

REGULAR COCHECTON TOWN BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 14, 2013 BID OPENING CHIPPER

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A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on August 14, 2013 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)

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Maas with the pledge to the flag at 7:35 PM.

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hollye Schulman – Town Clerk
Kevin Esselman – Highway Superintendent
Karen Mannino –Acting Attorney

Gregg Semenetz –CEO entered at 7:55 p.m.
Eileen Hennessy –Tax Collector

During the pre-work session the Firemen gave a presentation to explain their need for a new Fire Truck. They will hold a Public Hearing at a time to be announced.

During the work session Dave Bodenstein rep: from Mike Preis Insurance gave a presentation on the FY 2013-2014 Insurance proposal for the town and explained same. The premium for this policy is less than the previous year.

BID OPENING CHIPPER:

Town Clerk read the legal notice that was published in the River Reporter on July 22, 2013

There was only one bid received –from Marshall Machinery for a 15” Morbark Beaver M 15R Chipper and the bid was \$49,453.25

Councilperson Richardson –how can he justify this purchase? How many roads in town have trees larger than 12”. Town of Callicoon recently purchased a 12” chipper, they have a wood burning stove for the highway dept. and burn the bigger trees, and the Town of Callicoon HWY Superintendent did not want to burden the town tax payers with the cost of a larger chipper
Supervisor is not interested in this bid: he thought it would be more of a savings over the 18” bid the Town got last month which was rejected at the July 10, 2013 meeting as too expensive and not what was authorized for bid. He would table this issue for now
Councilperson Grund – price a concern –table
Councilperson Story –table
Councilperson Schulman would like to see a bid for a 12” chipper –table

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to table this Chipper bid. All board members voted in favor

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT: Mutual Aid --Dave Bodenstein will look this over and get back to the Board re: this issue and give them his thoughts

RESOLUTION # 59

TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING TO REVOKE OR CONTINUE AN ORDER TO MAKE SAFE OR REMOVE UNSAFE STRUCTURES WITH RESPECT TO PROPERTIES DESIGNATED AS SECTION 2 BLOCK 1 LOT 2.2 AND SECTION 13 BLOCK 1 LOT 55

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

WHEREAS, the structures located on Section 2 Block 1 Lot 2.2 have been deemed by this Board to be unsafe and in need of removal (specifically a single wide trailer) and structures located on Section 13 Block 1 Lot 55 have been deemed by this Board to be unsafe and in need of removal (specifically two one story seasonal cottages),

AND WHEREAS, this Board has Ordered removal of the Structures and that notice be provided in accordance with Chapter 95 of the Town Code.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on September 25, 2013at 7:00, or at any recessed or adjourned date thereof, a public hearing regarding Section 2 Block 1 Lot 2.2 be conducted in accordance with Chapter 95 of the Town Code to determine whether to revoke or continue the order to make safe and direct the work to be performed within a specified period of time to protect the general public,

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, on September 25, 2013 at 7:15, or at any recessed or adjourned date thereof, a public hearing regarding Section 13 Block 1 Lot 55 be conducted in accordance with Chapter 95 of the Town Code to determine whether to revoke or continue the order to make safe and direct the work to be performed within a specified period of time to protect the general public.

At this time there was some discussion re: proposed Casinos. Councilperson Richardson Sullivan could use a casino, lot of people were against and there are lot of negatives that come with casinos, only one for now, to see how it works out and maybe others down the road. Could vote for one, would like the wording changed to casino; not casinos

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RESOLUTION # 60

SUPPORTING THE ENACTMENT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CLASS III GAMING IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature have enacted the Upstate NY Gaming Economic Development Act, which includes an amendment to the New York State Constitution to allow Class III Gaming in New York State and authorizes the development of up to seven casinos; and

WHEREAS, the legislation authorizes the establishment of four destination gaming resorts in three distinct regions (Regions 1, 2 and 5), in Upstate New York, with a maximum of two projects to be located in the Catskills/Hudson Valley region (Region 1); and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County has been recognized as a premiere vacation destination in New York State for generations and has historically served as host to some of the world's most famous destination resorts; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County, like the rest of New York State and the Country, has suffered significant negative economic impacts as a result of the recent global economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County has sought the legalization of Class III Casino Gaming for more than four decades, and

WHEREAS, gaming, as a single component within a destination resort, will provide the much needed catalyst to stimulate further economic growth in Sullivan County and support of our local community; and

WHEREAS, the development of destination gaming resorts would bring thousands of much needed quality jobs to Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of destination gaming resorts in Sullivan County will provide financial support for education and desperately needed property tax relief for Sullivan County taxpayers and communities statewide; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of destination gaming resorts will stop the flow of revenues for tourism and gaming crossing our borders into neighboring states and keep those dollars in New York State; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the people of Sullivan County and the entire State of New York that the referendum appearing on the November, 2013 ballot authorizing Class III Gaming be approved, and

WHEREAS, the benefits associated with the passage of a constitutional amendment authorizing Class III gaming will support job creation throughout New York State, benefitting individuals and families in all areas of New York, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Cochection and it's residents would benefit greatly from the development of destination resort casinos in Sullivan County through attendant job creation, investment and real estate and commercial development opportunities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cochection enthusiastically supports the enactment of the constitutional amendment authorizing Class III Gaming in New York State, and asks that all municipalities of New York State join in expressing support for the amendment.

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 1 Councilperson Richardson

Supervisor Maas

Councilperson Grund, Schulman and Story

RESOLUTION # 61

CORRECTION ABSTRACT # 6

On motion of Supervisor Maas, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following resolution was

WHEREAS, the Cochection Town Board when it approved Abstract # 6 on June 12th, 2013 was unaware the Voucher 271 should have been for the amount of \$61.00 instead of \$73.00 and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that budget line A 5132.400 (Highway Garage Contractual) only be charged \$61.00 and the total expended by the General Fund including pre-paid on Abstract # 6 be shown as \$15,457.83

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

RESOLUTION # 62

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO THOMAS ELECTRIC INC.

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

WHEREAS, Thomas Electric Inc. has performed the balance of wiring of basement kitchen and connected dishwasher and trouble shoot of outdoor GFI outlets, and

WHEREAS, this work was finished in April, and the voucher got lost, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to prepay Thomas Electric Inc. for the work performed in the amount of \$932.36 to settle this account

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

RESOLUTION # 63

ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR FY 2013-2014 FROM MIKE PREIS INSURANCE

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Cochection hereby accepts for FY 2013-2014 the Insurance proposal presented by Dave Bodenstein for \$20,252.76 for coverage for Town of Cochection and Lake Huntington Sewer District

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following motion was to approve the minutes of July 10, 2013 and be accepted as submitted. All voted in favor

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to approve for payment the bill on abstract # 8 in the following amount.

General Account	Voucher # 348-378	\$8,996.60
Sewer Account	Voucher # 379-383	\$2,130.04
Lighting District Account	Voucher # 384	\$522.39
Highway Account	Voucher # 385-395	\$96,841.92

Claim #'s 357, 361, 369, 374, 375 and 388 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.
Prepaid claims were paid on July 11th, July 15th, July 22nd and August 5th, 2013
All voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

NYS Assessor’s Association –to join them in the 50th Anniversary of the Sullivan county Assessor’s Association on Sept. 20th at Friends Restaurant in Smallwood. Cost \$30.00 per person
Millennium Pipeline: Monitoring of Wetlands and Stream Areas. Work shall occur from July till October 2013 in the pipeline right-of-way
NYS DEC: Inspecting Petroleum Bulk Storage Facilities. Town of Cochection has been inspected already
MVP Health Care; informing that the town will receive a refund in the form of credit on your September invoice for a portion of the 2012 MVP premium. This is a one time refund
TWC: Programming Notice letter
TWC: New Program supervisor
Western Sullivan Public Library: Invitation to Grand Opening of the newly renovated Delaware Free Branch Library and celebration of the building’s 100th Anniversary
E-mail: Town sign for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway has been vandalized. Supervisor was told how to clean it and it has been taken care of
Upper Delaware Scenic Byway: Signage –is promoting uniformity of signage along the designated NYS Route 97 byway route, and is seeking a member municipality interested in serving as a model for how this could be achieved
Letter from Travis O’Dell—Thanking the Town for the copies of the Zoning Code and completion form. Need letter on Towns letter head requesting final payment and stating the dollar amount. General Code will send a new page with their logo and stating the General Code was part of a Tag Grant from the UDC
Letter from David Bloodgood senior Loss Control Specialist with NYMIR thanking the Town for affording him the opportunity to perform an underwriting survey of the municipality regarding a safe environment for officials, employees and others who use or visit the facilities. Several problems were pointed out and they have all been addressed

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Attianese, Pinewood Road, asked about when the Public Hearing for the Fire Department was going to be held. He was told they have not set a date at this time.
Millennium Pipeline donated to the Ambulance Corp. and Fire Dept. \$250.00 each. Mr. Attianese said the Ambulance Corp. was purchasing 6 tear away safety vests with their money
No one else wished to comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

97 Pull Off: Councilperson Larry Richardson; nothing to add

Youth Commission: Councilperson Edwin Grund reported on the events held; Horseback riding – 11 children, Movies – 28 children, Day of the Lake –Bouncy House, sold snow cones and water, there was no charge for the bouncy house. July 18th Camel Beach -12 adults and 19 children, Wayne County Fair Aug. 7th. There will be a trip to Scranton for a ball game this coming Sunday. Also planned a Day at the Villa, A corn maze. For the Harvest Festival, they would like to use the lower parking lot at the Town Hall.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to allow the Youth Commission to use the lower parking lot at the Town Hall for parking the cars for the tricky trunk, and also they will be allowed to use the bathrooms. All Town Board members vote in favor

Office of the Aging: Councilperson Richard Schulman, Visiting Nurse Practitioner services include: Obtaining medical histories and performing physical exams, diagnosing and treating health problems. Ordering and interpreting laboratory tests and x-rays. Prescribe medications and other treatments. Provide prenatal care and family planning services; just to mention a few of the services provided. There are two clinic locations (Liberty and White Sulphur Springs) that have office hours, and the phone # is 845-292-9114 and the cell # is 845-807-3003

Website: Councilperson Anna Story – added fuel bid and legal notice, added July agenda to upcoming meeting page. Added Town Board minutes, removed expired legal notices. Also added the Chipper legal notice as well as the proposed codification of laws link to the News Alerts box and added youth events. Worked 3 ¼ hours

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

- Submitted a written report:
 - Monthly Financial Report
Bank Information:
Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check
Deposited \$ 2012.00 Judicial fees
Deposited \$ 1070.00 Judicial fees

Supervisor’s report continues:
Deposited \$ 1804.11 Town Clerk fees
Deposited \$ 2135.12 SEMO payment
Deposited \$ 7982.96 Mortgage Tax
Made transfers and deposits as needed

1. Activity
- Calls with Cooper Arias, Karen Mannino, Dan Sturn, Rita Sheehan, Scott Samuelson, Ed Weitman, Tom Bose, Ethan Cohen, George Conklin, Dean Smith, Mike Preis, General Code
- Meeting with Fire Commissioners, Millennium Pipe Presentation of \$250 checks to both Fire Dept. and Ambulance Corp.
- Completed Server Re-location to Vault, Got reports from Motor Vehicle for Highway Department Drivers, Sent letters to all residents in Sewer District, Completed Tag Grant for UDC

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	\$ 160.50	\$3,808.66
Abstract#6	\$ 174.60	\$3,634.06
Abstract#7	\$ 119.65	\$3,514.41
Abstract#8	\$ 207.90	\$3,306.51
Abstract#9		
Abstract#10		
Abstract#11		
Abstract#12		
Abstract#12A		

Worked 95 ½ hours in July

- HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (Kevin Esselman)
- Submitted written report,
 - Replaced culverts on Bernas and Old County Road.
 - Continue to patch on both our paved roads and unpaved roads
 - Did some ditching around town.
 - Put the dump body back on truck 27. Also replaced the decking on our equipment trailer.
 - Worked on specs and legal notice for chipper and sent it to the River Reporter and Anna. Also sent some C.H.I.P.S forms in for reimbursement.
 - Finished up all the major paving projects we had.
 - Contractual balance is \$1,832.91
 - Worked 160 HRS
 - Diesel Fuel. 213.9 gals delivered Used 372 gals
 - Reg Gas. No deliveries Used 55 gals

Councilperson Richardson asked about the driveway on property near his home; the driveway comes down to the road and it should have a negative decline, perhaps needs to be regraded to keep the water from running in the road. Also asked if logging was happening on CR 116 he was told that is just trees they are clearing to use when they build the new house

Highway Superintendent mentioned he needs to place legal notices for fuel and sand.

RESOLUTION # 64
TOWN CLERK TO PLACE LEGAL NOTICE FOR SAND BID

On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following resolution was RESOLVED, to have the Town Clerk place the legal notice in The River Reporter for ice control sand from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the bids shall meet Sullivan County Specifications and be returnable to the Town Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. September 10, 2013 at her office or mailed to P.O. Box 295 Lake Huntington, NY 12752
ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

HWY Superintendent also mentioned that one of the sand spreaders has thin walls and the floor is in bad shape, he would like to replace this before the winter months. HWY Superintendent should get price comparisons for steel and stainless steel sanders. Will be discussed at next month’s meeting

HWY Superintendent also asked permission to attend the Highway Superintendents School on September 17, 2013

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was
To allow the HWY Superintendent to attend the Highway Superintendents School September 17, 2013. All board members voted in favor

- TOWN CLERK:** (Hollye Schulman)
Submitted a written report
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk

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Town Clerk report continues:

- I sent employee's information records to the NYS & Local Retirement Systems for the employee that was buying back time; after providing this same information to the employee
- Received a call from a lady with a porcupine in her driveway call and wanted the Highway Dept. to do something about it, I gave her the phone # for the sheriff's dept., maybe they could help her; as the porcupine was acting funny. I also suggested she call the Sullivan County Public Health. I also had a call regarding a dead deer on County Road 114, I told that person to call the County as it was on a County Road and the Town doesn't have an animal control officer
- Received a phone request for a FOIL application; which I faxed to them
- There was no OSTCA meeting in July; our next meeting will not be until September
- I had several calls re: animals loose on CR 115, was told that they should be calling 911 to report any animals on the road; the town only has a DCO not an animal control officer. This would go through the sheriff's dept.
- The UDC check # 3196 in the amount of \$100.00 received 7/25/2013 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I issued 1 handicapped parking permit and one temporary permit.
- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I have received telephone calls for the Tax Collector, Assessor, CEO, Bookkeeper and Justice Court. People call to find out when the transfer station is open; and what they can bring –I provide them with the phone #.
- Worked a total of 113 hours
- Contractual balance: \$4,968.49

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

- Submitted a written report:
- Worked a total of 80 hours
- Total mileage 634
- Permits issued: 7 Renewals: 0, C of O's issued: 13 Notice of Disapproval: 0, Municipal search letters: 2
- Appearance tickets: 0
- Revenues: \$930.00, Expenses: \$401.67
- Contractual balance: \$2,660.95

CEO -- busy on Bernas Road. CR 116 proposed straw bale house.—logs will be used for siding. Sent 2 violation notices—1 on Shortcut Road (Gerstler property). Trailer on State Route 52, has more garbage. As far as the Pines property is concerned CEO has spoken to the potential buyers, they may level the buildings –sale is pending

ACTING ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)

- Submitted a written report:
- Statute review (unsafe buildings)
- Attended Town Board meeting
- Draft/resolution re: Unsafe buildings/public hearing
- Meetings with Supervisor –to pick up and discuss General Code packet
- Prepare Local Law 1 of 2013

Ms. Mannino will also send Notice of Order and Notice of Hearing for both properties.

Codified Laws may need SEQRA and need to go to the County for review

RESOLUTION # 65

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 1 OF 2013 GENERAL CODE

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

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Cochection has entered into a project for the codification of local laws, ordinances and certain resolutions of the Town of Cochection for the purposes of increasing the effectiveness of Town governmental administration, providing for greater public awareness of and access to Town legislation and protecting the health, safety and welfare of Town inhabitants; and

WHEREAS the proposed codification has been published in loose-leaf form and the Town Board now desires to formally effect the adoption of said codification by enactment of a local law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held by the Town Board with respect to enactment of the following local law, such public hearing to be held on the 25 day of September, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., in the Town Hall, Town of Cochection, New York. The proposed local law to be considered is as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 1-2013

A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE CODIFICATION OF THE LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS OF THE TOWN OF COCHECTON INTO A MUNICIPAL CODE TO BE DESIGNATED THE “CODE OF THE TOWN OF COCHECTON”

Copies of the text of the above-named local law shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby directed and authorized to cause public notice of said hearing to be given in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law, the Open Meetings Law and §§ 264 and 265 of the Town Law of the State of New York.

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy)

- Submitted a written report: as of August 14, 2013
- Checkbook balance is \$0.28
- Money collected \$2,088,511.64
- Worked 4 hours in month of July
- Contractual balance: \$3,067.22

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Tax Collector also gave an overview re: the Credit card system Allen Tunnel used for collecting property taxes. Councilperson Richardson feels the town should pursue the use of a credit card for the purpose of collecting property taxes

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Submitted a written report; Supervisor went over the report

Old Business:

1. Data Collection project is doing well, as of this writing, Terri has finished map section 4 & 5 and all the photos have been entered into the system, and is continuing to Map section 11 & 12.
2. All Assessors and County Directors are up for reappointment prior to October 1, 2013. I am requesting that the Board reappointment me for the next term.

New Business:

1. NYS will be verifying all of the Basic STAR recipients for 2014. This will come as a letter with instructions on how to respond via mail or internet. For our town, we should see those letters coming close to September. This will not affect the Enhanced STAR taxpayers.
2. On July 12th our office received training on the Counties new pictometry program. We all participated in the “webinar” that day. It ran about 2.5 hrs. It was interesting and also enlightening. This has already proven to be a useful tool in my office, as some properties have changed and the new program has given us a timeline in photographs.
3. I have a few corrections to the final roll and will reconvene the Board of Assessment Review in August.
4. Our final equalization rate is 80%
5. I received a request for Cemetery information from the Sullivan County Historical Society. They have provided me with a listing of several areas that I am not familiar with. I know the obvious ones; however I would ask that each of you take a look to see if there should be any other additions to their list. I am not privy to private burial areas, unless it mentions them in a newer deed, i.e.: Jerry Sheppard property.
6. I have been selected as an alternate juror for a Criminal trial at the County. It is expected to last four to five weeks. I am not able to be in my office on Wednesdays, but will be here as scheduled on Fridays.

Assessor Hrs. 28.25 Clerk Hrs.: 21.50

Contractual balance: \$1,859.77

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Sharron Cardone) not present

Submitted a written report, which the Supervisor went over

Planning Board Minutes for July 25th 2013

Meeting was opened by me at 7:30

All members except Neal Halloran, George Blaso and Jim Crowley were present.

Minutes from the May and June 2013 meetings were tabled until August meeting.

I gave out certificates for attending Planning board classes to Earl and Joe.

Old Business - I advised Joe that if and when Coffee Creations come back to the board that both he and Jim agreed to step down and that Bob DeMan and Andy Ranaudo would be our alternate board members for any discussions regarding this item.

New Business – no new business

Other Business –

Now that everyone has the updated zoning, planning and comprehensive plan we need to go through the items and see if need to seek any changes for our town.

For August asked the members to read through the Town Comprehensive Plan so we can go over it at the meeting. All the members need to be aware of what the plan is.

Meeting was adjourned at 8PM

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter) not present

- Average flow of 49,171 gallons per day for month of July
- Obtained 95.8 % C.B.O.D. and 86.6 % T.S.S. removal for July

Spent a total of 84 hours attending to sewer district affairs in July

- Expenditures: \$2,130.04
- Contractual Balance: \$6,986.86

Supervisor mentioned that the SPO has reached out to other electricians re: the motor at the pump station. It may just be a 40 year motor that needs to be replaced and not all the other things mentioned in a proposal by American Electric

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile) not present

Submitted a written report; several calls to 707 County Road 115 re: animals loose and on the road

Covered DCO for Town of Bethel By mutual agreement)

Dogs at large on State Route 52

Worked 5 hours

Contractual Balance: \$2,627.89 Enumeration Contractual Balance: \$500.00

HISTORIAN: (K. C. Garn) not present

Supervisor went over the report.

The news this month is that we have collected all of the books that had been stored in an "attic" in the old Town Hall. Of importance is that some original 19th century Town of Cochection records were amongst those books. We now have in our possession a "Tax Roll", prepared by the Town Clerk, for nearly every year between 1860 and 1900 or so. They're small hard cover books which record the names of all the property owners, the amount of improved or unimproved property they owned, the location of the properties and their value.

Taking the 1870 record (the 1st year the Town was its present size) for example, the Clerk (John Barwig, Jr.) recorded 347 parcels of taxable land that were owned by 288 individuals. Those individuals appeared to be all of the male variety. No surprise there, I suppose. These records, along with census data, are helpful to anyone who is seeking to learn more about our Town's early history and I'm pleased to have them.

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Historian report continues:

For some reason, back in those days, the Town Clerk's Tax Roll also noted the number of dogs on the assessed properties. If you're the sort of person to wonder about such things, Mr. Barwig, Jr. reported that the Town of Cochection was home to 132 dogs in 1870. Enjoy the remainder of this beautiful summer.

UDC: (Larry Richardson)

- The Upper Delaware Council held its regular meeting on Thursday August 1.
At the start of the meeting we heard a presentation from Jerre Mohler, Delaware River Coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-“Health of the Delaware River Fisheries”. Mr. Mohler showed slides and statistical data on the many popular sport fish found in the Delaware. It is commonly accepted that the “upper” Upper Delaware River has developed a world class trout fishery. As you move further downstream and the water begins to warm, very large Striped Bass and Muskelunge can be found in the Lackawaxen Pool. American Eels although experiencing shrinking populations overall, seem to be holding their own in the Delaware. Other Bass species as well as Walleye now reside in parts of the Delaware. Down in the Bay, large Sturgeon move into the Bay to breed and produce young. However, it was reported that the Sturgeon are being threatened by ever larger ships that drag bottom and damage the fish. Sturgeons reach sexual maturity at about 15 years of age.
- In a report reproduced from 1899, Atlantic Sturgeon that were caught in the lower Delaware averaged 240 pounds. The fact that Striped Bass and Shad are making a come-back is a tribute to the efforts to greatly improve the water quality in the Delaware.
- Bill Rudge from the DEC reported that the Agency is asking swimming pool owners to examine their filters for invasive species such as the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the Ash Borer. DEC has found this is a good way to be alerted if these dangerous invasive species have spread into our area. If one thinks they have found one of these insects, they should preserve it, take a digital picture, advise DEC via email at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html. The photo can be sent to foresthealth@gw.dec.state.ny.us. To sign up for the survey call Jessica Cancelliere at 518-810-1609.
- NPS Superintendent Sean McGuinness would like to have a meeting of all the stakeholders as it relates to access to Skinners Falls. The meeting is suggested for this fall.

Actions taken:

- Approved a letter to be sent requesting a balloon test be performed at the proposed Damascus cell tower location.
- Approved a letter to be sent to Penn DOT requesting to be a member of the Consulting Party in regards to the planned work on Skinners Falls Bridge.
- Approved an application to be part of the Rep. Chris Gibson organized Watershed Advisory Council
- Approved a letter in support of the DRBC request to have funding provided as originally agreed from the Federal Government.

TOWN BOARD:

(Councilperson Story) – Nothing to report

(Councilperson Schulman) – Nothing to report

(Councilperson Grund) - Nothing to report

(Councilperson Richardson) - Nothing to report

(Supervisor) – Received NYS & Local retirement estimates for 2014 and there is a large increase over last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. basement Completion –CEO has been in contact with 3 electrical contractors for quotes
2. Unsafe Buildings –addressed earlier
3. Codify Local Laws – Tag Grant completed
4. Generator for Sewer Dept. – pending
5. Re-levy – Lennox Bailey – pending
6. Computer server relocation- completed

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fireworks permits – Day on the Lake- pending (maybe next meeting)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to adjourn this Town Board meeting. Time 9:12 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk