

**REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF COCHECTON, JUNE 14, 2017  
PUBLIC HEARING**

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A meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on July 14, 2017 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)

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hollye Schulman—Town Clerk Karen Mannino –Attorney  
Eileen Hennessy, Tax Collector Gregg Semenetz –CEO entered at 7:40 pm  
Earl Bertsch – Planning Board Chairman

Town Clerk read the legal notice published in the River Reporter June 1, 2017

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to open the Public Hearing for proposed Local Law # 2 of 2017 Moratorium on Summer Camps. Time 6 25: pm  
All Board members voted in favor

Earl Bertsch, Planning Board Chair has asked their attorney for his input regarding this issue. He asked if the Town Board was required to have summer camps in their zoning law; but has not heard back at this time.

Jerold Yavarkovsky, Zoning Board Chair, mentioned a year or so ago there was an application before his board, but there was nothing in the zoning law. This case was withdrawn. The Town Board is the only one that can make laws. Persons shuffled – CEO- ZBA- PB and then back to the Town Board. Town can regulate and he likes the moratorium.

Pete Pierce, asked about the process that would occur. Where did the idea of a moratorium come from?  
Attorney answered the question. This moratorium was discussed last year, but the solar moratorium took precedence.  
Supervisor said it takes more than 6 months to go through the process, so that is why it is proposed for one year.

Larry Richardson, the Town Boards approach if prudent, the way to go.

Earl Bertsch, feels the Town Board should look at the Comprehensive Plan.

Larry Richardson said the Comprehensive Plan should be updated but it is not the law.

Earl Bertsch, the Planning Board is not encouraging summer camps. Who would enforce it. Was told the CEO.  
Earl mentioned again that the Planning Board is waiting for their attorney response.

Jerold Yavarkovsky, asked about contacting the Sullivan County Planning Sept. He was told a letter has already been sent asking for their input.

Earl Bertsch mentioned he had a law on Summer Camps from another town he feels the town is inviting summer camps. There was more discussion.

While no other comments were forth coming, the Supervisor held this Public Hearing open in case someone comes in later and wants to be heard

At 6:55 pm -- Luis Alvarez, Chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature gave the State of the County address. And gave highlights of what the County is looking to put forward. Such as sales and room tax, shared services. . The County is recovering improper payments that have been made. Job creation is problematic. Sullivan County is # 61 out of the 62 counties, and the County is working on getting this rating up.

Councilperson Story—the Town has a river access which is completely overgrown, and can't be utilized and it would be difficult for persons to get there and there isn't much place to park. There have been studies after studies regarding this issue, but nothing ever gets done.

Councilperson Salzberg, mentioned emergency services, he town needs more support form the County. Grants to improve services perhaps some EMS personnel could be paid.

Councilperson Nearing, salaries (on the County level) are they full time positions. Mr. Alvarez responded yes. He also said that when he started he had complete health coverage. New employees now must contribute to their health care. Councilperson Nearing said everyone should pay a little toward their health insurance, no matter how long they have worked in their positions.

Larry Richardson, Skinners Falls Commission; reported 26 million visitors to the river, UDSBW feels there are more. Governor toured the area last year and this year the Sec. of the Interior may pay Sullivan County a visit. UDC – there are dead spots along State Route 97, could use emergency cell service. Mr. Alvarez said this is being looked into.

Peter Grosser, asked about EMS project—and Mr. Alvarez explained Mutual Aid plan. It was reported that the towns already provide mutual aid in a lot of cases.

Jerold Yavarkovsky mentioned this end of the County feels neglected. Asked about the future of the Transfer Station, it does not just serve the Town of Cochection residents but much of the Western half of the County. Mr. Alvarez said the County does not want to close the transfer station, but does not want to pay for it. The roads in our town take a beating, and the Highway workers plow and sand etc. which should be worth something.

Supervisor Maas stated that he has no more contact with the legislators regarding this issue. Mr. Alvarez said there could be more discussion, Supervisor Maas said we already are in the month of June and there is not a lot of time left for these discussions.

Supervisor Maas thanked Mr. Alvarez for his presentation.

Since no one else wished to comment on the Public Hearing regarding a moratorium on Summer Camps it was decided to recess the Public Hearing;

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to recess this Public Hearing regarding a moratorium on Summer Camps, until July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Time 7:47 pm. All board members voted in favor

Town Supervisor Gary Maas opened the meeting with a pledge to the flag at 7:48 pm

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to accept the minutes of May 10<sup>th</sup> and be accepted as submitted. All Board members voted in favor

**MOTION:**

On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to accept the bills on abstract #7 in the following amounts

General Account	Voucher #276-310	\$7,331.90	
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 311	\$59.44	
Sewer Account	Voucher # 312-315	\$4,364.65	
Lighting District Account	Voucher #282 & 292	\$544.51	these are prepaid
Highway Account	Voucher #316-330	\$50,941.48	

Claim #287,296, 298, 307 and 318 are split between funds, on same voucher.

Prepaid claims 276-293 was paid on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> 2017. All board members voted in favor

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Constellation Energy –advising of changed format

Don Dittmer—concerned about a house on Bernas Road

MVP –notice of rate change for 2018

USG&E –requesting tax exempt certificate (Note as far as we know we do not do business with this company)

SLAC -- Meeting June 30<sup>th</sup> in the legislative room –discuss the November vote on a Constitutional convention

Sullivan County Treasurer: memo residents who are renting their homes as a vacation rental on their own or through companies such as AirBnB, VRSO, HomeAway or other related platforms. Want the Towns to advise if they know of anyone not registered. (Town Board is not interested in doing their work for them)

NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance – letting the town know the equalization rate is 79%

NYS Environmental Protection—Invitation to NYS DEP Dam Emergency Plan Orientation Seminar for the Cannonsville, Pepacton and Neversink Dams meeting will be June 20, at Best Western Inn at Hunts Landing, Matamoras, PA

Sullivan County Manager's Office—regarding shared services

Charter –franchise fee remittance through Sept. 30, 2016

Unified Court System--????

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Larry Richardson, Bernas Road, asked about which house on Bernas Mr. Dittmer was concerned about

No one else wished to comment

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SULLIVAN COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION:** Larry Richardson

The commission has finished its work after 2 ½ years

**Note:** The **Charter Commission** is scheduled to present a *Memorandum of its Findings* to the Sullivan County Executive Committee on Thursday, June 15 at 11:30 a.m. A brief PowerPoint presentation may accompany the submittal. This will complete the 2 ½ years of work by this review body. It may be noted that the vote was nine in favor one against and three who were absent but expressed in writing their support.

**SCENIC BYWAY:** Larry Richardson

The UDSB held its regular meeting on Monday May 22.

Topics of Discussion in part:

a.) Treasurer's Report; It was noted that the \$20,000.00 budgeted by the County was received.

b.) Re-print of Monarch Butterfly Brochure: it appears that the Town of Highland is considering transferring ownership of the Butterfly Brochure to the UDSB. Most of the original 6000 plus copies have been distributed.

**Scenic Byway report continues:**

- c.) A June 16 UDSB Presentation to Delaware County Chamber of Commerce will take place at 8:30 a.m. The meeting has been changed from Delhi to Hancock to ease the travel.
  - d.) Project Allocations for \$20,000 Sullivan County Funding:
    - Balance of web site development cost (\$2,500.00)
    - Butterfly habitat enhancement and promotional grants for non-profits
    - Rt. 97 Viewshed Enhancement Projects (\$10,000.00)
  - e.) NYS DOT Rt. 97 Attraction Signs
  - f.) Visitor Center Feasibility in Callicoon: The railroad is willing to entertain proposals for adaptive re-use of the facility. Because Central New York Railroad leases the station and tracks from Norfolk-Southern Railroad, it would be a sub-lease situation requiring multiple approvals.
  - g.) UDSB Logo Copyright Trademark Application Status
- Next Meeting Date: will be on Monday, June 26, 2017 @ 7:00 P.M.

**UDC REPORT:** Larry Richardson

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday May 4.
- Prior to the regular meeting, we heard a presentation by Paul V. Rush, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection: Emergency Communications Systems below the New York City Reservoirs. The City has hired Schnabel Engineering to do an analysis of systems for emergency notification.
- It was interesting to hear that any municipality within the area of DEP infrastructure can tap into the system. Example: Tusten would have such a right. DEP checks the water quality regularly and one change worth noting is the increase in chlorides.
- You might be interested to know that the city has contracted with the farmer to use his sheep for grass control below the Neversink reservoir at a cost of \$20,000 per year.
- NPS Superintendent Heister reported that 18 boats overturned at Skinners Falls over the Memorial Day weekend.
- Executive director ramie reported that a new cooperative review procedure has been instituted by the Secretary of the Interior for any contracts of \$100,000 and up. Therefore our funding is being held up pending review, as result we are forced to use the UDC's unallocated funds for the monthly bills.
- Congressman Faso is trying to arrange for a visit to the Upper Delaware by the Secretary of the Interior Zinke.
- Actions taken:
  - a. Approved a letter to Roberta Byron Lockwood, President/CEO, Sullivan County Visitors Association: Water Safety Messaging\*
  - b. Approved a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and National Park Service Acting Regional Director Joshua Laird: UDC Funding Concerns\*

**YOUTH COMMISSION:** Councilperson Grund

- We have an application for a new member to fill the unexpired term of Julie Swendsen, Kristina Snedeker and the Youth Commission her to fill this opening on the board
- Bronx Zoo – 22 youth
- Bowling-Callicoon 9 youth
- Upcoming events: Wayne County Fair Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, Rafting Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, West Point Football Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, Giant Football Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, we are also looking into other events and we are getting prizes ready for our raffle
- Next meeting is July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to appoint Kristina Snedeker to fill the unexpired term of Julie Swendsen, whose term expires December 31, 2019. All board members voted in favor

At this time some new business was taken care of.

Basketball Court—Pickle Ball? Town Board members and Youth commission discussed what could be done to provide both the basketball court and incorporate a Pickle Ball court at the same time. Explained to the community members what Pickle Ball is.

**WEBSITE AND FIRE DISTRICT:** Councilperson Story

Councilperson Story gave an oral report

**Fire District** – Councilperson Story gave an oral report

**SENIORS:** Councilperson Salzberg

Nothing to report at this time

**KEEP COCHECTON CLEAN:** Jerold Yavarkovsky

- The seniors are planning on continuing their TaiChi program with special movement called: Pick up the bottle, Grab the chip bag and tell your neighbor not to be a slob!!!
- We had a very successful Litter pluck so far this year. During the official two-week period ( May 6, 2017 – May 20, 2017) about 30-35 people picked up about 80 bags of liter and assorted tires, plastic, metal and cardboard boxes. I received an irate phone call from one individual who complained that someone litter plucked “his” road. I think my dreams are coming true – I predicted 1st year that people would be fighting over “their” litter! Let's keep up the good work!

They would also like to purchase a laptop and a computer as well as a projector. This was discussed –does any other department or board have a use for a laptop, computer and projector.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)  
Monthly Financial Report  
Bank Information

- Deposited \$100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$1,708.50 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$660.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,358.05 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$299.96 Insurance payment o stolen items
- Deposited \$1000.00 Tax Collector
- Deposited \$49.00 Debit Card
- Deposited \$22,500.00 truck sale
- Deposited \$40.60 Insurance refund for policy change
- Deposited \$4,876.32 mortgage tax
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actuals to board
- Activity
- Attended Supervisors meeting. Worked on Website update. Worked on Storm Stella data. Clean up Days were May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Picked up new pickup with Kevin

CONTRACTUAL		\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$413.66	\$ 3,586.34
Abstract#3	\$920.67	\$ 2,665.67
Abstract #4	\$606.75	\$2,999.57
Abstract #5	\$99.00	\$1,959.92
Abstract#6	\$76.75	\$1,883.17
Abstract#7	\$	\$
Abstract#8	\$	\$
Abstract#9	\$	\$
Abstract#10	\$	\$
Abstract#11	\$	\$
Abstract#12	\$	\$

Worked 99 hours  
Also attended shared services meeting and ordered the additional cameras

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman) Not present

Supervisor went over his report

- Cut brush, ditched and patched on gravel and paved roads.
- Finished grading some dirt roads.
- Replaced some pipes.
- Started mowing our right of ways.
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance is - \$2541.17
- Diesel 932.9 gals del / used 892 gals
- Gas 58 gals del / used 125.2 gals

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman) not present

- Submitted a written report.
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- UDC check # 2632 in the amount of \$100.00 received 5/26/17 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day.
- I attended the OSTCA meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, we had a presentation regarding emergency preparedness, have a plan that the whole family understands; what to have ready in a to-go pack; have a plan where to meet in case of fire if the family is not all in the same place. Safety with drinking water, when to boil water and for how long after flooding etc. If told to evacuate follow instructions by emergency personnel. It was a very informative session. We also discussed the EDRS, most towns are not on line with this system at this time
- Issued 4 permanent handicapped and 0 temporary parking permits in May
- I provided telephone #'s for different departments. I'm also getting calls inquiring about what the taxes are for property in the Town of Cochecton. I hand out building permits, when the CEO is not in the office. I am getting a lot of phone calls for the Justice Court, people wanting to know what their fines are and if they can set up a payment plan.
- Worked a total of 123 ¾ hours in May
- Expenditures \$850.27 (includes a new filing cabinet)
- Contractual balance \$1,922.24

**CEO:** (Gregg Semenetz)

Submitted a written report

- Worked 80 hours traveled 654 miles, Issued 2 permits ) renewals
- 1 C of O’s issued, 1 notices of disapproval, 4 municipal search letters
- 0 Appearance tickets, revenue \$400.00 Expenditures: \$403.16
- Contractual balance: \$3,174.92

Permits are up, 2 new house permits this past week. On County Road 116 there is now a tarp over the boat, something’s are being cleaned up. Sent 3<sup>rd</sup> and final notice to Falk, still working on the other two

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report

- Balance Check book \$1,095.39
- Ck # 416 S. C. Treasures Nancy Buck \$17.03 (adjustment)
- Ck # 417 Supervisor Gary Maas \$1,075.35
- Balance \$0,01
- Worked 4 hours in May
- Contractual balance: \$1,734.99

Did not order the envelopes at this time –was told stamps were not going up just yet

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** (Karen Mannino)

Submitted a written report:

Draft Resolution and filing, edit solar law; email to Supervisor

Edit of Solar Law/email to Supervisor

Attendance at Board Meeting

Filing LL # 1 of 2017; draft LL# 2 of 2017 Summer Camp Moratorium; draft Public Hearig Notice; Draft

Resolution; email to Supervisor

Email to Supervisor: Solar Law Filing.

Attorney will work on Summer Camp moratorium for the next meeting

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

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over the report

*Old Business:*

1. Our tentative Equalization rate is 79%

*New Business*

1. We received our new file cabinet and it will give us additional space for our locked files
2. Our Grievance day was Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> between the hours of 4:00-8:00, and was quiet
3. I will be in the field when the weather breaks, taking pictures and verifying buildings

Assessor Hours: 37.50

Clerk Hours: 37.50

May contractual balance:	A 1355.400	\$2,788.39	A 1355.200	\$400.00
Quill	\$177.98		Kristt	<u>\$400.00</u>
Kristt	\$179.00			\$0.00
Terri- mileage	\$23.27			
Total May	\$380.25			
Contractual Balance:	\$2,408.14			

**SEWER OFFICER:** (Michael Walter) not present

Submitted a written report:

Average Flow 41,469; Percentage C.B.O. D. 90; Percentage T.S.S.69for May

Expenditures were \$4,364.65

Contractual Balance: \$15,086.20

**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR:** (Earl Bertsch) no longer present

Written report submitted: Minutes from the February 23, 2017 meeting were submitted after they were approved on May 25, 2017. The complete minutes are available at the Town clerk’s office if anyone wishes to review them

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

Submitted a written report:

2 dogs at large calls and 2 dog license calls

Worked 10 hours

Contractual balance: \$2,476.99

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

No report

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

- Submitted a written report: Worked 80 hours traveled 740 miles
- Issued 8 permits; 0 renewals, 2 C of O’s, Notices of Disapproval 1, 3 Municipal search letters, 0 appearance tickets
- Revenues of \$775.00, and expenses of \$504.88
- Contractual Balance: \$2,733.78

**REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF COCHECTON, JUNE 14, 2017**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

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CEO - New construction is in line with last year's pace. He mailed notices to homeowners regarding unsafe building issue. Councilperson Nearing asked CEO to notify him about the timeframe for his next step.

**TOWN BOARD:**

Council members, Story, Salzberg and Grund had nothing more to add

Councilperson Nearing asked about grants for basketball and Pickle Ball court, this matter will be looked at and will see if there is a Grant writer willing to help the town in this matter

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Alarm and Security for Town Buildings – Additional Cameras – discussed earlier
2. Unsafe Buildings 2017 – discussed earlier
3. Website Update – discussed earlier

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Basketball Court – Pickle Ball? – discussed earlier
2. Summer Camps – 1 year moratorium discussed earlier

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Eileen Hennessy, asked what Pickle Ball was

Larry Richardson, last month Kevin presented the computer program that he now uses for the HWY Dept. and what information was submitted> Councilperson Story stated what was in the report. Such as fuel used and how many miles driven in the different trucks, listed all vendors and what the amounts paid were. Also described that stone was delivered etc. how much cold patch delivered. What was purchased using the Town Debit Card. What kind of service was done on which piece of equipment etc. He also reported what hours and overtime hours were worked by each highway worker. Larry Richardson asked about highway inventory and what roads are being done. Councilperson Story said she also had some questions for the Highway Superintendent

Peter Grosser, mentioned that the sign was missing for Mill Road, it was lost during the March snow storm.

Supervisor Maas mentioned the sign at Shortcut and Devils road is also missing. He will look into having the signs replaced

No one wished to comment

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to adjourn this meeting. Time 8:40pm. All Town Board members voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, \_\_\_\_\_

Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk