

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochection was held on December 11, 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 7:30 PM.

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hollye Schulman –Town Clerk Karen Mannino –Attorney
Kevin Esselman – Highway Superintendent Gregg Semenetz –CEO
Michael Walter –SPO

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to open the Public Hearing re: the 2 unsafe buildings located on CR 116. Time 7:30 p.m. All voted in favor

Attorney suggested that this Public Hearing be kept open for enforcement of re-payment of legal fees associated with this issue.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following motion was to hold open this Public Hearing until December 30th at 6:30 p.m. Time 7:34 p.m. All voted in favor

RESOLUTION # 90

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL WALTER FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR EDUCATION

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Schulman, the following resolution was This Agreement made as of December 11, 2013 (“Agreement”) by and between the Town of Cochection with its office at the Cochection Town Hall, 74 Smales Road, Cochection, New York 12726 (“Town”) and Michael Walter, an individual, with a mailing address of 54 Mohn Road, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 (“Mr. Walter”).

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter is currently employed by the Town in its Waste Water Treatment Department; and

WHEREAS, it would benefit the Town and Mr. Walter for him to further his education by enrolling in and completing courses from SUNY Ulster in Basic Wastewater Operations and Basic Wastewater Lab; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these two classes is a total of \$1,585.00; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Mr. Walter have agreed that the Town will pay the \$1,585.00 cost of these classes in return for a commitment by Mr. Walter to continued employment by the Town of a minimum of three years; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Mr. Walter wish to reduce their agreement to writing with the intent that this agreement be legally binding.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town and Mr. Walter agree as follows:

1. This Agreement will be effective as of December 11, 2013 and terminate on April 30, 2017.
2. The Town hereby agrees to pay \$1,585.00 in order for Mr. Walter to take the Basic Wastewater Treatment Operations (to be held from January 14, 2014 to March 25, 2014) and Basic Wastewater Lab (to be held March 27, 2014 to May 1, 2014) at SUNY Ulster.
3. In exchange for the payment of these costs by the Town, Mr. Walter hereby legally binds himself to work for the Town for a period the minimum of which shall be three years. Said employment shall be at the discretion of the Town (subject to the terms and conditions of the Civil Service Law).
4. Should Mr. Walter fail to fulfill his obligation to work for the Town for three years he will repay the educational costs paid by the Town under this agreement.
5. In the event Mr. Walter fails to meet his three year obligation repayment will be as follows:
May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015 repayment shall be \$1585.00
May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016 repayment shall be \$1056.67
May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017 repayment shall be \$528.34
6. All other terms and conditions of Mr. Walter’s compensation and employment shall remain the same
7. This Agreement is authorized by Resolution No. 90-2013 adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Cochection on December 11, 2013

ADOPTED: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

RESOLUTION # 91

THE TOWN BOARD OF COCHECTON DOES HEREBY ACCEPT AND AUTHORIZES SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF BETHEL FOR SECONDARY DOG SHELTER

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was **WHEREAS**, the Town of Cochection is in need of a secondary animal shelter for dogs picked up by the Dog Control Officer, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel has offered to continue the shelter agreement they have with the Town of Cochection, and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board has agreed to continue the agreement with the Town of Bethel with the changes they provided for 2014, and

RESOLUTION # 91 continues:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the said contract for FY 2014

ADOPTED- AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

RESOLUTION # 92**BUDGET TRANSFER - SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTUAL DANGEROUSLY LOW**

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

WHEREAS, with the recent ice storms the Highway Line for DA 5142.400, SNOW REMOVAL

CONTRACTUAL has become dangerously low and so as to enable the Highway Superintendent to purchase salt for the remainder of FY 2013, and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that budget line DA 5110.400 GENERAL REPAIRS CONTRACTUAL, in the amount of \$20,000.00 be transferred to line DA 5142.400 SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTUAL so that line DA 5110.400 GENERAL REPAIR CONTRACTUAL shows \$105,000.00 and line DA 5142.400 SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTUAL shows \$100,000.00.

ADOPTED- AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

RESOLUTION # 93**BUDGET TRANSFER PART TIME ACCOUNT CLERK**

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

WHEREAS, the COCHECTON TOWN BOARD when adopting the FY 2013 budget was unaware that payment for hiring a P/T Account Clerk to do the bookkeeping duties while our current Bookkeeper is on a temporary leave of absence, and

WHEREAS, a new line was created to fund that position at the November 6th, 2013 meeting to pay a P/T Account Clerk in the amount of \$1,000.00, that amount will not be sufficient for the FY 2013, and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that \$500.00 be transferred from budget line A 1990.400 CONTINGENCY ACCT. to line A1220.103 P/T ACCOUNT CLERK, so that A 1220.103 P/T ACCOUNT CLERK reads \$1500.00 and that line A1990.400 CONTINGENCY ACCT. reads \$13,500.00.

ADOPTED- AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to approve the minutes from November 13, 2013 and be approved as submitted. All voted in favor.

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

General Account	Voucher #'s 539-571	\$58,276.42
Sewer Account	Voucher #'s 572-573	\$6,255.42
Lighting District Account	Voucher # 574	\$602.40
Highway Account	Voucher #'s 575-588	\$62,365.88

Claim #'s 543, 544, 564, 567 and 568 are noted as splits between funds, same voucher.

Prepaid claims were paid on November 19th, 25th and December 2nd and 6th, 2013

All voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Orange County Trust: seeking the town business

Andrew Cuomo – thanking the Supervisor for joining him for attending the discussion re: fiscal and economic impact of the recently-approved casino gaming amendment on the local region

Shannon Armbrust: notifying what the County Chargeback will be approx \$2,400.00

National Benefit Life: updated version

SLAC: hearing Nov 22' monthly meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Alexandra Bourne: relocated and will no longer be able to provide legal services for V&T Court- recommended Jane Bloom as her replacement

SLAC: annual Holiday gathering December 20, at the Ted Stroebele Building at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

Notice of Claim: will be executive session

Secondary Municipal Shelter agreement with Town of Bethel; The Town Board passed this and authorized the Supervisor to sign the agreement. All board members voted in favor

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Route 97 Pull-Off: (Councilperson Richardson) sign knocked down, still hasn't been replaced. Suggested the town go ahead and order a sign and when the bill comes in suggest the trucking co. pay for the bill

Youth commission: (Councilperson Grund) Wendy Kraack will be leaving at the end of the year. Mentioned the events that have taken place since the last meeting, and a movie "the Hobbit" planned for Sunday. He also mentioned next year's events.

Office of the Aging (Councilperson Schulman) there was a meeting but Dept. Heads not present. There were no handouts, nothing to report

Web Site: (Councilperson Story) added Nov. 6th and Nov. 13th agendas and resolutions with links to upcoming meeting page. Added Youth events to the Youth page and calendar—removed expired Youth events. Added budget to Budget and Policies page, and removed info from news alerts. Added Town Board minutes, added new member info and important notices to Youth page. Added e-code links for codified laws on the laws page and on Planning Board page and added Planning Board minutes. Also added the Fire District Special Election to News Alerts and Legal Notices. Worked 6 hours.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: (Gary Maas)

1. Monthly Financial Report

Bank Information:

Deposited \$ 100.00 UDC check

Deposited \$ 824.00 Judicial fees

Deposited \$ 1,625.00 Judicial fees

Deposited \$ 902.51 Town Clerk fees

Made transfers and deposits as needed, and did early payment for NYS Retirement

1. Activity

Calls with Cooper Arias, Karen Mannino, Dan Sturn, George Walter, Charlie Barbutti

Meeting at Bethel Woods with county and town officials and Andrew Cuomo, Completed Budget and delivered to County Treasurer, saw Dean Smith on Historic sign, Meeting in Liberty on shared services

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	\$ 122.90	\$3,183.61
Abstract#10	\$ 65.00	\$3,118.61
Abstract#11	\$ 85.21	\$3,033.40
Abstract#12	\$ 155.90	\$2,877.71
Abstract#12A		

Forwarded to the Attorney and HWY Superintendent the agreement for shared services. This was discussed

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (Kevin Esselman)

- Submitted a written report:
- Finished fabricating new sander for truck # 27. Hooked up all the sanders in their trucks.
- Sent out Legal notice for road closures and put signs up.
- Took crusher run out and patched on gravel roads.
- Cleaned up a few downed trees
- Had anti-skid hauled in. Plan on sealing six miles of road next year.
- Took trucks out for inspections.
- Plowed and sanded roads as needed.
- Serviced all trucks.
- Diesel 881 gals delivered / 564 gals used
- Gas 382.1 gals delivered / 125 gals used
- My contractual balance is - \$341.73
- Worked 160 HRS

Expecting a check from the State—HWY agreement

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman)

- Submitted a written report:
- I took care of the regular duties of the Town Clerk collected \$2,137.64
- Attended the OSTCA meeting in the Town of Wallkill on November 14th discussed the election and problems they had in Orange County, ran out of ballots, paper in the voting machines, there were also some problems in Sullivan County, ballots not read on one machine in the Town of Bethel, County impounded all the ballots and they were scanned into another machine, etc
- Prepared the three budgets for the County; and also included the re-levy for the Lennox Bailey property unsafe building demo with supporting documents.
- Legal notice was sent to The River Reporter for no winter maintenance on certain roads.
- UDC check # 3415 in the amount of \$100.00 received 11/29//2013 and turned over to the Supervisor the same day
- I issued 2 handicapped parking permit

TOWN CLERK report continues:

- Helped Dee with some information on vouchers from abstract # 11 and also prepaid vouchers for abstract # 12
- Answered questions and did research on the bill for the fire extinguisher's inspections, Cintas needed to know what was paid as there was a 3 way split on one of the vouchers, and the invoice #'s didn't match their information
- I provide telephone #'s for different departments. I have received telephone calls for the Tax Collector, Assessor, CEO, Bookkeeper and Justice Court, there are still people wanting to pay School Taxes, and several questions about the STAR program.
- Worked a total of 110 ½ hours
- Contractual balance: \$ 4,181.29

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

- Submitted a written report:
- Worked 80 hours, traveled 690 miles, issued 5 permits, 0 renewals, 9 C of O's, no notice of disapproval, 2 municipal search letters, 0 appearance ticket
- Revenues \$350.00, expenses \$509.36
- Contractual Balance: \$946.36

CEO mentioned things are winding down. Called the contractor for the Pines property project; demo or renovate or build new. The 2 unsafe buildings on CR 116 have been removed by Jim Kline Contracting. Planning Board needs to have all applications go thru the CEO's office. This is not happening. Planning Board needs to be made aware of this procedure

TOWN ATTORNEY: (Karen Mannino)

- Submitted a written report
- Memo/email re: updating schedule of fees
- Attended Board Meeting
- Personnel Memo/research/Email
- Review N.O. C. Huertas; email to Supervisor

TAX COLLECTOR: (Eileen Hennessy) not present

Submitted a written report: Supervisor went over the report; balance in checkbook as of December 6, 2013 \$0.28
Worked 10 hours in November. Contractual balance: \$3,067.22

ASSESSOR: (Lorry King) not present

Supervisor went over her report:

Old Business:

1. Data Collection project is still underway, Terri has completed map section 14 and is forking on section 16 and adjoining areas. I expect that all map section photos will be completed in the next few weeks

New Business:

1. Basic Star information was sent to the taxpayers whom have not yet filed with the state. At this writing, we have 74% recertified. Also, some of the 26% may qualify for the Enhanced Star this year, and therefore these State numbers may be skewed
2. We are having issues with our State program, I have contacted ORPS for their assistance. We are not able to access the program on the server. If necessary, we may have to remove this program from the server and then reinstall

Contractual balance: \$2020.69

Assessor hours: 29 ½ Clerk 35 ½

Data Collection balance: \$13,426.30

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: (Sharron Cardone) not present

No report submitted. Did get the Planning Board recommendations for Chair and Clerk

SEWER OFFICER: (Michael Walter)

- Submitted a written report:
- Average flow of 22,295 gallons per day for month of November
- Obtained 98.9% C.B.O.D. and 99.6% T.S.S. removal for November
- Spent a total of 67 hours attending to sewer district affairs in November
- Expenditures \$1,113.42
- Contractual Balance: - \$2,946.45

Mentioned that everything is working OK right now

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: (Rosemary Barile) not present

Submitted a written report—worked 10 hours, 2 calls made for license renewal. Call for found dog in Narrowsburg—referred to Tusten DCO. Dog at large call CR 116—negative results on dog at large. Miss Curry dog complaint 436 CR 116—owner located dog in yard tied. Owner returned to premises: barking and town codes explained to owner, warning issued owner complaint, rechecked no violations present. Rechecked the owner complaint. Met with owner of above dog “princess”—owner appears to be properly containing dog—not in violation of previous complaint. Contractual Balance: \$1,992.64

HISTORIAN: (K. C. Garn) not present

As it happens, I have not received any phone calls, emails, tweets or correspondence this past month having anything to do with the history of Cochection township. I suppose folks are simply too busy salting and sanding their driveways, complaining about Winter weather or just absorbed with planning for the holidays and how to get through them. Hope your meeting goes well and that all of what you wish to do for the Town is accomplished. I'm hoping you all have a happy holiday

UDC: (Larry Richardson)

- Submitted a written report: The Upper Delaware Council held its regular meeting on Thursday December 5. Following the roll call, Richard Eckersley reviewed the FY 2013 Audit Report. His accounting firm has been doing the annual audits since 1988 and he noted that when he started they issued about 24 suggested bookkeeping improvements and this year they offered none.
- DRBC representative Richard Gore reported that Executive Director Carol Collier is retiring in March, and Deputy Director Robert Tudor is retiring in June. He also reported that a change to the Flexible Flows Management Plan has been agreed to whereby the moisture content of any snow pack surrounding the reservoirs will now be included as storage capacity. The water in the reservoir and snow pack will now change the amount of water that may be released in times of stress. Mr. Gore reported that the Commissioners recently heard testimony concerning fracking and that they have agreed to seek a path forward to a consensus. He also stated that there is differing legislation in the House and the Senate concerning funding for the DRBC through the Army Corps of Engineers annual budget. Only one time in the last 17 years has the Federal Government met its financial obligation to the Commission.
- NPS Superintendent McGuinness reported that the plan to replace the Pond Eddy Bridge may result in the River being closed in that area for up to 4 years
- . Executive Director Ramie reported that the Annual Financial Report is available on the UDC website. We no longer print copies, however a copy can be provided if so requested. Ramie also noted that the substantial review of the Town of Hancock's ordinances is still in progress.
- Much discussion took place concerning a draft letter to the Township of Damascus concerning two proposed communication towers. It would appear that neither tower as proposed would be permitted under the River Management Plan. I emphasized once again the importance of a comprehensive study of communication towers: the needs and the wants including both sides of the river.
- The nominating committee presented the following names for consideration at the January 9th meeting: Chairman Andrew Boyer, Vice Chairperson Patricia Jeffers, and Secretary/Treasurer Al Henry.
- Actions taken:
 - Approved a letter to Township of Damascus concerning proposed communication towers
 - Approved a letter to DRBC and the Decree Party Principles requesting serious consideration of the "Equitable Apportionment Plan for the Delaware Water System"

TOWN BOARD:

(Councilperson Story)

Nothing to report at this time

(Councilperson Schulman)

Nothing to report at this time

(Councilperson Grund)

Nothing to report at this time

(Councilperson Richardson)

Mentioned he will wait until the January 2013 meeting to give his report on gas drilling

(Supervisor Maas)

Nothing to report at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Basement Completion: Coming along nicely. There are 2 separate quotes from Eric Hector for completion of the basement the first being to finish walls in basement areas where walls meet drop ceiling, wall to be spackled and painted. Also install closet around electrical box in basement frame, sheetrock, paint and trim

RESOLUTION # 94

ACCEPT QUOTE FROM ERIC HECTOR FOR THE ABOVE QUOTE

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Schulman, the following resolution was WHEREAS, the Town Board would like to finish the basement this year, and WHEREAS, Eric Hector has already completed work in the basement and the Town Board members are happy with the results that would be the justification for accepting his quote to completed work in the basement and NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the quoted price of \$950.00 for this phase of the basement completion is hereby accepted

ADOPTED: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

The 2nd quote from Eric Hector was for finishing the basement was prep floors in basement rooms for epoxy finish, main hall, kitchen, bathroom and hall leading from upper level of building; total square footage 1,435. Apply epoxy finish and install colonial base molding where needed. The estimated time to do the work would be 3-4 days for the (labor). Labor and materials total quote \$2,950.00. 1st payment \$2,000.00 and final payment \$950.00

RESOLUTION # 95**ACCEPT QUOTE FROM ERIC HECTOR FOR COMPLETION OF FLOORS IN BASEMENT**

On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was
 WHEREAS, the floors in the basement need to be finished, and the Town Board would like to complete this project this year, and
 WHEREAS, Eric Hector has completed most of the basement work already and the Town Board is pleased with his work, and
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the quote from Eric Hector is hereby accepted in the amount of \$2,950.00 to complete the floors in the basement as described above

ADOPTED: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

Supervisor has gotten quotes on tables and chairs for the basement –Sam’s Club (Life Time)- (both the Fire House and Town of Tusten have in their buildings) the quote was \$3088.00 for tables and chairs without table cart and needs to be picked up. The 2nd quote was from Kristt Co. was \$3,363.75 and would include 64 chairs and table cart.

RESOLUTION # 96**ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM KRISTT CO.**

On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was
 WHEREAS, the basement is nearly completed and in need of furnishings namely tables and chairs, and
 WHEREAS, Kristt Co. has quoted a price of \$3,363.75 for the 8 tables and 64 chairs with a table cart the Town Board does hereby accept the quote from Kristt Co. for the tables and chairs with table cart

ADOPTED: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0

Supervisor Maas

Councilpersons: Richardson, Grund, Schulman and Story

2. Unsafe Buildings. The 2 unsafe structures on CR 116 have been removed by the property owner. Town Board is holding open the Public Hearing regarding this issue to see if the property owner has paid the town the legal fees associated with this project by the year-end meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Unsafe Buildings –If someone sees one let the CEO know and he can make a determination
2. Internet Security – discussed earlier
3. Shared Services – pending
4. Special prosecutor –year end meeting. This was discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to comment

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to move into executive to discuss possible litigation. Time 8:58 p.m. All voted in favor

Others present: Attorney and Town Clerk

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to move out of executive session. Time 9:06 p.m.. All voted in favor

While in executive session no decision was made.

.MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to recess this Town Board meeting until December 30, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. year end and unsafe building. Time 9:07 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hollye Schulman, Town Clerk