be removed from the Sewer Plant property before the new building is built.

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

Submitted written report

- Patched on paved and gravel roads.
- Ditched and replaced pipes on roads to be paved.
- Took sanders out of trucks.
- Had crusher run hauled in and started grading roads.
- Took dump body off truck 34. Welded a new floor in and prepped it for painting.
- Replaced some road signs.
- Diesel 726.4 gals del / used 557 gals
- Gas 435 gals del / used 227 gals
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance is \$3,242.85

HWY Superintendent needs to advertise bid for stone and blacktop  
 HWY Superintendent will get legal notice to the newspaper and get a copy of legal notice to the Town Clerk  
 and bids will be opened at the next meeting

**TOWN CLERK:** (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report:

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- UDC check # 1895 in the amount of \$100.00 received 3/28/16 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I attended the OSTCA meeting in Middletown on March 16, we had a guest speaker that spoke about the Official Undertakings, if this is not done and someone from the state comes to check, everyone can lose their jobs. Also had another Clerk speak about Games of Chance and the rules and regulations. All in all it was a great meeting.
- Issued 2 permanent and 2 temporary handicapped parking permits in March
- Had 1 FOIL request in March
- Since I will be at the NYSTCA Conference on April 19<sup>th</sup>, (Primary Election) and the Election materials must be returned to the BOE, I would like permission to have my deputy cover my hours on April 18 and have her return the election materials on April 20<sup>th</sup> to the County BOE
- I also would like permission to attend the Records Management Training Session on June 5<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Villa Roma Conference Center. I would not be staying overnight, but would be a commuter the cost to register is \$30.00 plus \$30.00 for membership in NYALGRO and meals and mileage. This I understand the best program for Records Management.
- I provided telephone #'s for different departments. I'm still getting calls for the CEO, Assessor – asking about the Star exemption, Planning Board and Tax Collector –re: paying their taxes. As well as the Justice Court, people wanting to pay their fines and wanting to know where to send their payments etc.
- Worked a total of 125 hours in March
- Contractual balance \$3,262.69

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

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours
- Traveled 651 miles
- Issued 1 permit, no renewals, 4 C of O's 0 notice of disapproval and 5 municipal search letter, no appearance tickets
- Revenues: \$475.00
- Expenses \$466.45
- Contractual Balance: \$4,176.32

Unsafe building on Shortcut Road will be taken down next week. Solar Farms—Town needs to decide what they plan on doing. Going to allow or opt out. Solar companies want applications in as the tax incentives deadline for NYSERTA is fast coming to an end. CEO also traveled to the gas compressor on Hungry Hill Road in the Town of Fremont. Toured the facility and took a video outside the premises. Very little if any noise while inside of the facility which surprised everyone. Outside about 1,000' there was no noise.

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report:

- Monies collected \$2, 580430.91
- Paid to Supervisor \$1,207,269.72  
\$1,373.161.91
- Paid to SC Treasurer \$1,366,582.15  
\$6,633.66
- Check # 379 Supervisor \$3,000.00  
\$3,633.66
- Balance in CK Book \$6,693.47
- Off \$59.81 (3) Bounced Fees \$60.00 -\$.19
- Contractual "Balance \$2,366.23
- Tax Collector worked 53 hours in March
- Deputy Tax Collector worked 4 hours in March
- My books are closed as of 4/4/2016
- Percentage collected in
 

2016	84.93%
2015	84.47%
2014	83.61%
- Deputy Tax Collector Kristin- took care of taxes while I was away
  - 1- (1) Bounced check
  - 2- (1) Tax payment post marked 3/31/2016
  - 3- Check mail and phone messages

4 bounced checks. It was an easy tax year

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** (Karen Mannino)

- Email 5to attorney for seller re: closing documents
- Review of closing documents; email to atty for seller; email to Supervisor
- Attendance at Board Meeting
- Review of proposed deed; call to Clerk's office re: subdivision map; message to Supervisor

**Attorney report continues:**

- Call to Engineering Properties; email to Steller's Atty; email to Supervisor
- Email to Supervisor and Engineer, call to Clerk's office re: filing of deed

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

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over her report

Old Business:

1. *Nothing new to report*

New Business:

1. Entered deeds, exemptions and change of addresses
2. Gave Tax collector a list of new owners and address changes
3. Working on notices to send for tentative roll
4. I will be attending a Solar panel class on Wednesday 4/20/16

Assessor Hours: 27

Clerk Hours: 26

March 1355.400           \$2,791.40

Total March               \$0.00

Balance:                   \$2,791.40

**SEWER OFFICER:** (Michael Walter)

Submitted a written report:

- Average flow of 27,597 gallons per day for month of March
- Obtained 93% C.B.O.D. and 96% T.S.S. removal for March
- Spent a total of 81 ½ hours attending to sewer district affairs in March, Clerk 10 hours
- Expenditures \$1,737.94
- Contractual Balance: \$22,216.12

As of today everything is running fine, site visit today for the UV building. Supervisor mentioned when budget time will have to put more money in the Sewer budget, we now need to have a manhole cover upgraded, and 5 trees need to come down on the new property at the sewer plant before the new building is built

SPO has gotten 2 quotes for sludge removal had tried to get 3 but no response from the third one.

1 quote was from Enviro Ventures and one from Koberlein Environmental Services.

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to accept the quote from Enviro Ventures at a cost of \$0.20 cents per gallon, as this was the lower of the two quotes.

All present board members voted in favor

There will be a meeting to discuss removal of the trees at the Sewer Plant on April 27th, 2016 at 6:30 pm

**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR:** (Earl Bertsch) not present

No report.

However Councilperson Nearing reported a Public Hearing has been set for April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm for a special use permit for Frank and Kasey Kratz storage building on State Route 52 and Shortcut road. Also had an application for a lot improvement in Cochecton Center. They also had a new member of the board (Peter Pierce)

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

Submitted a written report:

Traveled 67 miles; expenditures of \$36.18 and worked 30 hours

1 dog seized Route 52/Old County Road, 1 dog seized 8126 State Route 97 to vets. Office. 1 seized dog to the Town of Bethel

Contractual balance: \$1,670.62

There is a municipal agreement with Port Jervis/Deerpark, Inc a not for profit Corp. as a secondary shelter to take dogs from the Town of Cochecton if necessary. The DCO would like the town to enter into this agreement.

**MOTION:** No motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to accept the Port Jervis/Deerpark Inc. Municipal agreement for the Town of Cochecton to use as a secondary shelter if necessary. All present board members voted in favor

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

No report submitted

**TOWN BOARD:**

Councilpersons: Grund, and Supervisor Maas had nothing to add. Councilperson Salzberg mentioned SLAC committee is very active. Seniors in Sullivan County are in poor health, due to the high cost of dental care etc. with Sullivan County being 2<sup>nd</sup> to last in NY State. The Godfery Health Bill single payer has passed the Assembly but has yet to pass the Senate

Councilperson Nearing, mentioned the guide rails on CR 114 the state did some repairs.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Unsafe Buildings – covered earlier
2. Sewer Dept. –Property purchase and UV system discussed earlier
3. Lake Huntington Algae Bloom—pending
4. Solar Energy Farms –opt out and zoning laws—will be addressed at a later meeting

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Deck ---pending
2. Litter Pluck—time has been set for April 23<sup>rd</sup>, through May 1<sup>st</sup>
3. Clean up Days –May 21 and 22

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to set Municipal Clean up Days for May 21 and 22. For 9:00 --2:45 each day. All present board members voted in favor

4. Town Entry Signs –Supervisor will be ordering 6 signs at a cost of approx.\$160.00 each plus shipping

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to authorize the Supervisor to purchase the 6 signs at a cost of approx. \$160.00 each plus shipping. All present board members voted in favor

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Larry Richardson, abandoned dog has the town made an effort to recoup the cost. There was some discussion. He also mentioned seeing Senator Bonacic, getting grants for Sewer projects. Supervisor said it requires an income survey for the grant

Ed Grund, mentioned the new sign looks good (this is the sign for the Town Hall, Fire Dept., and Ambulance etc)

Margaret Richardson, asked about the UDSB sign –where to put it, the UDC would like to see it in a more secure place. Perhaps at the Preservation Society site. This was also discussed

Grace DePasquale, asked about ambulance situation. Councilperson Salzberg mentioned there are a few more people on board for the ambulance, Mike Attianese said they now cover 85% of the calls, 5 members went for first responder 13 hour course. Situation is looking better

No one else wished to comment.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to recess this meeting, until April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. All board members present voted in favor. Time 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk