

Town Board Meeting
May 8, 2023

The Regular Town Board of the Town of Cambridge was duly called Monday, May 8, 2023 at Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler

Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Councilman Robert McIntosh

Councilman Larry Carrino

Councilman Bruce Bailey

Others present: Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt, Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr., Eric Pearson Planning Board Chair, Gerald Skiff Planning Board Member, Cassie Weisburge (New Village Trustee), Thomas Bruce, Jonathan Sambo, Dan Prelonan (Democratic Candidate for Town Justice)

Auditing of the Bills

General	#67 – 83	\$6,229.87
Highway	#45 – 55	\$7,599.10

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #34

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman McIntosh to approve the Supervisor's report from April 2023.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes -0

Approving of the minutes

Resolution #35

Councilman Carrino motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2023 meeting with the following corrections:

- On page 3 in regards to the FEMA maps, just want to be noted that Arek the Assessor was the courier of the maps from the County to the Town.
- On page 6 the last bullet that the Solar law will be reviewed at the next meeting that should be May 8th, 2023 not June 12, 2023.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Tour of the Battenkill

Supervisor Fedler reported that there was an issue with the race Tour of Battenkill. The Administrative crew of the Tour of the Battenkill made many phone calls about the Road Closure of Stump Church Rd. They went as far as going to the 6th Floor at the State Level of DOT to stop the bridge project.

Permission was given for the Bicyclist to use that route on the map; however, the Road was not opened to the public for usage that weekend. The Supervisor mentioned that there have been many issues in the past with cyclist not respecting property, the dates of scheduled races, disrespect to the Town. This race is of no benefit to the Town of Cambridge so the Supervisor proposed to the Town Board that a letter be written to the Tour of the Battenkill Administrative Coordinator's that the Town of Cambridge no longer supports the Tour of the Battenkill. They have a year which is more than enough time to redirect the routes around the Town of Cambridge.

A detailed letter will go out to the Tour of the Battenkill Directors to make them aware of the situation Councilman McIntosh asked why the issue. The Supervisor explained that this is not the only problem that we have ever had with the race. There have been many issues in the past, as mentioned above.

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Resolution #36

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to no longer support the Tour of the Battenkill in the Town of Cambridge, the Board has requested that the roads of the Town of Cambridge not be used. The Town Board feels that they are giving them a year's notice to reroute their courses.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes - 0

Planning Board Report

- Planning Board meeting for May 4, 2023 was cancelled, due to nothing on the agenda.

Pamela Landi, the Planner from the County Planning Dept. contacted the Secretary to Planning Board and asked if the Planning Board is interested in scheduling a visit so that Pamela could explain how Washington County Planning serves as a resource and support, and to answer questions the Board may have. The presentation averages ~45 minutes, but can be shorter or longer. I spoke with Eric Pearson the chair and he is interested in having her come and speak to the Planning Board at the June 1st

- Next Planning Board meeting will be on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Town Clerk Report

- The new drop box has arrived. Will be up soon.

Assessor Report

- Residents that have meet with the Assessor before May 1st in regards to the new Assessed Value of their property will be receiving a letter in the mail.
- Residents can still meet with the Assessor Arek Gordon, by stopping by the office. **No appointments needed!** Paperwork for Grieve Day can be picked up at the Town Office.
- Assessor will be in the office Wednesday, May 10th 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, Thursday, May 11th 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.
- Grievance Day Wednesday, May 24, 2023 4PM to 8 PM

Highway Report

- Finished sweeping the Roads
- Done grading, ditching, patching and potholes
- Truck #2 has come back from CAT
- Little Tractor has gone to Capital Tractor for some repairs
- The Town of Cambridge Highway Dept will be paving this Thursday and Friday (May 11th and 12th) on Turnpike and possibly Perry Lane.
- Have lost one Highway employee -went where he could get more money. He will be missed, best welder and operator of the excavator for 7 years.
- Town of Cambridge Highway Department will be looking for a replacement to fill the position. This may be difficult due to low pay scale and also new hires are now responsible for 25% of their Health Insurance.

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- Jim Buckley Jr. the Highway Superintendent attended a FEMA meeting via ZOOM on Thursday, May 4th. This was to review maps with properties that are possibly in the Flood Zone. When the maps have been updated another meeting will be held.

Standard Work Day Resolution

Resolution #37

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials was adopted, can be viewed at the Cambridge Town Hall. After being posted for 30 days, then it is filed with the Office of the New York State Comptroller and New York State Retirement System.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Privilege of the Floor

Eric Pearson spoke about his thoughts and concerns on Solar and the Town of Cambridge having a solar law. He mentions that there should be some restrictions on size of Solar Farms (Multi Mega watt). He did mention that there is not a lot of infrastructure with 3 Phase in the Town of Cambridge. He thought it might be good idea to put stipulations of a certain size of Solar farm in Town of Cambridge. Things touched upon in regards to Solar during the discussion with Town Board and Eric Pearson:

- Size, place, what is on the table
- Eric Pearson did mention that as a land owner the money that the Solar companies are paying per acre is hard to pass up.
- Decommissioning is a concern, will there be a place to dispose of the disburse in the future.
- Councilman McIntosh suggested if the Solar Farm is not taken care of a lien should be put on the property. Supervisor's comment on this was not sure tax lien is the easiest way to go – bigger money on bond, might be wise.
- Eric Pearson questioned if this land would be assessed differently because of the Solar. Supervisor said that it is possible that the State will put guidelines out there for assessment.
- The Town Board mentioned that they did not want to interfere with residential Solar or take away from the residents.
- Eric Pearson mentioned that it is not a good idea to let the State ram rod this Solar on us. Especially when this is affecting financially what is going on with other people, then it is a concern. He made it known that this is his opinion as a landowner!
- Eric stated that a Town Law can be passed on a specific targeted item, the Town does not have to have a Comprehensive Plan.
- Councilman McIntosh said that a webinar how to deal with advances with Solar Developers. This is the main interest, require that come before the Planning Board and what need to know and what a good contract looks like, and have good Decommissioning Plan.
- Supervisor Fedler asked the Town Attorney too looked into giving the Planning Board more power.

The Town Board had a short discussion on ideas of what they would like to see in the Solar Law for the Town of Cambridge. Discussed possibly putting restrictions on the size of Solar Farm (Array) that could be built in the Town of Cambridge. Many had concerns on the Decommissioning Agreement and how much the Bond should be for this Agreement. All Town Board Members and people from the public

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received a copy of the Utility Scale Solar Energy Facilities Law for the Town of Jackson Local Law No. 3 of 2023. It was decided that the Town Board would review this law and make notes, highlight good details and things not so good about this law. The Board is hoping this will help them decide which path they decide to follow for the Cambridge Solar Law. Even the possibility was discussed of having a committee or Sub Committee to work on this Solar Law for the Town of Cambridge. This will be discussed in further detail at the next Town Board Meeting June 12, 2023.

There being no further business before the Town Board the, meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge