

Town Board Meeting
June 13, 2011

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 13th of June, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler
Councilman Alan Davis
Councilman Ted Berndt
Councilman Frank Ziehm

Others Present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Dick Sutherland, Donnie Herrington, Lillian Herrington, Terry Hamilton, Rani Bass, Harriet Peabody, Henry Peabody, Marie Drost, Eric Wilkins from the Eagle, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Astrid Davis, Robert Hudson, Bruce Rolleston, Scott Keller, Jim Buckley, Dick Battistoni, Holly McMurray, Robin McMurray, Bob Odess, Gerald Skiff, Fran Moon, Brian Gibney, Sue Herrington

Bills audited prior to the meeting at 7:00 PM

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|---------|------------|--------------|
| General | #110 – 134 | \$ 18,460.63 |
| Highway | #58 – 72 | \$171,413.42 |

Resolution#48

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ziehm to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2011 meeting as mailed without any corrections.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution#49

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Berndt to approve the May 2011 Supervisor's Report.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Recognition of Volunteers

Supervisor Watkins stated that everything that is done in the community from the little things to the large things are greatly appreciated.

Councilman Berndt handed out certificates to many people in the community in recognition of their time spent volunteering in the community. Some of the organizations that were recognized were: Board of Directors of the Cambridge Valley of Chamber Commerce, Cambridge Valley Fire Dept., Greenwich Rescue Squad, 4-H Leaders, Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad and the Jr. Squad members, Cambridge Rescue Squad Auxiliary, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Cambridge Valley Chamber of Commerce, Cambridge Library, Cambridge Valley Senior Citizens.

Executive Session

The Town Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Mary McClellan Assessment.

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Resolution#50

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler, to enter Executive Session 7:40 PM.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution#51

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Supervisor Watkins to come out of Executive Session at 7:50 PM.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution#52

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ziehm for Alan Wrigley to proceed with the negotiation pertaining to the Mary McClellan Hospital assessment.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read a thank you from the Women's National Farm and Garden Association for the new supply closet and for thinking of their needs.

Heather Greenawalt had mentioned that she was in the vault last week and something must be done with the dehumidifier, it doesn't seem to be working correctly. It was suggested that a new dehumidifier be purchased in order to preserve the records in the vault.

Resolution#53

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilman Davis that a dehumidifier is purchased for the vault.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

The Supervisor asked the Town Clerk who would take the responsibility of purchasing the dehumidifier and installing it. She said that she would ask Eric Shaw the Highway Superintendent to help her with this.

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that the certificates for Volunteer month are a good idea however she is sure that a lot of the volunteers were left out. She thought that it was a good idea to put a proclamation out there that the Town Board supports all the volunteers, everyone is greatly appreciated.

Councilwoman Fedler wanted to discuss the appointment of someone to Highway Superintendent and also mentioned that Gene Giemza is retiring. She realizes that they must wait until Eric's retirement date which is July 31st before anyone can be appointed. This can be discussed at next months meeting, so someone can possibly be appointed for August to fill the Highway Superintendent position.

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She has also requested from the Clerk to the Supervisor Margaret Shaw that she have a summary of the Health Insurance expenditures for the Town. She feels that this should be looked at now that there will be two new hires on the town Highway. By next year it will be the responsibility of any new hire to pay their full retirement.

Councilman Berndt mentioned that it might be a good idea to have a press release about the Volunteer month; he asked Councilwoman Fedler if she would be interested in working on this with him. Councilwoman Fedler and Councilman Berndt are going to try to have the press release out by next week.

Councilman Berndt also questioned on how the board wanted to proceed with the Highway Superintendent appointment, Councilwoman Fedler stated that they would have to wait till he has officially retired.

Councilman Davis stated that he was still trying to put the surplus stuff from the Town Hall on Auctions International. It was asked by the public how would they know what is up for bid, and also how would they bid on it if they did not have internet access. Councilman Davis mentioned that maybe the last hour of the bidding they could have telephone bidding. He also mentioned that it was possible to go to the library to use the internet. The items up for bid would be on the Auctions International for 21 – 27 days. Marie Buckley a citizen of the town volunteered to help townspeople in the Library on the computers, so that they may place their bids.

Councilman Berndt reported on the High Speed Internet progress, and stated that they had received a map from the NYS office for cyber security, that showed all the cable and the High Speed Internet throughout the town and it was not very accurate. On May 16th and May 24th the committee met and worked on the Broadband Mapping for the unserved and underserved areas of the Town of Cambridge. They brought this to Tori Reilly on May 25th at the Washington County LDC; they went through the whole map with her and the steps that they have taken to obtain DSL in the Town of Cambridge. Tori Reilly has gone back to Verizon and they are waiting to hear back from them.

Councilman Berndt spoke with Alan Wrigley the Town Lawyer last Friday the 10th of June about the Town Appointment Policy. The Town Lawyer Alan Wrigley stated that he was still reviewing this policy.

Councilman Berndt also attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Joshua Joseph. He stated that it was amazing how many young men go through this program in this town in troop 62. He stated that there are communities that don't have an Eagle Scout for 5-10 years. Supervisor Watkins stated that Joshua Joseph is a remarkable young man.

Planning Board Report

In the absence of Sally Eddy, Secretary to the Planning Board, Heather Greenawalt read the report. The Planning Board met Thursday, June 2, 2011 with six members present and two people from the public.

1. Held a public hearing and granted Final Approval to the minor subdivision application submitted by Lonn & Katherine Berney. The Berneys own 259.349 acres on South Cambridge Road and South Cambridge Road Extension. They proposed subdividing off a 76.740 acre lot which fronts onto South Cambridge Road. The land in the subdivision is currently under agricultural usage. The remaining land (182.609 acres) will stay with the house which sits at the end of South Cambridge Road Extension, a town maintained road.
2. Granted Preliminary Approval to Gerald Skiff for a minor subdivision at 99 South Road. Mr. Skiff owns a 6.6 acre parcel (formerly his parent's property) and is proposing to subdivide off a .55 acre lot adjacent parcel which Mr. Skiff also owns to enlarge it. The adjacent parcel contains his home. A public hearing will be held at the July meeting.
3. Four members along with the secretary attended a land use training class at the County on June 9 conducted by A. Kevin Crawford, Executive Director of MYMIR.

Highway Superintendent

2 miles of King Road between DeMarco Lane and Oak Hill Road were paved. One tenth of a mile was shimmed on Oak Hill Road. Also our section of Old Cambridge Road was shimmed. The first pass of mowing has been completed. The new tractor is expected to be delivered the end of this week and the mowing will be started. The cemeteries were mowed for the holiday. Irish Lane was ditched and a driveway culvert was replaced. Trees that were in the ditch line were also cut and removed. The gravel roads were graded where needed.

A letter was also given to the Board by the Highway Superintendent Eric Shaw submitted by Eugene Gienza of his retirement of the full time position on the Highway Department, the notification was given May 5, 2011 and his last day will be September 30, 2011.

Code Enforcement

LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement reported that a new house has been started on King Road. There is also a possible house that will be built on Rte. 372 and also Conley Road, but this is in the early stages.

Mr. Skiff voiced his concerns about the building on County Rte. 59 the wall next to the road looks like it is going to fall into the road, the Supervisor stated that this will be taken down.

Communications

The book that was published for the celebration in 1988 is being updated for the 250th Celebration on July 23rd, which is the recognition day of the founding of Cambridge, Jackson and Whitecreek. Anything since 1988 that is new or has changed in the Town can be submitted to Beverly Collamer who is chair of the Historical Society.

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Councilwoman Fedler reported that Terry Hamilton submitted an article, which says "Town Court to upgrade security". This was a Queensbury project to improve the building for safety reasons. The article mentioned "that the project had been scuttled by concerns about whether prevailing wage laws were being followed in the bidding process." This project was partially paid for by state grant money secured by the court staff.

Unfinished Business

The Supervisor mentioned that some transfers must be made. Councilman Berndt asked what there was for a total on money spent in lawyer fees for the litigations for the Brownell Road property. The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that she had added it up after the last board meeting and thought it was approximately \$8,000.

Resolution#54

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Berndt to transfer \$21.50 from Contingent A1990.4 to Attorney contractual A1420.4 to cover attorney fees for Brownell Road litigation.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution#55

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to break the Highway Reserve CD which matures August 20, 2011, in order to pay for the purchase of the new tractor. The money will be deposited into the Highway Checking Account and the check will be issued from there.

Vote: Aye – 5 Noes – 0

Supervisor Watkins reported that he had talked to four other Towns that had used JCap grants and none of them had used the prevailing wage. The Supervisor stated that the contractor has to go through the process of filing for prevailing wage, this involves filing the paperwork and also getting a number from the state. After this process is done then the state will come and inspect the site periodically. It is up to the person hiring the contractor to make sure they have proper paperwork for prevailing wage.

New Business

The only new business would be filling the Highway Superintendent job after Eric Shaw retires but as Councilwoman Fedler already mentioned that will be discussed next meeting.

County Report

The county is trying to hire someone to run Pleasant Valley Infirmity, they thought that they had someone but after looking at it he said that in two years this would be gone. They actually gave him a severance pay and now they are back to square one again.

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Supervisor Watkins wanted to applaud Mr. Berndt and his people with the High Speed Internet. The county had the wrong information, they said that there was high speed internet in places where there wasn't. The Supervisor talked with Tori Reilly on Friday and they are hoping that Senator Betty Little's office will have the grant by Thursday of this week and then they can move forward.

Councilman Ziehm asked if there was anything new on the Brownell Road property litigations. Councilwoman Fedler said that she had not heard anything from the lawyer.

Privilege of the Floor

Robert Hudson was at the meeting as a concerned citizen about the speed limit over on Vly Summit off of County Rte. 74. His concern is that nothing has been done about the speed limit. He realizes that the board had contacted the county, but there are constantly accidents, in fact there was one today. He went on to tell about how his daughter was walking with her dog and it was hit by a car on a leash. Supervisor Watkins stated that he would look into this because the board had passed a resolution to change the speed limit and this paperwork had been sent to the county. The Supervisor also made him aware that he could not do the county road only the town road and this would have a speed limit of 30 mph.

Scott Keller had some questions and concerns about the Appointment Policy that Councilman Berndt has sent to the Town Lawyer. He directed his questions toward Councilman Berndt. He asked him if he was waiting for Mr. Wrigley to get back to him, and if yes, then what for. He wanted to know what he is doing with the policy. Councilman Berndt stated that the Town Lawyer was cleaning up the language. Mr. Keller states that this Policy doesn't voice any of the concerns that the public had about being a land owner or having lived in the town for a certain amount of time. Councilman Berndt stated that he thought they could change the policy after it came back from the lawyer. Mr. Keller thought that the final language should be finished before the policy even went to Alan Wrigley. Mr. Keller stated that this seemed like it was nothing more than circular and he felt that this was not good government. Mr. Keller was wondering what the requirements were for the appointment policy for the planning board. Councilman Berndt stated that part of the review was for Mr. Wrigley to decide what could be legally put in the policy.

It was suggested that this Appointment policy that was voted on last time be rescinded and brought back to the Townspeople for their input. Councilwoman Fedler thought that they should have a lawyer present at the next meeting to answer questions about the appointment policy and what the board can include in this policy legally.

Resolution#56

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Supervisor Watkins to rescind Resolution #46 from the May 2011 Town Board Meeting which pertained to the appointment policy because at the time there was no need to vote on something that has not been finalized yet.

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Roll Call Vote: Councilman Davis – Aye
 Councilman Berndt – Aye
 Councilman Ziehm – Aye
 Councilwoman Fedler – Aye
 Supervisor Watkins – Aye

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully yours,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk