

Regular Town Board Meeting  
April 14, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler  
Councilman Douglas Ford  
Councilman Robin McMurray  
Councilman Gerald Skiff  
Councilwoman Susan Herrington

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Henry Peabody, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Terry Hamilton, Bruce Rolleston, Rachael Holbrook Town Assessor, Bruce Bailey, Robbie McIntosh

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

Auditing of the Bills

General	#60 – 91	\$25,788.55
Highway	#45 – 58	\$12,310.69

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #17

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the March 10, 2014 minutes with two corrections. The first correction was on page 4 the second paragraph the Supervisor's did not meet with Christine Hoffer a presentation was given by the tourism department to the committee. The second correction was at the top of page 4; the Supervisor's were not elected to do County Meals on Wheels they were asked to participate.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #18

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Herrington to approve the March 2014 Supervisor's report.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Supervisor Fedler mentioned to Councilwoman Herrington that this month a Quarterly report was included in the Board members packet this shows budgeted money, received or expended money and the balance as of March 31, 2014.

Transfer of Money

Resolution #19

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to transfer money from A1355.2 Assessor, Equipment in the amount of \$71.61 to the Assessor, Contractual A1355.4 to cover the bills submitted.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Assessor's report

The Town Assessor Rachael Holbrook was present at the board meeting to report. She said that the deadline for the exemptions has passed which was March 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone that did not timely file a letter was mailed or called on the phone. She has removed 6 Ag exemptions because people have failed to renew the exemptions. The Cambridge School district has voted to give Veterans exemptions on the school tax bills; the county will be doing this adjustment in the computer for the assessor's. So she does not know how the figures will come out for this, usually it is either 10% or 15% on top depending whether they are combat veterans or not. The Board of Assessment will meet on June 3, 2014 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. NYS has issued the STAR removal list. Anyone that has not reapplied will be removed from the list. These individuals that are removed can still apply they will have to call the State to register. The Assessor said that there is no excuse for not applying. The State has sent many notifications. A letter will be sent out to anyone that has a change in assessment by May 1st. The Paper will be notified that there is viewing of the roll and the Assessor will be available extra hours at this period. The Assessor did mention that anyone that wants to grieve their assessment should contact her first. This year the Assessor has claimed 100% for the equalization rate.

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that she received a list from Laura Chadwick director of Real Property of the exemptions in the Town of Cambridge.

It was discussed who was on the BAR. The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the members of the BAR are Vance Bateman, Frank Root and Robert Wright.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Fedler reported that she spoke with Hudson Valley Wireless and they said that the test systems are running well.

State will be fixing Route 372 by cold mill recycle and Peckham will be doing the work. This will hopefully start by the end of May.

Supervisor Fedler also reported that a bill was submitted to the Town because of damage to the resident's car from a pot hole. Town's are not liable for this they are protected by Written Notice Law; get a letter it is due to unreasonable neglect. Councilman McMurray asked what is major neglect, what if the Town knew that the water was coming up through the road. She reported that major neglect must occur in order for the Town to be responsible. The damage to the car was approximately \$328; the claim will be submitted to the insurance company. It was mentioned by the board members that there is a definite problem. The pothole should have been marked sooner with cones. Councilman Ford mentioned there is a problem with the road when the water is coming up through the road. This must be corrected. Councilman Ford mentioned the excavator should be used to correct the situation. Supervisor Fedler said that she would follow up with the situation.

Supervisor Felder also reported that the Town would be getting \$17,320 more in CHIPS money.

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Dieter Drake sent a fax thanking the Town of Cambridge for their support of the Tour of the Battenkill. He stated that they had 2,000 participants from 40 states and 8 countries. He also mentioned that they had the debris all cleaned up and off the road within 24 hours of the race. The tentative date of next year's race is April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the taxes were returned to the Washington County Treasurer's Office on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The total amount of taxes collected for 2014 Town/County taxes were \$1,693,613.15. The amount of unpaid taxes the Town Clerk returned to the County Treasurer was \$220,728.66. The problem with the DEC system for hunting/fishing licenses has been corrected. The system is still very slow but that is the DEC system not the internet. The internet is working better Matt and Jeremy from Hudson Valley Wireless stopped by last Monday. They had made some adjustments to the system. The corrections have been made to the Policies and Procedures.

Planning Board Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported in Sally Eddy's absence, March and April reports were both read. The Town of Cambridge Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, March 6, 2014, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall with 7 members present and 1 person from the public. There was one item of business to address:

Surveyor Bruce Agard presented a sketch plan on behalf of Clifford Wilbur for a 1.25 acre minor subdivision to be conveyed to Mr. Wilbur's daughter. The proposed lot is located on South Cambridge Road with frontage onto the road. The lot will be subdivided from a 19.83 acre parcel identified by tax map #279.-1014.9. The sketch plan met board approval and Mr. Agard was directed to proceed with the survey.

The Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, April 3, 2014, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall with 4 members present and 2 people from the public. The following business was addressed:

1. Chairman Pearson received a letter or resignation, due to health reasons, from member Jerry Moppet, effective immediately. The letter was dated March 27, 2014.
2. Granted Preliminary Approval to Clifford Wilbur for a 1.24 acre subdivision located on South Cambridge Rd. to convey to his daughter to build a residence thereon. The public hearing will be held at the May 1 meeting.
3. Granted sketch plan approval to David Craig for an approximately 4.6 acre subdivision. Mr. Craig owns 32.4 acres on Irish Lane and is seeking to subdivide a lot to convey to his son. Mr. Craig was directed to proceed with the survey.

Town Board Report

Councilman Skiff brought up his concerns about some farmers in the Town of Cambridge that are using the Bio Salad/Paper sludge material on their land. He says that he understands that this material has some value in it for farm land; there is some lime and

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potassium in it. The lime comes from the paper mill where they add the lime on it to keep the smell down. This is a permitted material; it is restricted how much you can put on per acre and the weather is a factor. Councilman Skiff stated that another thing that they must be concerned about is the bio sludge. Supervisor Fedler has contacted representatives Gene Casey who worked at Casella Organics, he is no longer with the company. She then contacted Jeff Brinick who currently works for Casella Organics. Supervisor Fedler said that she could not take one side or the other, her job right now is getting all the information and funneling it to the Town Attorney. The Lawyer is processing this information. She had also spoken with Aaron Gabriel who put the program out there. He says that he has gone to DEC and scoured the logs and log book. Before he did the class that Councilman Skiff attended he did the homework and went through everything looking for concerns. Councilman Skiff said that he is not here to promote or condemn this product. There was concern also about the railroad cars that are in the area. The board members mentioned that rumors are that the cars may be bringing human waste to this area for disposal. Councilman Ford said that the Town of Cambridge has the Dump Law that will protect against this dumping. Councilman McMurray and Skiff said that their concern is that this paper sludge (short paper fiber) that is being spread on the farm land. It was thought maybe this was a way that companies are trying to get around the Town Dump Laws. Councilman McMurray said that there are rules that must be followed when applying this short paper fiber which is 5 ton to the acre every 3 to 5 years. Councilman McMurray said that he would love to use this on some of his property but he is not willing to take the risk. He thinks that everyone should be educated on the product. There was more discussion on this product and the materials that may be contained in this product. Supervisor Fedler said that the Town must be aware of this and submit all the information to the Town Attorney.

Councilwoman Herrington submitted a Town Event Proposal to the Town Board members. On this list she suggested: Town Clean up Day, Town Picnic, Veterans Appreciation, Field Trip to Town from the Library and Town Coffee Hour. Councilwoman Herrington said that she is still pursuing Grant information for the Town of Cambridge; Chris Anderson will be sending her information. She has also talked with David Conner who is in Senators Gillibrand's office

#### Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis reported that everything is quiet in the Town. Councilman McMurray asked if there was any report on the situation on County Rt. 60 without getting into details. Supervisor Fedler said that it was still in court, there were postponements because of snow storms.

#### Highway Superintendent's Report

Supervisor Fedler read the Highway Report in the Highway Superintendents absence. The Highwaymen have hopefully plowed the last of the snow for the season. They are working on sweeping intersections and roads where needed. The grading is going well and they have spent several days hauling gravel to the stock pile. They have also patched many of the holes in the blacktop roads. The highwaymen have replaced a couple of culverts and have installed a new driveway culvert. They are now working on ditching

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some sections needed. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis is requesting permission to attend the Highway conference at Ithaca the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June. The Highway Superintendent also suggested that the Town wide clean up day for May 4<sup>th</sup> as that is the same day White Creek.

The Town Board discussed the importance of the Highway Conference. Councilman McMurray said that he is inclined to say no to this with electric bills going up and the conditions of the road. The Town Supervisor pointed out the importance of the Highway Schooling and the knowledge that could be obtained. The Supervisor suggested that both sides be looked at before a decision is made. It was decided to table the decision on the Highway conference till the next Town Board Meeting. Councilman McMurray thought that the roads are more important than the schooling.

Resolution #20

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to table the discussion on the Highway Conference till next month so that they can gather more information.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

It was also suggested that the Town wide clean up day be put in the paper and that possibly groups could be notified to help with the clean up. Suggested groups were Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4-H Groups.

Planning Board Resignation

Resolution #21

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to accept the resignation of Gerald Moppert from the Planning Board effective immediately.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

The Town Board discussed when to interview for the Planning Board position. It was decided to advertise for the 30 days and to interview at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting. Because the term for Gerald Moppert expires December 31, 2014 it was discussed whether or not on January 1, 2015 the new person appointed could be reappointed in January. It was decided that someone would call the Association of Towns for guidance.

Resolution #20

Supervisor Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to advertise the vacant Planning Board Position for 30 days. The interview for the vacant position will be at the June 9, 2014 Town Board meeting.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Proposal for the Repairs on the Town Hall

The Town Board received proposals from Francis A. Buck who is a Carpenter and Electrician. The first proposal was to install two electrical circuits in the back office

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(judge's chambers) in the amount of \$500.00. There was a leak in the Town Justice's office so the second proposal is to prevent further damage in the future. The second proposal was to provide and install snow belt on upper roof north side of Town Office. To include snow slide, rubber underlay. This is a complete job, to stop ice back up. The total amount of the estimate was \$2650.00. This money would have to come out of the Town Hall Reserve Fund. Audit and Control was called and it was suggested to designate a higher amount to take out of the Reserve in case the job requires more funds. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that this did not have to go out for bid because the work was under \$10,000.

Resolution # 23

Councilman Ford motioned,

Seconded by Councilman McMurray,

Be It Resolved, that \$4,000 will be taken out of the Town Hall Reserve to do repairs to the Town Hall.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Supervisor Fedler said that she would be meeting with the Village of Cambridge Mayor and was wondering if anyone had anything that needed to be addressed.

Supervisor Fedler said that she would meet Thursday with members of the Fire Department to discuss the sustainability of the rural Fire Department. The board members mentioned how important the Fire Department was and how they did need a new Fire House. Councilman Ford mentioned that he did not see why they couldn't get a grant to redo the old school as a Fire House. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that she had asked the Fire Department for figures of what they raised at the Garage sale and received nothing. She has also asked them to notify her of any meetings.

Old Business

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the lawyer is working on the Trailer Ordinance, and Best Buy Purchasing. Supervisor Fedler said that she spoke with the Lawyer about the Dump Law and having a three person board. The Town Attorney did not think that was necessary she thought that was adding another layer of government.

Councilman McMurray questioned whether Supervisor Fedler had spoken with Alan Davis Highway Superintendent about the purchase of the pickup truck. Councilman McMurray had pointed out when the new truck was bought that there was discussion about the purchase of a new truck every two years. He suggested that this be put on the Purchasing Plan. It was discussed if this was something that should be looked into. It was decided if it makes financial sense, then yes this should be considered. It was suggested that if the truck was sold out right more money would be made.

Supervisor Fedler said that she did get an answer from the lawyer on the Trailer Ordinance in regards to years. The Town Attorney said that in the State Law there are provisions for the Town Law and the Town Law would supersede. Councilman

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McMurray wanted to know if LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement had any suggestions for the Trailer Ordinance. Councilman Ford said that he had those recommendations and would share them with Councilman McMurray. Councilman Ford suggested that the Trailer Ordinance discussion be tabled for another month because of the time.

NYS Retirement Standard Workday Resolution  
Resolution #24

Councilman McMurray motioned,  
Seconded by Councilman Skiff,

Be It Resolved, that the Town of Cambridge/ Location code 30647 hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system records of the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of the body.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

The NYS Retirement Standard Workday Resolution will be posted on the Town Bulletin Board for 30 days.

Privilege of the Floor

Resident Robbie McIntosh commended Supervisor Fedler and Councilman Skiff for pursuing the topic of the short paper fiber. Mr. McIntosh said that it seemed like the Town of Cambridge was alone in this and at the mercy of DEC. He suggested maybe a call to the Association of Towns to see what kind of precedent there is for dealing with this. He also said that while talking with the Association of Towns getting a legal opinion on the Dump Law and whether a Board of Appeals is needed. Councilman McMurray asked if a legal opinion on whether the Law would restrict the short paper fiber from coming in the Town. Supervisor Fedler said that she would make the call to the Association of Towns.

Bruce Bailey a resident of the Town of Cambridge questioned if the Town Board had thought about resurrecting the Old Comprehensive Plan. He questioned where the Town Board was going with the Comprehensive Plan. Councilwoman Herrington said that individually they have talked about it but they have not really come to a conclusion. Bruce Bailey said that maybe this was something that could be discussed next month. Supervisor Fedler said that if they are going to have a discussion on the Comprehensive Plan then it has to be well advertised and publicized. The Supervisor even suggested that maybe they have a different meeting, she doesn't want this board to be accused of anything backdoor. Councilwoman Herrington said that they need to decide first if the Comprehensive Plan is something important enough to the Board to pursue.

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There being no other business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org/>