

**REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF COCHECTON, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on September 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM 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 7:30 PM.

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Gary Maas  
Councilperson Larry Richardson  
Councilperson Anna Story  
Councilperson Sean Nearing  
Councilperson Paul Salzberg

**OTHERS PRESENT:**  
Hollye Schulman – Town Clerk Gregg Semenetz –CEO  
Karen Mannino --Attorney

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was, to accept the minutes of August 12 and August 26, 2015 and be accepted as submitted. All board members voted in favor

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to approve payment of bills on abstract # 9 in the following amounts.

General Account	Voucher # 405-433	\$26,227.87
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 434	\$444.54
Sewer Account	Voucher # 435-437	\$668.60
Lighting Account	Vouchers # 485	\$547.23
Highway Account	Voucher # 438-451	\$16,683.54

Voucher #'s 410 split between funds, same voucher  
Voucher #'s 405-418 are noted as PREPAID on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
All board members voted in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter UDSB: Municipal Contribution 2016. Town pays this in January  
Kelly Edwards: re: hearing and drug testing cost for the Highway workers \$34.00 per person includes (50%) random drug testing and (20% alcohol testing. Pre-employment, post-accident, and reasonable suspicion: \$40.00 per person. Breathalyzer for alcohol testing (BAT) \$25.00 per person. DOT physicals: \$55.00 per person  
NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance Office of Real Property Tax Service: Received the official Equalization Rate for 2015 which is 79% and last year it was 80%  
Public Hearing: Re: Energy Affordability for Low-Income Utility Customer  
Letter Office of NYS Comptroller: re: Ruth Finn 1995 hours worked and salary paid  
NYS DOT: re: Guiderail Replacement Project NYS Routes 52 and 17B in Towns of Liberty, Cochecton and Bethel. Work to start in October and conclude in spring of 2016  
Sullivan County Community Choice Aggregation: Sustainable Development  
Councilperson Richardson mentioned that the NPS is looking to have release forms from persons interviewed re: oral history and there are no release forms signed by many people, if anyone knows of family members to please let them know. (The List is in the Town Clerk' office)  
The Delaware Company: will present the First Annual Fall Forum—"The Future of History: Saturday November14, 2015 10 AM to 4 PM Lunch included SUNY – Sullivan Loch Sheldrake, NY Free and Open to the Public He also mentioned the Cochecton Preservation Society will present the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Coffee, Tea and History. "Cochecton's First People" Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM Cochecton Train Station

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pauline Johnson, Bernas Road, was disturbed about the article re: the Cochecton Ambulance. Supervisor said this will be discussed later in meeting  
Supervisor mentioned there was a person interested in being a member of the BOAR. Grace DePasquale who has 26 years' experience in real estate

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to appoint Grace DePasquale to the BOAR. All board members voted in favor

No one else wished to comment

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Sullivan County Charter Commission;** Councilperson Richardson

- The Commission held its regular meeting on August 19. The Co-Chairperson Paul Burckard introduced county Manager Joshua Potosek who gave a lengthy presentation on the government flow chart and offered some recommendations. Passed out was a 41 page copy of the county administrative code. The Sullivan County Administrative Code is intended to outline the organizational structure of the county government.

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**Sullivan County Charter Commission continues:**

- At the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting we will hear from Acting Commissioner of Health and Family Services Joe Todora.
- Due to the large amount of testimony yet to be heard the commission is trying to coordinate a couple extra meetings.
- The vote was held by the board and the current co-chair persons are Paul Burckard, Peggy Harrison and Larry Richardson.
- The next meeting will be on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Scenic Byway:** Councilperson Richardson

- The UDSB held a scheduled meeting on August 24.

**Discussion items:**

- New Business: (*summary in part*)
  - a. Discussed the annual and in the Sullivan county travel guide and a possible cover.
  - b. A DOT representative will be meeting with the board to discuss work plans on route 97.
  - c. Reviewed website statistics for August.

**Old Business:** (*summary in part*)

- a. Discussed website/video grant application.
- b. County and municipal contributions were discussed
- c. The inventory of travel brochures was discussed and other places to distribute them.

**Youth Commission:** Ed Grund reported that 6 youth from town attended the trip to Fort Delaware, 32 town youth attended the Wayne County Fair. Trip to Camel Beach is all set. The tricky trunk is Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Anyone that wants to do a trunk has to be approved before Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. The Christmas party is Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM at Angelina's. Next meeting is Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

**Web Site and Fire District:** Councilperson Story –

- Added August agenda to the upcoming meeting page
  - Removed expired Legal notices
  - Removed expired info in the News Alerts box
  - Added Blood Drive information to news alerts
  - Corrections to Ambulance page – New Captain and public relations person
  - Added Zoning Board new member Brett Lockwood
  - Removed Edna Calkin from Board of Assessment Review
  - Added Town Board July minute
  - Review and corrections to minutes for Hollye
  - Removed expired youth events
  - Added upcoming youth events to youth page
  - Added youth events to calendar
  - Added youth By-laws
- Total Hours Worked: 4 hours

- Fire District: The next meeting is September 14.

**Keep Cochecton Clean:** Jerold Yavarkovsky

- Committee met on August 25, at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall
- We distributed signs and agreed to keep them up until Thanksgiving
- We decided to have our Fall Litter pluck on October 10, 2015 from 10 AM to 1 PM
- We will meet (For distribution of plastic bags, etc.) across from the Catholic Church in Lake Huntington
- We request the following supplies to be purchased by the Town: Plastic bags, pick-up tools (10), reflective vests (10), disposable gloves (1 box)
- We will invite High School students to join us and earn community service credit
- We are considering a Pizza Party as a reward for our Litter-pluckers
- We are looking into an EDDM (Every Door Direct Mail) program through the USPS for our Spring Litter pluck
- We also ask that you notify the Transfer Station re: our dropping off the litter pluck bags, and place our names on a year round litter pluck list

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by councilperson Story the following motion was to authorize Jerold Yavarkovsky to purchase the supplies needed for the October Litter pluck program for Keep Cochecton Clean. All board members voted in favor

**AMBULANCE CORP:** Councilperson Salzberg

He said he could not attend the last meeting. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month. He also mentioned that volunteers are hard to get, feels free EMT training should be offered with a 2 year commitment. Training is 6 month 2 nights per week for the EMT training. Gary brought up ambulance response issues, this was discussed at length. It was mentioned that April White is the Captain how can she hold that position while away at school. Herbert Sawall is the Co-captain.

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**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**SUPERVISOR:** (Gary Maas)

- Monthly Financial Report
- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$ 203.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 506 .00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 2052.33 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$ 3013.74 Mortgage Tax
- Deposited \$ 164.76 for Debit Card
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave board members budget to actuals.
- Activity
- Calls to Danette Mall in regards to health insurance rates for coming year. Went to Supervisors
- Meeting. Communications with Keith Eisenstarck and Karen on Land purchase. 2 meetings with labor on contract. Call to Dick Martinkovic. Had complaint on Corduroy Road. Calls from Alexandra Ockert and Ron Cohen on litter.

CONTRACTUAL		\$4,000.00
• Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$4,000.00
• Abstract #2	\$271.17	\$3,728.83
• Abstract#3	\$662.68	\$3,066.15
• Abstract #4	\$212.50	\$2,853.65
• Abstract #5	\$433.43	\$2,420.22
• Abstract#6	\$108.99	\$2,311.23
• Abstract#7	\$187.49	\$2,123.74
• Abstract#8	\$165.00	\$1,958.74
• Abstract#9	\$103.50	\$1,855.24
• Abstract#10	\$	\$
• Abstract#11	\$	\$
• Abstract#12	\$	\$

Worked 85 hours

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (Kevin Esselman) Not present

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over the report

- Out patching paved and gravel roads.
- Been out with the chipper cutting brush
- Mowed right of ways
- Rented a dozer and graded some millings plus cleaned out the pipe on MPE
- Going through our inventory for the winter
- Worked on my budget request
- Had meetings out in Monticello
- Fixed the few items in the shop that NYMIR had wanted down
- Diesel – 660.1 gals del / 740 gals used
- Gas –no gals del / 139 gals used
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual Balance is \$1,368.59

**TOWN CLERK:** (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report;

- Fees collected \$581.59 in month of August
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk.
- UDC check #1527 in the amount of \$100.00 received 8/28/2015 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I did not attend the OSTCA meeting
- Issued 2 permanent and 3 temporary handicapped parking permit in August
- I handed out blank permits when the CEO was not in his office
- I also helped a property owner with finding out what his taxes were on property he is hoping to sell; both property and school taxes. He did not have a computer so I looked the information up on [www.taxlookup.net](http://www.taxlookup.net)
- I provided telephone #'s for different departments. I'm still getting calls for the CEO, Assessor, Planning Board and Tax Collector. As well as the Justice Court. Questions regarding school taxes are also coming in
- Worked a total of 112 ½ hours in August
- Contractual balance \$1,617.61

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

Submitted a written report:

- Worked 80 hours, traveled 710 miles
- Issued 2 permits 0 renewals, 12 C of O’s issued, 0 Notices of disapproval, Municipal search letters 0, Appearance tickets issues: 0
- Revenues \$386.00, Expenses \$489.50
- Contractual Balance: \$1,943.05

Fees were down in August, fall looks pretty steady, revenue is up over August already

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** (Karen Mannino)

- Submitted a written report
- Attended Town Board meeting
- E-mail to attorney re: land purchase; e-mail to G. Maas re: land purchase; responsive e-mail to G. Maas re: employee issue (Disability Retirement)
- Review of requested vacant land contract changes/e-mail to Supervisor
- Preliminary Title Search; e-mail to Supervisor
- Attendance at recessed Board meeting
- Vacant Land Contract changes/ e-mail to attorney for Seller. e-mail to Supervisor; draft SEQRA resolution; e-mails to Supervisor

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy) not present

No report submitted: She has \$.01 cents in her account.

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

Submitted written report: Supervisor went over the report

**Old Business:**

1. Data Collection Project: All photos have been completed and also recovered. The scan process is continuing
2. Linda is out of the office with back surgery. She is home and recovering.

**New Business:**

1. The County has prepared a resolution for the Gold Star Parent Veteran exemption and an increase in the Aged exemption. This will go to the full Legislators on the 17<sup>th</sup>. In the event that the Town and school want to adopt the same levels (we all follow suit usually to keep it all conforming) I will provide a copy of the law when it has been accepted and approved.

Assessor Hours: 25.50

Clerk Hours: 35.5

August	1355.4	\$3,220.61		<b>Data Collection</b>	
PO Box rental		\$ 68.00			
Kristt		\$9.99			
Total Aug		\$77.99		<b>August</b>	
Balance		\$3,142.62	Terri	84.5	\$1,15.78

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

No report this month and no minutes

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

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report

Average flow 24.064 for the month of August, Percentage of C.B.O.D. removal 97% for the month of August and Percentage of T.S.S. removal was 98% for the month of August. Worked 71 1/2 hours, expenditures \$668.30. Contractual Balance: \$11,296.80

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

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report

Worked 8 hours doing –follow ups, maintenance and phone calls

**HISTORIAN:** (K.C. Garn) not present, no report.

**UDC:** (Larry Richardson)

Submitted a written report:

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday September 3. Following the roll call, John Beljean, National Parks Conservation Association’s Delaware River Field Representative presented an overview of the planned Geotourism
- Promotion sponsored by National Geographic. Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the distinctive geographical character of a place, its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture and the well-being of its residents. “Geotourism when done properly can bring economic benefits and create an incentive to conserve natural assets and cultural heritage. It encourages visitors and residents alike to work for the long term sustainability of a place”. This project will promote the Upper and Middle Delaware River valley areas; the extent away from the river is yet to be determined
- Chairman Al Henry introduced the national park Service Northeast regional director Michael Caldwell.

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**UDC report continues:**

- Executive Director Laurie Ramie reported that the Damascus 4H youth group had cleaned up the area around Skinners Falls. It is estimated that 200 pounds of trash was collected.
- USA today is running a contest to allow people to vote on the "Best Scenic Autumn Drive". The Upper Delaware Scenic
- Byway started out ranked number eight but has moved up to number four. We are encouraging everyone to vote and to vote often. The web site is [www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-scenic-autumn-drive](http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-scenic-autumn-drive).
- DEC Representative Bill Rudge handed out information on changes in water fowl hunting dates ,the antlerless deer program and a new survey program for deer populations.
- NPS Superintendent Heister discussed the Every Kid in a Park program. Starting today fourth graders Nationwide can visit the new Every Kid in the Park website to obtain a pass that provides free access to students and their families to all federally managed lands and waters. The pass is valid for the 2015-2016 school year and grants free entry for fourth graders and three accompanying adults or an entire car for drive-in parks. Superintendent Heister also reported that progress is being made on the collection of oral history tapes however there are a number of people who have passed away since the tapes were recorded and no release is on file therefore they are looking for the next of kin to provide a release and asking for help in finding those people.
- A special project review committee meeting will be held on September eighth at 6:30 PM to review tag grant applications and make recommendations
- **Actions taken:**
  - a. **Approved:** The Council approved a contract with Environmental Planning & Design LLC. to recommend changes in the Project Review Workbook to make it easier to use during substantial review. (\$16,412.00)
  - b. **Approved:** The Council approved installation of three solar attic fans. (\$2,070.00)

**TOWN BOARD:**

Councilpersons Salzberg, Story, Nearing, Richardson and Supervisor had nothing to add at this time

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Unsafe buildings –discussed earlier
2. Sewer Dept. –property purchase and UV system –will be discussed later
3. Lake Huntington Algae Bloom – DEC report to be ready in 2- 3 weeks

Councilperson Richardson asked about the exit off the kitchen for the Town Hall –Supervisor still working on this issue

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. BOAR appointment –discussed and appointment made earlier

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pauline Johnson, Bernas Road, Found the article re: the Ambulance Corp. disturbing. Prior to Legislators each Supervisor went to the County and discussed these matters. Now there is no such thing as help from the legislators. This was discussed

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following Motion was that this Town Board move into Executive Session. To discuss Sewer issues and Labor Negotiations. Time 8:45 p.m. All board members voted in favor

Others present: Attorney and Town Clerk

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing the following motion was that this Town Board moves out of Executive Session. Time 9:15 p.m. All board members voted in favor

While in Executive Session no decisions made

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was that this Town Board will recess until Sept. 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Time 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, \_\_\_\_\_  
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk