

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on December 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Cochection Town Hall. The following members were 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 7:31 PM.

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Maas
Councilperson Larry Richardson
Councilperson Anna Story
Councilperson Sean Nearing entered at 7:40 p.m.
Councilperson Paul Salzberg

OTHERS PRESENT:
Hollye Schulman –Town Clerk Karen Mannino –Attorney
Kevin Esselman –Highway Superintendent Michael Walter –SPO
Eileen Hennessy—Tax Collector

RESOLUTION # 44

BUDGET TRANSFEERS HIGHWAY

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was WHEREAS, at a recessed Town Board meeting held on August 26, 2015 the board authorized the Highway Superintendent to purchase a 2016 Chevy pickup equipped with plow for \$42,088.50 and the following transfers are needed, and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that budget line DA 5110.400 (General Repairs Contractual), in the amount of \$12,500.00 be transferred to line DA 5130.400 (Machinery Contractual) and also the amount of \$32,000.00 from line DA9950.900 (Transfer Cap. Mach/Equipment) to DA 5130.400 (Machinery Contractual) so that line DA 5110.400 (General Repair Contractual) shows \$102,500.00 and line DA 5130.400 (Machinery Contractual) shows \$129,500.00 and DA 9950.900 (Transfer Cap. Mach/Equipment) shows \$18,000.00, and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to make payment when the pick-up is delivered

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Nearing not present at this time
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons Richardson, Story and Salzberg

RESOLUTION # 45

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT PROGRAM

On motion of Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Richardson, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent has requested to purchase a program that will allow him to manage to keep track of expenses on equipment, roads, and vendors so that he and the Town Board will be able to monitor the department more efficiently, so the following transfers are needed, and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that budget line A 5132.400(Highway Garage Contractual), in the amount of \$3,500.00 be transferred to line A 5010.400 (Highway Administration Contractual) so that line A 5132.400 (Highway Garage Contractual), shows \$14,500.00 and line A 5010.400 (Highway Administration Contractual) shows \$6,500.00

ADOPTED: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Nearing not present at this time
Supervisor Maas
Councilpersons Richardson, Story and Salzberg

RESOLUTION # 46

RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg, the following resolution was WHEREAS, a reliable transportation infrastructure is vital for the safety of New York's travelling public and its economy; and

WHEREAS, 85 percent of New York's roads and bridges are maintained by local governments; and

WHEREAS, despite well-timed and targeted preventative maintenance treatments, the age and condition of many of our locally-owned transportation assets means that they are beyond preservation and in need of much more costly rehabilitation and reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, estimates by the State Comptroller, DOT and independent studies show a large portion of road mileage is deteriorating and many bridges in the state are rated structurally deficient and functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the State Comptroller estimates that there will be \$89 billion in unmet local infrastructure needs over the next 20years; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Town Superintendents commissioned its own fifteen year analysis that indicates an annual funding gap of \$1.3 billion for local systems (excluding NYC) alone; and

WHEREAS, funding for our local system has been far short of what is needed and we've fallen further and further behind in maintaining the vast and aging transportation infrastructure over this long period with severe consequences for conditions ratings; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Program (CHIPS) provides essential funding for every municipality in the state and is part of the New York state Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) capital program; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1990's the Governor and the Legislature created the Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund(DMBTF) to pay for the NYSDOT capital program and the Dedicated Mass Transit Trust Fund(DMTTF) to assist with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority(MTA) and other transit systems' capital program; and

WHEREAS, when the DHBTTF was created, it was agreed that the NYSDOT and MTA five year capital programs would be similar in size and would be negotiated concurrently; and

WHEREAS, through 2005-09, both five year capital programs were similar in size and adopted within months of each other; and

Resolution #46 continues:

WHEREAS, in 2010 the Executive and Legislature broke traditional parity and enacted a five year capital program for the MTA but not the DOT; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Cochection calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to make additional state funding and resources available at levels that accurately reflect the critical needs of local roads and bridges; and increase CHIPS funding in the 2016-17 state budget; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town of Cochection calls upon the Governor, and members of the State Legislature to fully fund and submit a new NYSDOT five-year transportation capital plan; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town of Cochection calls upon the Governor and members of the State Legislature to recognize the equality of roads, bridges and transit be restoring funding equally between the MTA and NYSDOT five-year programs and by voting on the plans simultaneously.

ADOPTED- AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 Councilperson Nearing not present at this time

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Story and Salzberg

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to approve the minutes from November 11, 2015 and be approved as submitted. Four board members voted in favor Councilperson Nearing was not present at this time

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to approve the bills on Abstract # 12 in the following amounts:

General Account	Voucher #'s 561-589	\$37,121.78
Debit Account	Voucher # 590	\$270.30
Sewer Account	Voucher #'s 591-594	\$5,655.09
Lighting District Account	Voucher # 564	\$244.79 this claim is in the prepaid
Highway Account	Voucher #'s 596-607	\$49,138.25

Claim #'s 566, 569, 586, 587, 590 and 595 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Prepaid claims were paid on November 16th and December 2nd and 4th, 2015

Councilperson Story asked the HWY Superintendent about a truck that was inspected which passed but weight and model year was wrong. HWY Superintendent explained.

All board members voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

UDSB: 2016 Membership Update request

TWC: programing changes

Scott Samuelson: new app available for mobile devices –See Something Send Something

Michael Panella: former CEO from Village of Port Chester offering his services if needed

Dept. of Public Works: help available to manage energy costs this winter especially for seniors

Cooper Arias, LLP: gathering info necessary to prepare and mail your 2015 audit confirmations

Sullivan County Treasurer; 2015 chargeback listing

Pipeline Safety and Land use Planning info: fact sheets and how to detect problems and when to call 811

Town of Bethel: Regarding dog cage replacement—their DCO did not like the one we replaced it with

RESOLUTION # 47**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PAY 1/2 OF THE PRICE FOR CAGE TOWN OF BETHEL WANTS**

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Cochection borrowed a dog cage from the Town of Bethel and it broke, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cochection has offered to replace the dog cage, but the replacement did not suit the DCO in the Town of Bethel, and

WHEREAS, in order to resolve the dog cage issue, the Town of Cochection is willing to pay ½ of the cost of the dog cage the Town of Bethel wants to replace the broken one which is \$500.00, and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Cochection will pay \$250.00 toward the price of the dog cage for the Town of Bethel

ADOPTED- AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Story, Nearing and Salzberg

Ed Mc Andrews: Notifying the town snow watch started on November 21, 2015

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment at this time

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

County Charter Commission (Councilperson Richardson) The Commission held its regular meeting on November 18. The meeting was chaired by Paul Burckard.

District Attorney James Farrell gave a lengthy presentation outlining the activities of his department and how it interacts with county government particularly the Department of Health & Family Services.

County Charter Commission Report Continues:

There was discussion about funding the activities of the Charter Commission. The County Manager has suggested an amount of \$10,000. The Commission would like to see a greater amount to cover projected costs for any out-reach to the public.

There was discussion about changing the terms of the Legislators to be staggered and how that might be accomplished and made as fair as possible. The details of how this would be done was not agreed upon, however the members in attendance did agree that staggered terms are desirable.

I am scheduled to chair the January meeting on Wednesday the 20th with Sheriff Michael Schiff presenting. This month’s meeting will be on Wednesday December 16th in the conference room at the government center, Chaired by Peggy Harrison. Aileen Gunther will be the presenter. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

Scenic Byway: (Councilperson Richardson) The UDSB held a scheduled meeting on November 23. Since I was not in attendance choosing instead to attend an important emergency services meeting held here in the Town Hall, there is no written report.

YOUTH COMMISSION: (Councilperson Grund) Indoor water park trip was a great success –27 rooms booked, Christmas Party is Dec. 12 at Angelina’s at 10:3. 49 children signed up, Movie on Nov. 8, The Peanuts Movie 21 in town youth total participants 38. Planning on doing Bird Houses at Jerry’s on March 12. Movies Dec. –Jan Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip comes out. Tentative schedule of events for 2016 planned (copy is on file at the Town Clerk’s office if anyone wishes to view it.

Karen Grund is resigning at the end of the year. They have a possible replacement. More information to follow.

WEB SITE AND FIRE DISTRICT: (Councilperson Story)
Nov. 2015

- Added November agenda and Resolutions with links to upcoming meeting page
- Added Fire District Annual Election notice to News Alerts and Legal Notices
- Review and corrections to November 4 and 11 minutes for Hollye
- Changed password for Paul’s town e-mail (11/18)
- Added 10/14, 10/22, and 11/4 Town Board Minutes
- Added 9/24/15 Planning Board Minutes
- Added Fire Company New Year’s BBQ to News Alerts
- Added Exemption Impact Report to Assessor’s page (per Larry’s Request)
- Added Legal Notice for No Winter Road Maintenance
- Downloaded each section of the Adopted Town Budget and added to the website

Total Hours Worked: 5 hours

Fire District – Reminder that the Fire Company will be holding their Annual New Year’s Day BBQ. Tickets are \$10 and dinner will be served from 3:00 until sold out. TAKE OUT DINNER ONLY.

Next Meeting will be held on December 14, 2015 so I have nothing more to report.

KEEP COCHECTON CLEAN: No report

AMBULANCE CORP: (Councilperson Salzberg)
Mentioned that 2 weeks ago there was a joint meeting with the Ambulance Corp., Fire Dept., Town Board, Dick Martinkovic and Sullivan County EMS. To discuss what steps can be taken for the Ambulance Corp to better serve the community. There will be a training sessions for persons interested in becoming an EMT.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:
SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

Submitted a written report:
Monthly Financial Report

- Bank Information:
- Deposited \$100.00 UDC check
- Deposited \$1,112.69.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,396 .00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,420.09 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$1,140.40 Debit Card
- Deposited \$2,229.30 Mortgage Tax
- 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. Calls to Karen in regards to land purchases. Calls to Copper-Arias, Association of Towns, Dick Martinovic. Meeting with ambulance Corp, Fire Dept., County EMS personal and Town Officials. Met with Jordan from CSEA on dental and vision plan. Worked on pre audit with Cooper Arias

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

Supervisor's Report Continues:

• 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	\$299.70	\$1,376.62
• Abstract#12	\$281.55	\$1,095.07

Worked 86 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

Submitted a written report:

- November Report 2015
- Patched paved and gravel roads.
- Cut brush
- Did repairs on equipment
- All the sanders are in their trucks
- Did some ditching
- Put road closed signs up
- Attended meetings in Monticello
- Diesel 192 gals del / used 164 gals
- Gas 250 gals del / used 162 gals
- Worked 160 hrs
- Contractual balance is \$366.35

HWY Superintendent mentioned he wanted to put the old truck out to auction by Monday auction ends on the 28th. He is also starting to upload information to the new Highway Superintendent program.

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

Submitted a written report:

- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk
- UDC check # 1693 in the amount of \$100.00 received 11/30/15 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I did not attend the OSTCA meeting held in November as Richard had a doctor appointment at Castle Point.
- Issued 8 permanent and 3 temporary handicapped parking permit in November
- 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 still have people calling regarding whether there is sewer and water on property they want to purchase in the town.
- 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 104 3/4 hours in November
- Contractual balance \$1,135.99

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz) Not present

Submitted a written report: which the Supervisor went over

Worked 80 hours, issued 8 permits, 0 renewals, 8 C of O's, no notice of disapproval, 7 municipal search letters, 0 appearance tickets.. Expenses \$653.53

Contractual Balance: \$424.53

TOWN ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)

Submitted a written report

- Edit of Proposed Public Hearing Notice: email to Supervisor
- Letter to attorney for seller
- Purchased 2 stamps
- Attendance at Board Meeting
- Edit EAF; email to Supervisor
- Calls with Clerk/research on Budget Resolution required

Sewer upgrade and Land purchase need 30 days' notice Town to be lead agent. Notice for Public Hearings to be in the Sullivan County Democrat on January 8th. Local laws for Gold Star Parents and Property exemptions for property owners over 65 are being worked on by the Attorney

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy)

Submitted a written report:

- Balance in checkbook \$0.01
- Contractual Balance: \$2,337.81

At this time the Tax Collector mentioned that her Tax Collector bank account was swiped of \$24.00 which she did not have in her account. This will need to be looked into, as no one had the right to take money out of her account. Supervisor said if this is a vendor the Town does business with they will need to provide a voucher and that is how the bill would be paid.

The Tax Collector provided some highlights from the Tax Collector meeting she attended today. If the County Budget passes the tax collectors will get the inserts with the pie chart on them that go out with the tax bills. She will need use of the copy machine and about 2 reams of paper.

1. Nothing was ever done with the marking up of the green ledger book, so tax collectors still have to do it.
2. By law every tax payer has to get a paid receipt, after each payment, all the tax collectors thought that was such a waste of money. So Janice said as long as they get a paid receipt at the end of collecting
3. Tax Collectors have to wait until March 5th or 6th to send the second notices, the penalty box will be removed from the second notices –too confusing for the tax payers. Second notices just go out to Sections 1 & 8
4. Payments can be accepted using the Feb. 1st postmark due to the 31st of January being on a Sunday
5. There were many other changes for tax collectors re: Satellite.biz Credit Card and E Check Company,
6. ACT Taxes 2017 there will be a brand new updated tax program, training will be an on line class
7. Kevin and Marsha from ATC Taxes gave us the dates they are available and the times. Kevin has added a new box we can click that goes to his cell phone, for after hour support.

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Supervisor went over her report:

Old Business:

1. UPDATE: Linda is still out of the office from back surgery, pneumonia and other health issues. I spoke with her on 11/29/15 and she indicated that she was not ready to return to work. I believe that she may not be back in 2016
2. Gold Star Parent and Aged exemption increase

New Business:

1. Provided Councilwoman Story information for the web page
2. Permission to purchase 10 rolls of postage stamps for mailings

Hours

Assessor 8.5 hours Clerk 0

Expenditures: Terri \$41.69

Contractual Balance: \$3,011.39

RESOLUTION # 48

AUTHORIZE ASSESSOR TO PURCHASE STAMPS

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

RESOLVED, that the Assessor is in need of 10 rolls of stamps for mailings from her office, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board does hereby grant her permission to purchase the stamps needed for her office, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assessor can spent up to \$490.00 for the purchase of 10 rolls of stamps

ADOPTED- AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Story, Nearing and Salzberg

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Earl Bertsch) Not present

No report

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter)

- Submitted a written report:
 - Average flow of 27,703 gallons per day for month of November
 - Obtained 92% C.B.O.D. and 96% T.S.S. removal for November
 - Spent a total of 66 1/2 hours attending to sewer district affairs in November
 - Expenditures \$417.03
 - Contractual Balance: \$1,286.99
- Nothing new, except the rat problem—were eating insulation but this has been taken care of

DCO (Rosemary Barile) Not present

Submitted a report; Supervisor went over I dog bite, 2 lost dogs worked 12 hours. Discussed the dog cage earlier

HISTORIAN (K. C. Garn) Not present

No report

UDC: (Larry Richardson)

Submitted a written report:

- The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday December 3. Following the roll call Joe Hinkes, Delaware Water Gap Law Enforcement Operations Supervisor shared the results of a season's experience. Although the Middle Delaware has many more enforcement incidents, the overall coverage between the two sections seems to be working.
- UDC Accountant Dick Eckersley reported in committee on his review of the financial activities of the council. Next year the Council is committed to a full audit.
- The Highland Conservancy has acquired title to a parcel of land adjacent to the river access in Long Eddy. There is ongoing discussion between the local Fire Company and DEC to determine who will purchase the property from the Conservancy.
- Steve Tampini, the Executive Director of the Delaware Basin Commission, talked about the difficulty in getting all of the 1954 Decree Parties (NY, NJ, Pa, Del., and NYC) to unanimously agree to changes in the river flows.
- UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie advised the council that since the government is operating under a continuing resolution, the council may have to use some of its own funding in the short term.

UDC Report Continues:

- There is ongoing discussion regarding the mechanics of how emergency notification would work in the event of a breach in one of the upriver dams.
- The Project Review Committee worked through a draft of Shohola's proposed new Zoning Ordinance using the UDC Workbook to determine Substantial Conformance. The Committee will continue a review of Cochecton's Zoning after the New Year. At some point I plan on scheduling a meeting with our Planning Board to go over our findings before any recommendations are made by the committee.
- As has been the practice in the past, the three committees will all meet this month on Tuesday the 15th beginning at 6:30

TOWN BOARD:

No Town Board members had anything to add at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe Buildings –discussed earlier
2. Sewer Dept. –Property purchase and UV system pending
3. Lake Huntington Algae Bloom –Supervisor received additional information and should have the final report for the year end meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Deck --will have a second quote before the year end meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joan Glase, Cross Road, Thanked Councilperson Richardson for his dedication to the town over the past 20 + years.

Town Board members discussed the time and date for the year end meeting. It was decided to hold it on December 30, 2015 at 6:30 pm

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Nearing, the following motion was to move into executive session to discuss labor negotiations. Time 8:30 pm. All board members voted in favor

Others present: Town Clerk and Councilperson elect Ed Grund

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to move out of executive session. Time 8:40 pm. All board members voted in favor

While in executive session no decision made

Town Clerk asked about a Deputy Town Clerk as she will be out of town from January 13th through February 18th. And will need someone to cover for her during her absents. Supervisor said there will have to be a line put in the budget to pay for a deputy. The Deputy Town Clerk will also have to be bonded. Town Clerk will call Mike Preis Insurance tomorrow to make sure this happens. Also the rate per hour was discussed and it might be \$15.00 per hour

Supervisor mentioned that by the next general election the Town Board may introduce a combined office for Town Clerk/Tax Collector; this is done in several towns already.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was this Town Board meeting is recessed until December 30, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. year-end meeting. Time 8:54 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk