

Town Board Meeting  
February 12, 2024

The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Cambridge was duly called, Monday, February 12, 2024 at Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler

Councilman Larry Carrino

Councilman Robert McIntosh

Councilman Bruce Bailey

Absent Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley, Jimmy Morris  
Reporter from the Eagle

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM and the Supervisor led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Auditing of the Bills**

General	#10 – 29	\$ 4,679.01
Highway	#6 – 22	\$17,650.05

### **Supervisor's Report**

#### **Resolution #11**

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to approve the Supervisor's report from January 2024.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

Councilman Bailey asked if it was more economical to consider mass mailings, he noticed the expense for excessive postage. The Town Clerk reported that the Assessor and the Town Clerk merged mailing together between the two offices when they can. The Assessor also did postcards for the Mandated notice required by the State about Senior Exemption eligibility. Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent both mentioned that mass mailing had been looked into before, because we are a small town and did not have large quantities expensive and not feasible.

### **Transfer of Funds**

#### **Resolution #12**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to accept the unanticipated revenue of \$15,219.00 from County Route 60 Snow Agreement and move to Highway Machinery Contractual DA5130.4.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

### **Approving of the Minutes**

#### **Resolution #13**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting, with the following corrections:

On the last page of the minutes second line it should read joint meeting with the Town Board not the Planning Board. In the County Report, the first line it is written that the Supervisor has not really done much for the county yet, would sound better if it read that not much going on at the county yet. On the last page of the minutes in the Town Board portion it says that the Town of Williamstown has a Comprehensive Plan, this is incorrect they do not have a Comprehensive Plan.

Vote:

Ayes – 4

Noes – 0

### **Highway Superintendent's report**

- The Highway Dept. has sanded several times
- Keeping up on filling potholes
- Have been out with the Boom arm mower a bit
- Cleaned the trees in the cemetery on Turnpike that came down during storm.
- Uniform contract is up, Highway Superintendent has talked with Unifirst and they have come in \$15.00 a week less.
- Looking to get a price on a new Hot box. The Towns that jointly own the hot box are looking at what they have in the kitty. They also have to see what they get for the one they have now on auctions international. Hoping to get \$25,000 or better then roll over that money. The Towns are trying to get as much as they can while it is still good. They are still hashing it out.
- Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley mentioned the deal that Supervisor Fedler found in the Country Folks at Hill Electric Supply for LED Lights. They will be replacing the Old Large round lights in the Highway Garage with an incandescent light for \$1.00 each. Highway Superintendent went to see Hill Electric on Friday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. The Highway crew made sure that there was power to the lights and they could be switched over. Because of the height of the ceiling light thinking that might have to borrow a lift.

### **Solar**

The last thing that the Highway Superintendent reported was that he went to the Planning Board meeting in the Town of Hoosick about the Solar. He thought that the Town of Hoosick going to Town on the Solar Company. Not impressed with what the Solar company typically does and does not do. This project was 5 megawatts, 19.19 acres. The Solar company made a lot of excuses. It was asked if added taxes from that property will that upset neighbors' devaluation of property. The questions were asked but not really answered, is visibility site pollution??? They also stated that coating the solar panels would cut the glare down as far as bare ground. Jim the Highway Superintendent said that he found this hard to believe. Decommissioning plan only 2% rate on cost – concerned it needs to be a higher percentage.

NYS has plan Decommissioning but Dept. of Agriculture has addendum on that. Councilman Bailey says designations for different types of land. The Solar company claims that regular water fire truck can put fire out for solar. Superintendent Jim Buckley said that they claimed have no equipment on ground and 7 poles put up. No batteries, but charged and will be equipment.

The Town Board members all agreed that this was exactly why the Town of Cambridge needs to be covered with the Solar Law they are creating.

Jim Buckley said that can stop at the first step by sending the Solar Company to the power company for hosting capacity.

Supervisor Fedler reminded Councilman McIntosh notes to write as reminders Power Company, Battery Supply and the fire in Western NY and Battery facility. These fires are hard to put out and after they occur site must be tested ground/air etc. Councilman McIntosh mentioned no lasting evidence in this case in Western NY. Another concern is the landowner needs to get paid when the agreement is signed not when start running power.

Only animals that can be pastured under the Solar are sheep and bees and only if the height is enough. Fire access road a concern, make sure the fire trucks can get to the sight.

### **Auditing of the 2023 books**

Town Clerk presented her 2023 books and the Town Clerk and the Supervisor presented the 2023 books for the Clerk to the Supervisor. The Town Board reviewed the books and cross referenced to make sure that amounts were accurate.

### **Resolution #14**

Councilman Carrino motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the 2023 books for the Clerk to the Supervisor and the Town Clerk for Audit.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

Thank you note was received from the Rescue Squad and the Food Pantry. The Food pantry mentioned that they had 126 families coming for food.

### **Planning Board Report**

- Planning Board meeting was held on February 1, 2024, 5 members present and secretary.
- The Planning Board chair Scott Clark mentioned that the new law specified the tiers better. Once again not sure that any authority falls with the Planning Board. Mentioned in 8A1 just beyond the blue review. Law says that pick Engineer of choice and that they review the applicants engineer documents. The Planning Board do not want to or feel comfortable with this. Also, they are asking who makes the determination after the Public Hearing? Will there have to be some kind of Law or something added to the Planning Board Regulations, will the Planning Board be appointed to this position? The permitting who manages this, the county? The Town does not have an Engineer to look for advice from. Scott Clark does like that they have put the Tier 4 in. The Planning Board would like to invite the Town Board to the March meeting.
- Next Planning Board meeting will be on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM. The Planning Board has invited the Town Board to attend the meeting for a joint meeting to discuss the Solar Law at 7:30 PM they will have their business meeting at 7:00 PM.

### **Town Clerk Report**

- Final day to pay without penalty on taxes was January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Total Taxes collected \$1,759,600.35
- Amount budgeted to Town paid \$818,765
- Remainder of \$900,000 written to the County Treasurer
- Had resident inquire about getting a Domestic partnership, The resident and his girlfriend were interested in acquiring a Domestic Partnership, they were very upset to find that the Town of Cambridge did not issue these permits. In the research that I have done this is common for cities to mostly issue. I have talked with Holli Cross the town of Hoosick Town Clerk and she does issue the Domestic Partnership. Holli is going to send me all the information copy Local

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Law, Resolution, application. The Domestic Partnership is established by the Town passing a Local Law, this would enable the Town to issue the permits for Domestic Partnership. The resident that was looking to acquiring a Domestic Partnership has recently sold his house and moved out of the Town, however he said that he would like to see the Town pursue this for future residents. He says there is a need for this. This would be a decision of the Town Board, there is a fee (\$50.00 is what Hoosick charges) that the Town would receive. I have checked with the NYS Dept. of Health, this is not like a marriage license all records are held with the Town, the State has nothing to do with this.

### **Franchise Agreement**

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the Franchise agreement has expired between the Town of Cambridge and Spectrum Northeast, LLC, subsidiary of Charter Communications, INC.

This agreement has expired the first of the year, 48 residents have this service in the Town of Cambridge. The Supervisor would like to compare the old agreement which was signed 15 years ago, she mentioned that she did not want to go into this blind-sided, she wanted to review the two agreements together.

Former Town Attorney Alan Wrigley notified town that his last project before he retired is dead, no longer an issue.

The office of Real property at the county believe that they have filled the Director of Real Property position.

All chair members have changed, resolutions this week at county level are huge, federal grants, and there are lots.

Councilman Bailey was wondering if Great Meadows was going to close. Supervisor Fedler said that have lost several large employers in Ft. Edward, trying to be proactive.

### **Communications**

Letter was received from the New York coalition for Open Government, Inc., they were advocating for timely access to information & meaningful citizen participation. They are saying that some towns are not allowing Public Comment at the Town Board meetings and we are one of them. This is not accurate; Town of Cambridge has always allowed Public Comment.

There being no further business before the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

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