

A meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on October 14, 2015 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)

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hollye Schulman – Town Clerk  
Attorney –Karen Mannino  
CEO –Gregg Semenetz  
Michael Walter –Sewer Plant Operator  
Kevin Esselman – Highway Superintendent  
Assessor –Lorry King  
Eileen Hennessy –Tax Collector

During the work session the Supervisor discussed the Algae Bloom (cleared up and report from DEC) also discussed the failure of the water sample downstairs (this has been taken care of) water is clear at all 5 points where it was taken from.

Regular meeting opened at 7:29 p.m. with the pledge to the flag

**RESOLUTION # 37**

**TOWN OF COCHECTON REQUIRED BY NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM TO AUDIT JUSTICE COURT RECORDS**

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was  
WHEREAS, the Town of Cochection is required by the State of New York to have the local Justice Court records audited annually, and

WHEREAS, the accounting firm of Cooper, Arias & Co. LLP under contract with the Town of Cochection conducted an annual audit F Y 2014, and

WHEREAS, included in the annual audit was a review of the Town Justices' Court records as required by the State of New York Unified Court System, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the duly elected Town Board does hereby accept at annual audit FY 2014 preformed by Cooper, Arias & Co. LLP as fulfilling the requirement of the local justice records audit

**ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas  
Councilpersons Richardson, Story, Nearing and Salzberg

Supervisor mentioned that the Town Board is in the process of purchasing 3 +/- acres for the Sewer District and he will sign the contract and give it to the Attorney

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following motion was to approve the minutes of September 9, 2014, and September 24, 2014 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 approve the bills be paid on Abstract # 10 in the following amounts:

General Account	Voucher # 452-480	\$5,020.37
Debit Card Account	Voucher # 481	\$668.24
Sewer Account	Voucher # 482-484	\$4,422.68
Lighting District Account	Voucher # 485 & 453 & 458	\$568.81
Highway Account	Voucher # 486-499	\$21,192.50

Claim #'s 462, 467, 477 and 478 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Voucher #'s 452-466 are noted as PREPAID on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. All board members voted favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

SLAC:—No increase in 2016 for Social Security, and 15 million Medicare beneficiaries could see a 50% increase in their monthly premiums.

NYS Unified Court System: -Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that town and village justices annually provide their court records to their respective town and village auditing boards, (this is done through our Independent Auditors at the end of each year)

Sullivan West Central School –invitation to the annual breakfast Wednesday Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Had discussion re: Common Core and Superintendent Hackett explained why the school has to follow the rules (or they don't get state funding). Also there will be a vote on Oct 27<sup>th</sup> ball fields.

NYS Dept of Labor: Requesting information for employment and wage information

Office of the Aging: to Supervisors—Public Hearing on Wed. Oct. 21 at the Ted Stroebele Recreation Center to gain input from older residents, baby boomers, and other interested parties on programs and services provided by the agency.

Cornell Cooperative Extension: Senior Safety Day: Domestic Violence Oct. 21 at 8:30 am -1:00 pm.

Ag & Markets --Municipal Shelter report for the Town of Bethel (we use them when necessary) report was OK

Dept. of Public Service – Planning a series of public hearings to seek consumer input re: the state Public Service Commission’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceedings

SLAC: Will meet on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to introduce guest speaker Maria Alvarez, Director of NY STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

Association of Towns: Letting us know what the 2016 fee will be \$800.00 and also listed the training schedules for newly elected officials and other officials

NYMIR: Safety during snow and ice removal operations seminar

Dept. of Health: re water sample from Kitchen sink unsatisfactory —as requested the town collected 5 water samples and the water tests were clean

UDC: Would like the Town to support of the Sullivan County Visitor Association to recognize the Upper Delaware River Valley and National Parks Service Centennial in its promotional materials for 2016

Environmental Protection: Has issued the Final Scope of Work for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Water for the Future

Letter from Cohen –offering to provide free legal assessment re: Cable Franchise and Wireless Matters

Cochecton Preservation Society asking permission to hold Souper Sunday on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> in the community room.

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to permit the Cochecton Preservation Society to hold their annual Souper Sunday on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> in the Community room. All board members voted in favor

Letter from the Lake Huntington Presbyterian Church: asking permission to hold their annual bake sale and raffle at the Town Hall. Councilperson Richardson asked if they could move further into the building as some persons don’t care to walk past them selling raffles and 50/50’s. Supervisor Maas said this has always been done even in the Old Town Hall. No one else had a problem with it.

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to allow the Ladies from the Presbyterian Church to hold their annual bake sale and raffle at the Town Hall. All board members voted in favor.

The Town received a letter with attachments from John and Sheila Schultz, requesting something be done re: their neighbor using heavy equipment to make an access road to the 50 foot Right of Way formerly known as Corduroy Road. Ms. Schultz was informed that the issue is not a town issue but a civil one and she and her neighbor will need to work it out.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one wished to comment:

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**County Charter Commission --** Councilperson Richardson

**Sullivan County Charter Commission;** The Commission held its regular meeting on September 16.

The Co-Chairperson Peggy Harrison introduced Director of Community Services and Acting Commissioner of Health and Family Services, Joe Todora. Mr. Todora gave an overview of those agencies that are under his purview. Since that meeting we have Ray Nargizian has resigned due to an inability to attend the requisite number of meetings. In addition, Terri Waverla who had been the secretary has also resigned.

The next meeting will be on October 21 at 6:00 p.m. I will Chair that meeting. County Treasurer Nancy Buck and Angela Chevalier from the Department of Audit and Control will present.

**Scenic Byway;** The UDSB held a scheduled meeting on September 28.

#### **Discussion items:**

New Business: (*summary in part*)

- a. Discussed the impact of the USA Today “Best Scenic Autumn Drive” survey.
- b. Resignation of Victoria Winchester as clerk & hiring of Laurie Ramie to that position.
- c. Discussed annual advertising in the SC Travel Guide. Since then I have met with Roberta Lockwood to explore how we might leverage the publicity from being voted #2 in the nation.
- d. Discussed the continuing need for a permanent location for the UDSB office & visitors’ center
- e. Discussed the meeting planned for Oct. 2 with regional DOT personnel to discuss road conditions
- f. **National Geographic Society’s Greater Delaware River Geotourism Initiative**

Old Business: (*summary in part*)

- a. **Best Autumn Scenic Drive Contest**
- b. **Monarch Butterfly Brochure:**
- c) **UDSB Video and Website Upgrade:**

**Youth Commission:** Edwin Grund –Met on Oct. 6, 2015 reported on events coming up. Indoor water park mandatory meeting is scheduled for Nov. 11 at 7 pm. 27 rooms are booked. Christmas party is Dec. 12 at Angelina’s –sign up will be Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-7 pm. Movies in Nov. and Dec. Tricky trunk Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM. Anyone that wants to do a tricky trunk has to be approved before Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Working on events for 2016  
Next meeting Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. at 7pm

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

Website Report – I took care of the normal website maintenance. I added September agenda to the upcoming meeting page, removed expired information from Legal Notices and News Alerts. I added town board and planning board minutes. Added draft zoning board minutes. Review and corrections to new minutes for Hollye. Removed expired youth events and added new events. Worked a total of 4 hours.

**Fire District:** Pump tests were performed, all went well. Truck 1531 needs new tires, all trucks have been serviced and are ready for winter. They had a budget workshop and Public Hearing on the Fire District budget will be Oct. 20 at 6:30 PM at the firehouse.

**Keep Cochecton Clean:** Jerold Yavarkovsky –The committee met on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015 for a Litter pluck and meeting. Present were Jerold and Judy Yavarkovsky, Beverly and Charlie Coots, Larry and Peggy Richardson, Eileen, Carl and Leann Breutsch, Joan and Gabe Glase and Linda Pomes.

We picked up about 30 bags of litter from Rts. 114, 17B, Bernas Road, Mueller Road and Shortcut Road. We are planning a town wide Litter pluck in the spring. We will be sending out a flyer to every mailbox in Cochecton to encourage people to join our campaign. The Committee is very appreciative of the support of Supervisor Gary Maas and the town council for providing us with signs, reflective vests, pick-up tools, gloves and plastic bags. Also Jerold reported that the person dumping the bags has been arrested and issued a summons.

**Ambulance Corp.** Councilperson Salzberg –met on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rosemary Barile wants to keep the organization going. Several things—volunteers and drivers needed as well as money. Looking into of perhaps joining the towns of Tusten and Callicoon to help keep the Corp. going. Also thinking about having a joint meeting with the Fire Dept. and Mobile Medic. Councilperson Story said there should be a joint meeting with the Fire Dept., and Ambulance Corp. as well as Mobile Medic and Dick Martinkovic (Emergency Management /Homeland Security) Director. This was discussed –perhaps include the Town Board in the joint meeting.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**SUPERVISOR:** (Gary Maas)

Submitted a written report:  
Monthly Financial Report

- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$ 488.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 1,646 .00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$ 581.59 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$ 29,602.00 State Aid
- 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. Had 1 meeting with labor on contract. Meetings with Albee Bockman, Rosemary Barile and Ed Kraack. Had complaint on Corduroy Road and also on County Road 116 on manure smell. Calls to Ross and Karen in regards to land purchase and Keith Eisenstark. Youth Board Contract sent out and received back all signed. Received a call in regards to Rec. Farm property. Received contract for land purchase.

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	\$ 178.92	\$1,676.32
• Abstract#11	\$	\$
• Abstract#12	\$	\$

Worked 93 hours

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (Kevin Esselman)

Submitted a written report:

- Finished up mowing right of ways.
- Been out ditching and cutting brush.
- Did some patching
- .Had stone and sand hauled in.
- Had a few repairs on equipment. Started to work on some sanders
- I’ve attended a few meetings with county officials over sharing sales tax revenue.
- Also attended the 86<sup>th</sup> annual superintendent’s education and conference expo. I sat through a legislative update session where local legislators from the state spoke about CHIPS and the states infrastructure. Also went to the NYS Highway services and changes to local highway inventory proceeded by a legal panel session. One of the biggest topics was negotiation contracts and should the highway superintendent be involved. Had sessions on fleet and life cycle costing, cooperative purchasing and piggybacking and building a case for your highway budget. Attended the annual banquet where President Russ Page stepped down and handed the position over to the new President. Also Sullivan County received certificates for 100% membership with the association.
- Diesel – 582.2 gals del / used 590 gals
- Gas – 263 gals del / used 127 gals
- Worked 160 hr
- Contractual balance of 688.01

HWY Superintendent would like to proceed with getting the software program for Highway Superintendents.

Would like to have it in place by Dec. so he could input the information.

Councilperson Richardson asked if HWY was comfortable with the amount of money for CHIPS in the budget.

HWY replied he is comfortable with the amount. Councilperson Nearing asked about the white truck which needed some repairs. HWY Superintendent replied it needed brakes since the booster went out. This is the truck that is being replaced that will go out to auction late Nov. or early Dec.

**TOWN CLERK:** (Hollye Schulman)

- Submitted a written report;
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk.
- UDC check #1591 in the amount of \$100.00 received 9/25/2015 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I attended the OSTCA meeting on September 16, and we had election of officers, and a round table discussion on Elections DEC licenses and Marriages, etc. I am now the Vice President of the OSTCA starting January 2016 for 2 years.
- Issued 1 permanent handicapped parking permit in September
- I handed out blank permits when the CEO was not in his office, as well as the permits that the CEO had filled out.
- I have had people calling that want to purchase property asking about sewer and water for said properties. Most properties are not in the sewer district.
- I also had many phone calls re: school taxes and people wondering why their taxes had gone up quite a lot. I had one person that insisted he has paid his school taxes here last year. I told the town does not collect the school taxes only property taxes
- 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, people wanting to pay their fines and wanting to know where to send their payments.
- Worked a total of 98 ¾ hours in September
- Collected \$1,769.77 for the month of September
- Contractual balance \$1,562.43

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

- Worked: 80 hours, total mileage: 660
- Issued 10 permits, 0 renewals
- C of O's issued 3, Notice of disapproval: 1 Municipal search letters 8
- Appearance tickets: 0
- Revenues in the amount of \$1,600.00
- Expenses: \$463.00
- Contractual balance: \$1,480.05

Construction still going on, 1 commercial project being worked on. The unsafe structure on Shortcut Road property owner working on this issue.

Councilperson Richardson asked about construction happening on Bernas Road, is there a permit in place. CEO said a permit has been issued.

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** (Karen Mannino)

Submitted written report:

- Draft short form EAF with email to Supervisor and email to attorney for Seller re: land purchase contract
- Conversation/email with Supervisor, email to attorney for seller re: 3.078 acre map
- Attendance at Board meeting
- Vacant Land Contract update/email to atty. For Seller; Short Form EAF update; email to Supervisor
- Vacant land Contract update/email to atty. For seller/mail to Supervisor
- Review of executed contract/mail to Supervisor

**TAX COLLECTOR:** (Eileen Hennessy)

- Submitted a written report
- Balance in checkbook is \$0.01 as of October 14, 2015
- Contractual balance: \$2,451.33
- Worked 4 hours in the month of September

Will use some of my contractual to purchase envelopes for the 2016 tax bills

**RESOLUTION # 38**

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is in need of envelopes for mailing out the 2016 property Tax Bills, and now BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to purchase the envelopes needed for sending out the 2016 property Tax Bills

**ADOPTED: AYES: 5**

**NAYS: 0**

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Story, Nearing and Salzberg

**ASSESSOR:** (Lorry J. King)

*Old Business:*

1. Data Collection Project: The scan process is continuing
2. Linda is still out of the office with back surgery
3. I have attached a County sample resolution for Gold Star Parents and Aged exemption increase

**Assessor's report continues:***New Business:*

1. In the next few months, I will be sending out verification forms for the data that was collected to each homeowner, starting with Map section 1.

Assessor Hours: 22.25

Clerk Hours: 0

Assessor Hours: 22.25

Data Collection: Sept. Terri 28 \$379.40

September A 1355.400 \$3,142.62

Quill \$ 3.98

Total Sept: \$3.98

Balance: \$3,138.64

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

No report submitted

**SEWER OFFICER:** (Michael Walter)

- Submitted a written report:
- 22,240 average flow
- 99% C.B.O. D. removal for month of September
- 99% T.S.S. removal for the month of September
- Worked 69 1/2 hours
- Expenditures \$232.42
- Contractual Balance: \$11,064.32

SPO mentioned that he had an emergency repair to the clay tile line for the Sewer Plant (collapsed and 3 beds were out of commission. Repairs have been done

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

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report

Had no expenditures. Had 2 lost dog calls and 1 dog at large call

Worked 8 hours

Contractual balance: \$1,277.73

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

Submitted a written report which the Supervisor went over

A few weeks ago, I received an email from a group of people interested in the history of the local Indian tribes.

They were particularly interested in where they might find some evidence of their presence in our Town before the advent of European settlers. I directed them to the collection of local history books in the Tusten Library where, in my opinion, that sort of information might be found.

There were no other contacts from the public last month. Please enjoy your meeting.

**UDC:** (Larry Richardson)

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday October 1. Following the roll call, Don Hamilton from the NPS offered a power point program on the **“Young of Year American Shad Sampling on the Upper Delaware River”**. The “Young of Year (YOY) Shad Sampling” was a cooperative project between Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, New York State DEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NPS. The project was supported by the Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Cooperative. Hamilton noted that American Shad have always been very significant to the Delaware River. During the late 1800’s, the Delaware River had the largest American Shad harvest of any river along the Atlantic Coast. Spring spawning runs of adult American Shad may have exceeded 10 million fish. The seasonal migratory patterns represent a huge interchange of biomass, energy, and nutrients between systems, with major benefits to the river and ocean. Hamilton showed slides listing the historic and new sampling sites and of photos of the sampling taking place using a 300 foot seine net that is 12 feet deep. He explained the process, noting the work starts at sunset. Hamilton spoke of the significance of the Delaware River to the American Shad. Nowadays, Hamilton reported that 84% of historic stream habitat along the Atlantic Coast is blocked by dams. He noted that American shad populations in the eastern United States, including the Delaware, are at historic or near-historic lows. Hamilton said that each state is required to submit a sustainable fishing plan to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and this sampling information will be useful.
- The council is continuing an investigation into whether the Town of Highland may have erred in issuing a permit to Reber’s River Trips to operate a business adjacent to the interstate bridge in Barryville. It has been suggested that the land in question is publicly owned.
- Ramie noted that Dorene Warner of W Design has completed the redesign of the UDC website with a whole new look, mobile responsive format, and a few new features.
- National Geographic Geotourism program was discussed. One of the first tasks is to name the area which includes both the Upper Delaware River region and the Middle Delaware. “The Wild and Scenic River” was chosen but some people are not comfortable with the name and other suggestions may be considered. Another task is to define the outward boundaries from the river. It is suggested that a distance of 30 miles will be used. However there are limitations on the size of the businesses that will be promoted. Businesses with greater than 200 employees will be excluded.

**UDC report continues:**

## Actions taken:

- a. Approved: FY 2016 Technical Assistance Grants in the amount of \$35,000.
- b. Approved: Executing a Contract with Environmental Planning & Design, LLC: to review and suggest changes to the Project Review Workbook
- c. Approved: Support Letter for Town of Tusten Big Eddy Riverwalk Grant Application:

**TOWN BOARD:**

(Councilperson Story) Nothing to report at this time

(Councilperson Nearing) Nothing more at this time

(Councilperson Salzberg) Nothing at this time

(Councilperson Richardson) mentioned the historical sign has been put up, he thought the highway workers put the sign up, but the Supervisor said he and Bill Boucher. The sign down by Heinle's still needs to be refurbished. Councilperson Richardson is willing to refurbish the sign if it is taken down. Supervisor said one of the screws would not turn, so he is trying to get it loosened. Also a person complained about the speed limit on CR 114. Wanted to know how the exit for the kitchen area was coming along. Supervisor is trying to get several quotes. Also Councilperson Richardson mentioned that Cochecton Preservation Society will be holding their annual Souper Sunday downstairs on Nov. 15 from 11:00 am--2:00 pm

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Unsafe Building –addressed earlier
2. Sewer Dept.- Property purchase and UV system –will discuss during executive session
3. Lake Huntington Algae Bloom—this was discussed earlier

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Ball Park –for town property, there are grants available for a project of this nature
2. Dog Rabies Clinic –call from Sullivan County Health wanting to know if the town was interested in holding a rabies clinic at the end of Nov.

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to hold a rabies clinic at the end of Nov. All Town Board members voted in favor

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pauline Johnson, Bernas Road, wondered if there was any correlation between the Ambulance calls from Skinners Falls and the Mysteryland Celebration held in May and asked if we can be reimbursed for those calls by the Mysteryland producers. She was told Lander's doesn't shuttle from Skinners Falls; they have a shuttle from Landers Campground in Narrowsburg. She also mentioned that Ethel would post in her column how many calls and man hours the Ambulance Corps. had in a month, asked if this could be done.

Joe Manaseri, mentioned that he drove the ambulance for the Town of Tusten once when they did not have a driver.

No one else wished to comment

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to move into executive session, to discuss Land purchase for Sewer plant, and Labor negotiations. Time 9:07 pm. All Town Board members voted in favor

Others present: Town Clerk, Attorney and SPO

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to move out of executive session. Time 9:19 pm

While in executive session no decisions made

**RESOLUTION # 39****TOWN CLERK TO PLACE A LEGAL NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following resolution was RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk will advertise a Public Hearing for the 2016 Town wide budget to be held on November 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in The River Reporter.

**ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0**  
 Supervisor Maas  
 Councilpersons Richardson, Story, Nearing and Salzberg

**MOTION:** On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to recess this Town Board meeting until October 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for a budget workshop and any other business that may come before the board. Time 9:24 p.m. All board members voted in favor.

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