

Town Board Minutes  
September 14, 2009

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 2009, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor JoAnn Trinkle  
Councilman Joel Nichols  
Councilman Frank Ziehm  
Councilman Ted Berndt  
Absent: Councilwoman Carol Imhof

Others present: Town Clerk Sally Eddy, Highway Supt. Eric Shaw, LaVerne Davis, Ashleigh Farrell, Mark Davis, William Watkins, Rani Bass, Dan Schmidt, Alan Davis, Nancy Mabeus, Ted Flint, Dan Thomas, Cassie Fedler, Earl Horton,

Supervisor Trinkle called the meeting to order and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Hearing

At 7:30 PM Supervisor Trinkle opened the public hearing regarding Local Law #3 of 2009, a law providing for the real property exemption for Cold War Veterans pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law Sect. 458-b. The legal notice was read aloud by the Town Clerk. There were no comments from the public. Hearing closed at 7:31 PM.

Minutes

Councilman Frank Ziehm motioned, seconded by Councilman Ted Berndt, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the August 10, 2009 meeting and to approve them as mailed by the Town Clerk with no additions or corrections.

Vote: 4 – Ayes      0 – Noes

Items to be Added to Agenda

Under New Business – c. Budget Transfer

Supervisor's Report

1. The monthly financial reports were reviewed and commented upon.  
Councilman Ziehm motioned, seconded by Councilman Berndt, to accept the General and Highway Financial Reports for the month of August 2009 as presented.

Vote: 4 – Ayes      0 – Noes

2. Supervisor Trinkle stated she received a letter from the law firm of Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner, LLC, concerning the Brownell Road property for which the town signed a Quit Claim Deed. The firm is representing Dan Smith, the adjacent land owner to the Brownell Road property. Mr. Smith is claiming rights to that parcel. Supervisor Trinkle stated the matter has been handed over to Attorney Alan Wrigley.

2. Received a letter from the Village of Cambridge stating the Town of Cambridge's portion owed to

Phoenix Labs for landfill well testing for 2009 is \$1864.34 plus a balance of \$7.25 from 2008. There was one baseline test done in 2008 and four quarterly routine tests in 2009. The Towns of Jackson and White Creek also share in the costs. There is a possibility, at some point in the future, that if the tests are within limits a discontinuance of the testing may be requested. If that's the case, the Village will notify the Town.

3. Received notification from the Village that the Cambridge Fire Department is requesting a \$1436.66 increase bringing the 2009 fire protection contract price with the town to 27,408.66. The reason for the increase is to add \$5000 to the fire equipment reserve. The Towns of Jackson and White Creek will also be asked to share the increase.

4. The inside phone lines in the main meeting room of the Town Hall and the Board Room are not working. The phone company has been called to do the repair work.

#### Town Board Report

Councilman Ted Berndt stated he attended a meeting on August 19 with Congressman Scott Murphy along with business people and local leaders focusing on creating a fiber optic backbone through the Adirondack region. He also stated he has learned that the Town of Jackson will be getting the upgrade to make DSL available to the residents. He contacted Verizon and expressed his concern that the Town of Cambridge has been lobbying for better than a year to bring DSL to the town. Apparently all our efforts have got us nowhere. According to Sharon Henderson, the request for funding from Senator Little to assist Verizon in implementing DSL is tied up in the Senate Finance Committee.

Supervisor Trinkle added that Washington County is moving forward with the fiber optic network.

#### Planning Board Report

1. Secretary Sally Eddy reported the Planning Board met Sept. 3 and addressed the following: Granted sketch plan approval to Howard Brown for an approximately 1.8 acre subdivision at the corner of Kenyon and Stump Church Road. David Brown, who has POA, represented his father. The subdivision will enlarge the property owned by Rani & Alex Bass. Approximately 1.4 acres will be added to where their house is located and approximately .4 acre will come from across Kenyon Rd to the north which will include two existing barns. Mr. Brown was directed to proceed with the survey.

2. Stuart Ziehm submitted a survey map for a 1.05 acre subdivision at the corner of Durfee and Schweningen Rd. The subdivision includes a farm house and 2 barns. The proposed subdivision is being taken from an 84 acre parcel owned by Tiashoke Properties of which Stuart has on-third interest. Mr. Ziehm wants to gain ownership of the house. There was not a quorum present to vote to grant Preliminary Approval since Stuart, being a member of the Planning Board, was not able to vote on the matter. He will present the proposal again at the October meeting.

#### Highway Superintendent's Report

1. We stoned and oiled 1.5 miles of South Cambridge Road.
2. Various sections of Meeting House Rd, Horton Rd, and Irish Lane were shimmed.
3. Roadside mowing continues.
4. Various locations throughout the Town were patched.
5. We are continuing to cut and remove trees and brush that has grown over the road.
6. The clutch and brake pedal valve on the loader had to be repaired at a cost of \$1150.97.
7. The cemetery on Turnpike Rd was mowed for the final time this year.

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8. The three towns mowed the Cambridge landfill.

In addition, Supt. Shaw prepared and distributed the yearly inventory of highway machinery, tools and equipment.

No Communications

Unfinished Business

Resolution by Councilman Joel Nichols

Seconded by Councilman Ted Berndt

Be It Resolved and Determined, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge does hereby go on record adopting Local Law #3 of the Year 2009 – A Local Law Providing for the Real Property Exemption for Cold War Veterans Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Sec. 458-b.

Was duly put to vote and resulted in 4 – Ayes 0 – Noes

New Business

Dehumidifier for Town Vault

Upon inspection of the records housed in the town vault, it was discovered by Town Clerk Sally Eddy that mold and mildew was present. There was obvious need for a dehumidifier. Upon further investigation it was found that there was a dehumidifier in the building, but that it had not been running. It has since been fixed and is operating. There is not need to purchase a new one. In addition, there are 3 sets of old useless, bent, empty filing cabinets in the vault just taking up valuable space. Supt. Shaw has agreed to dispose of them and purchase new metal shelving.

Dairy Resolution

Supervisor Trinkle stated that several municipalities, including county governments, have adopted resolutions supporting monetary relief for dairy farmers at the federal level as well as changing the way that fluid milk is priced at the farm gate. Supervisor Trinkle passed out a copy of a resolution addressing the issue.

Councilman Frank Ziehm moved the resolution

Seconded by Councilman Ted Berndt

**TITLE: ENCOURAGING IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR DAIRY FARMERS AND SUPPORTING CHANGES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL ESTABLISHING THE PRICE OF FLUID MILK AT THE FARM GATE**

WHEREAS, Agriculture is Cambridge’s largest industry in terms of product value, and

WHEREAS, the current price of milk at the farm gate is well below the cost of production, and

WHEREAS, the impact of these low prices on Cambridge’s economy, along with that of New York State and the nation is significant and cannot be ignored, and

WHEREAS, there has been a nationwide effort by dairy farmers to address the bureaucratic structure of establishing milk prices, and

WHEREAS, there has been a nationwide effort by dairy farmers to provide immediate cash assistance to farms, and

WHEREAS, this is an issue that significantly impacts communities and their economies everywhere, and

WHEREAS, this issue no longer can be carried forward by the will power of the farming community, but must involve all those who understand the economic impact of agriculture, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Cambridge Town Board supports efforts to change the current basis on which the farm gate price of milk is established, and be it also

RESOLVED, that the Cambridge Town Board supports efforts to provide immediate aid to dairy farmers, and be it also

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to the Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, US Senator Charles Schumer, US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Scott Murphy, NY Senator Betty Little, Assemblyman Tony Jordan, and New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Pat Hooker.

Vote:	Supervisor JoAnn Trinkle	Aye	Councilman Joel Nichols	Aye
	Councilman Frank Ziehm	Aye	Councilman Ted Berndt	Aye
	Councilwoman Carol Imhof	Absent		

Budget Transfer

Councilman Frank Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilman Joel Nichols, to transfer \$380 from Contingent A1990.4 to Assessor Contractual A1355.4 to cover the cost of postage.

Vote: 4 – Ayes 0 - Noes

County Report

Supervisor Trinkle stated the county is working on the 2010 budget. She reported there is a 1.8 million dollar shortfall in revenues from the burn plant. Among the causes are less garbage being generated, some major haulers dumping out of the county and lower price for electricity being sold from the waste to energy plant.

Privilege of the Floor

Resident Dan Schmidt expressed that he is not in favor of the annual re-assessment that the Town Board recently voted to undertake. In another matter, Mr. Schmidt stated he contacted the NYS Office of Real Property Services (ORPS) to ask for an opinion concerning the matrix used in the Town of Cambridge to figure assessments for parcels of land. They would not give it to him as an individual but would give it to the Town Board if the Board asked.

Mr. Schmidt handed out to board members the address of the person to contact at the state for the information.

William Watkins brought up the Brownell Road property issue again. He passed out two papers, one showing the progression of ownership from the town to the current owners; the other paper was a copy of the letter Attorney Cathi Rader, who is representing Daniel Smith, sent to Supervisor Trinkle demanding the Town repeal the resolution authorizing the conveyance of the land to a private individual. Supervisor Trinkle stated to Mr. Watkins that the matter has been handed over to the Town’s attorney will not be further discussed.

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Resident Nancy Mabeus publicly returned the “environmental package” that was distributed to all town residents. The “package”, which was of no cost to the town, consisted of an energy saving florescent bulb, a reusable shopping bag and a recycling flier. She gave various reasons for not wanting it. Her letter is on file.

Earl Horton asked several questions regarding how woodlands and wetlands are assessed? Dan Schmidt also entered into the discussion. Supervisor Trinkle suggested Mr. Horton speak with Assessor Mary Ellen Hill-Pierce for answers.

Mr. Watkins commented that he found out that ORPS has been asking for 4 – 5 months that Ms. Hill-Peirce file a financial disclosure form. She hasn’t done it. He went on to say that ORPS can’t make the assessor do things the way they should, only suggest it.

Mark Dennis, from Com-Tech Electronics, gave a presentation about a possible shared services opportunity. He’s been servicing radios in towns and schools since 2002. He stated that a new FCC law will require that by 2013 all open wave radios will need to be upgraded in order to be in compliance. Mr. Dennis is hoping all the towns and school districts in Washington County will join together and file for 2010 Shared Services Grant Monies. He will co-ordinate the grant. If awarded, the monies will amount to \$500,000 which is sufficient to purchase 500 radios and 5 repeaters. The Town of Cambridge’s share would amount to \$1400.00. Mr. Dennis said that if the town did nothing it would cost the town about \$8000 to upgrade their current system to be in compliance. Mr. Dennis asked the town to send a representative to a meeting of the participating municipalities and school districts to determine if the town wants to be involved. The deadline for the grant is September 2010.

A discussion followed.

Councilman Nichols suggested that the matter be put on the agenda after January 1, 2010 since two of the current board members will not be on the board after the first of the year. It’s a matter that will effect the future and not the present.

Motion by Councilman Joel Nichols, Seconded by Councilman Ted Berndt

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge does hereby table the matter of entering into a Shared Services Grant for the purpose of upgrading the Town’s open wave radios until after January 1, 2010.

Vote: 4 – Ayes      0 - Noes

The following bills were presented for audit and approved for payment:

General #144 – 161    \$ 11,144.32  
Highway #102 – 114    \$159,793.73

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally B. Eddy  
Town Clerk

