

Regular Town Board Meeting
April 13, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge duly called and held the 13th day of April 2015 at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler
Councilman Douglas Ford
Councilman Robin McMurray

Councilman Gerald Skiff and Councilwoman Susan Herrington were absent.

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Ashleigh Morris reporter from the Eagle, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Greg Danio and Nash Alexander from the Village of Cambridge Fire Department, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Astrid Davis, Danny Thomas, Robbie McIntosh

Supervisor Fedler called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Village of Cambridge Fire Department Presentation

Nash Alexander and Greg Danio were present from the Cambridge Fire Department to present the idea of a Cambridge Fire District. The Fire Company is a non-profit entity that provides the man power for the Department. The Fire District would be a separate unit from the Local Government and would have an elected board. The Village of Cambridge Fire Department covers 4 areas Jackson, Cambridge, WhiteCreek, Arlington VT, a total of 62 square miles. He explained that currently there are 867 Fire Districts in New York State, some of the ones closest to us are: Hoosick Falls, Johnsonville, Fort Edward, Hadley Luzerne and Salem who just this past year became a fire protection district. The current funding scheme cannot adequately fund the Cambridge Fire Department. Mr. Alexander said they would like to form the Fire District to remove the responsibility from the Village, improve community input and fire protection. If they get more stalk holders in the community and allow them to input, this will allow them to focus more on the fire protection and improve the quality of fire protection. The Board of Fire Commissioners has the same responsibility as the Town Board as far as ethics and reporting. This district that would be run by a Board of Fire Commissioner each member would have a five year term. The terms would be staggered. The Fire District handles the Administrative burden, so this would take some the burden off the volunteers that are currently running the organization. Who finances the Fire District: the Fire Commissioners establish the budget. The Fire District has the power much like the municipalities to establish levy taxes to finance it. The fire taxes are assessed against assessable property, the funds can be used for all aspects of operations of the fire district. The fire district is able to establish reserve accounts which could pay for purchase of future equipment; this would be a community wide decision.

Mr. Alexander explained to the Town Board why Cambridge needs to create this Fire District. Right now they are part of the Village which creates some challenges. There are multiple services in the Village, the DPW or the Law Enforcement needs could hamper the Fire Dept. needs. Another thing that has led them down the road towards the Fire District is when the Village of Greenwich talked about the dissolution of the Village. When dissolution of a Village happens what is done about the fire protection. The fire contracts that they hold are with the 3 towns and Arlington, Vermont. The Village of Cambridge Fire Dept. provides 24 hr. service, has 35 active members, 5 pieces of apparatus the oldest being the 1979, they respond to

Regular Town Board Meeting
April 13, 2015

approximately 160 calls a year, they are all well trained volunteers. Currently each town provides a little over 29,100 in contract.

The whole process is explained out in section 11A of the Town Law. If this Fire District was created the Village would provide all the assets to the District, including the current fire house. The Department is now funded with \$121,000 from the Village, \$29,100 from each of the towns they contract with, and a small amount from Arlington. The non-for-profit part of the department supplements the budget with \$40,000 from fundraised money. The District projected yearly budget is approximately \$185,000 which is a \$20,000 increase. This would amount to a budget of \$67,563 for the residents of the town, including the Village. The tax rate would be roughly .62 per thousand of assessed value. This would include all the parcels in the village, Bill McCarty the assessor for the Village of Cambridge has worked on the data to come up with these figures. Supervisor Fedler and Councilman McMurray said that their concern was this was a 50% increase. Mr. Alexander did mention that the Fire District has a 2% tax cap the same as the Towns. The implementation goal is 2016 which is also the 150th anniversary of the Cambridge Fire Department. Supervisor Fedler asked why not combine with Greenwich Fire Department, if these small towns are all looking for new buildings. Mr. Alexander stated that they all have separate areas and this would be a large man power requirement. A joint meeting will be held with the three towns and the village in the next month, where an aye or noe vote will be taken from each board, and a decision on how to proceed will be made.

Auditing of the Bills

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| General | #50 – 74 | \$7,435.80 |
| Highway | #40 – 52 | \$5,202.71 |

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #18

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2015 Town Board meeting as mailed.

Vote: Ayes -3 Noes – 0

Resolution #19

Supervisor's Report

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the Supervisor's report for March 2015.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Code Enforcement

None

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the taxes were returned to the Washington County Treasurer on Friday, April 3, 2015. The amount returned to the County Treasurer in unpaid taxes was \$214,230.63.

Planning Board Report

Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk reported in Sally Eddy's absence. The Town of Cambridge Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, April 2, 2015, 7:30 PM at the Town

Hall with 5 members present and 3 people from the public. The following business was addressed:

1. Received notification about an upcoming training session for members of boards and zoning board of appeals sponsored by the law firm of Meyer & Fuller. It will take place April 23, from 5:30 – 9:30 PM at the town of Ticonderoga Community Building at a cost of \$25.00 per participant. It will satisfy 4 hrs. of yearly mandatory training.
2. Received a communications from the town of Easton looking for feedback from area planning board concerning the possibility of holding a training session. The session will focus on developing a document for planning board use that includes every step, from start to finish, for each subdivision submitted. Easton is looking to develop a new process. The trainer would be Mike Baden from the town of Rochester who was instrumental in implementing such a document in his town. His fee is \$300 which would be shared by the towns that decide to participate. It will satisfy 2 hrs. of mandatory training.
3. Dan Schmidt, who owns a 62.8 acre parcel at the intersection of Oak Hill Rd. and King Road, submitted a sketch plan for subdivision. The parcel is identified by tax map #280.-2-11.1. Located on the same parcel, approximately in the middle, is a 1.38 acre lot fronting onto Oak Hill Road owned by Matt Trinkle (tax map #280.-2-11.3). Mr. Schmidt's property surrounds the Trinkle property on the north, east and west while Oak Hill Rd. forms the southern boundary. Mr. Trinkle would like to acquire more acreage. Therefore, Mr. Schmidt is proposing to subdivide so that Mr. Trinkle would own all the Oak Hill Rd. frontage of Mr. Schmidt's property. If the boundary lines run parallel to Oak Hill Rd. the subdivision would be approximately 16 – 18 acres. However, if the boundary line runs perpendicular to King Rd. the subdivision would be roughly 28 acres. The board granted approval to the sketch plan for either amounts of acreage with the details to be worked out between the owners. Mr. Schmidt was directed to proceed with the survey.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that the highwaymen spent several days thawing out culverts. They had to sand roads twice this past month. He also reported that they had started grading roads and hauling gravel, they were half done and would be working on that tomorrow. The plows and wings are being repaired, painted and the brooming is about half done. They have gotten the mowers ready for mowing season and a spare has been purchased from the Town of Easton. Two of the highwaymen and steamer were sent to White Creek for a couple of hours thawing culverts. Mr. Davis reported that this past month there was only a half day of shared services. Mr. Davis submitted a copy of the 2014 Gross Tax Levy Amounts that were discussed briefly at last board meeting. The copy that he submitted to the Town Board had his figures computed on the amount of miles of road maintained in each town and the cost per mile that they spend. He stated that he just wanted the board to review this and see that the Town of Cambridge is not spending as much in comparison to other towns.

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis submitted his letter of resignation to the Town Board this evening. He mentioned that it is with sadness and excitement that he submits this letter. He has enjoyed working for the tax payers however he felt his time would be better spent growing his

Regular Town Board Meeting
April 13, 2015

business and spending time with his family. He will officially resign from Highway Superintendent Position on May 13, 2015.

Councilman McMurray thanked him for his time spent working for the Town of Cambridge.

Letter of Resignation

Resolution #20

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to accept Highway Superintendent Alan Davis's letter of resignation with regret.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Medical Marijuana Unit

Supervisor Fedler read the resolution to support the siting of a Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center in Washington County Pursuant to the Compassionate Care Act.

Resolution#21

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to support the siting of the Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center in Washington County.

Title: To Support the Siting of a Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center in Washington County Pursuant to the Compassionate Care Act

WHEREAS, New York has passed the Compassionate Care Act (The Act) allowing for the use of medical marijuana in certain forms for certain medical conditions, and

WHEREAS, The Act provides for the siting of a total of five cultivation centers statewide, operating under registered organizations with regulatory oversight by the State Health Department, and

WHEREAS, Washington County's location and agricultural history makes it a logical choice for a cultivation center, and

WHEREAS, a cultivation center would also provide much needed jobs to Washington County residents, and

WHEREAS, much needed revenue would also be received in the form of excise tax on the operation; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Cambridge Town Board hereby supports and requests the siting of a cultivation center in Washington County pursuant to the Compassionate Care Act, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Members of the Assembly Stec, Woerner and McLaughlin, Senators Little and Marchione, New York Department of Secretary, and New York Governor Cuomo.

Regular Town Board Meeting
April 13, 2015

Vote: Ayes – 2 Noes – 1

Councilman McMurray – Noe
Councilman Ford – Aye
Supervisor Fedler – Aye

New Business

Supervisor Fedler asked the Board Members if they had received the White Creek Site Plan Review and if they had a chance to review it. Councilman McMurray said that he would like to hold off on this until the Planning Board has a chance to review.

Supervisor Fedler also mentioned that Town wide Cleanup day is April 25th. She currently has no updates on the former Mary McClellan Hospital property.

County Report

The probation has moved through. They are doing upper management reviews and regular business.

Privilege of the Floor

Robbie McIntosh a resident of the town said he applauds the Town Board for reviewing the White Creek Site Plan Review. He says just because the Town of Cambridge dodged a bullet before doesn't mean they will next time; the Town of Cambridge is not prepared for the future.

There being no further business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>