

Town Board Meeting

April 12, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Town of Cambridge duly called 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021 at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler

Councilman Douglas Ford

Councilman Bruce Bailey

Councilman Brian Harrington

Absent: Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Eric Pearson and Scott Clark members of the Planning Board, Chandler Hansen from the Eagle, Ron Ford Planning Board, Robbie McIntosh, Alyssa Hewitt, Peter Bailey

Supervisor Fedler called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Auditing of the Bills

General	#61- 81	\$6,171.77
Highway	#30-49	\$19,884.32

Approving of the Supervisor's Report

Resolution #23

Councilman Bailey motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the Supervisor's Report from March 2021.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

Approving of the minutes

Resolution #24

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2021 meeting as mailed.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

Assessor - none

Town Clerk Report

The taxes have been sent back to the county and all reports have been filed as of Friday, April 2, 2021. The amount of unpaid taxes turned over to the County Treasurer were \$256,847.79 and the total amount collected in taxes were \$1,932,153.34.

The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt has been approached by the Town of Jackson Supervisor Jay Skellie whether she would be interested in being appointed as temporary Town Clerk for the Town of Jackson. Their Town Clerk Tammy Skellie-Gilbert is resigning as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. She would share the office hours for the Town of Jackson with their Deputy Town Clerk Vicki Ruggles. Heather Greenawalt has decided to do shared services with the Town of Jackson and be appointed as temporary Town Clerk until this fall, when a new Town Clerk is elected in. The Town Clerk is letting the Board know that she may have to adjust the office hours to work with the hours for the Town of Jackson. She is hoping there will only be two days that will have to be changed for the Town of Cambridge Office hours. Fortunately, this is our slow time for the Town Clerk's offices so we are hopeful that this will work. The Town of Jackson calls will be

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referred to Town of Cambridge office to help answer any questions for their town. The Town clerk will be meeting with the Town of Jackson Town Clerk Tammy Skellie-Gilbert and Deputy Town Clerk Vicki Ruggles on Thursday, April 15th. After this meeting more details will be known.

## Planning Board Report

The Planning Board meet on April 1, 2021 with all members present, the secretary Heather Greenawalt and 2 people from the public.

Matthew and Jessica Wilbur presented a Preliminary survey on a mylar of a minor subdivision of tax map #279.-1-6.1. They would like to subdivide off 3.65 acres off of the main farm which is 193.95 acres. The lot is located on Southwest wooded portion of Whiteside Road. Planning Board thought that all boundaries looked good, as they were the same as last meeting. The Environmental form was reviewed and they found there to be minimal impact with this subdivision. The Planning Board granted preliminary approval to move forward to the Public Hearing at the May 6, 2021 meeting.

## Solar Informational Meeting

The Virtual Meeting with Pamela Landi County Planner, Chris Eastman Manager of Local Government training group, Patricia Burke, all Planning Board members present, the secretary Heather Greenawalt, Councilman Bailey, Supervisor Fedler

The meeting was very informational and the Planning Board Chair Eric Pearson and the Vice Chair Scott Clark are attending the meeting tonight to present their ideas on how to move forward in future Planning for Solar in the Town of Cambridge. The notes from the Solar Informational meeting are included in the April 1, 2021 Planning Board minutes.

Next Planning Board Meeting will be May 6, 2021

Eric Pearson and Scott Clark reported on the Solar Informational Meeting. Eric Pearson the Chair to the Planning Board mentioned that their suggestion would be to adopt Site Plan Review specifically for Solar Regulations. The suggestion would be to use the seeker as a way to look at and review the impacts of the Solar Projects. He also suggested to limit the amount of megawatts, to keep a project of large size from happening. Scott Clark the Vice Chair of the Planning Board said that a lot of people with personal property would be getting a lease payment for 20-25 years for installing large solar project. The types of solar that are available are behind the meter which would be on the house and in front of the meter which would be large projects. He said that they are not trying to impinge on land owners' rights, just help them understand and protect themselves when joining in a project with Solar companies. This Site plan would be designated to nonresidential Solar Site Plan/seeker. The seeker would study what the decommissioning plan would be, environmental effects: review and understand what impacts the project would have. This would hopefully prevent Town/County from having to deal with decommissioning in 20-25 years, savage value and tear down. It was suggested to limit the large megawatt display (megawatt cap) to 20-25 megawatts. The one advantage that the Town of Cambridge has is that it does not have utility lines large enough to handle larger Solar farms.

Ron Ford another Planning Board member was at the meeting and he had spoken with a lawyer and says the Town would not be stuck with the cleanup. This responsibility would go to the county. Mr. Ford is

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uncomfortable limiting land owners in what they can do with their land. He also mentioned that in the Town of Cambridge very few places have large amounts of land that are flat, this would limit solar usage. Scott Clark said with this Site Plan/seeker they are only trying to make sure this Solar Project doesn't become a Public Burden after its life is done, this will make the land owner aware. Hopefully after the life of the Solar Project is done the foundations can be removed and the habit restored. Supervisor Fedler suggested that Scott Clark put on paper suggestions for creating this Site Plan Review with seeker review. He will bring these ideas to the next Planning Board meeting, May 6<sup>th</sup> and present. After that the ideas will be brought back to the Town Board at the May meeting and then from there it will be passed on to the Town Attorney.

#### Highway Superintendent Report

The Supervisor reported for Jim Buckley Jr. in his absence. The Highway Crew have started sweeping roads, grading gravel roads. They have cut brush and trees on King Road and Center Cambridge Road. They have installed some horse and buggy signs on Turnpike Road. N.Y.S D.O.T is giving us back some of the CHIPS money that they took from us last year. There was very little guidance on procedure, but we filled out a CP73 form and added documentation, and with any luck, we should see some money in a few weeks. The Bridge NY project on Stump Church Road has been delayed due to the State having to put the projects in the area out to bid again. The Bridge N.Y. project on King Road is moving forward through the design stage. This King Road Bridge NY project could possibly be 5% responsibility of the Town. This would mean that the Town would be responsible for \$74,000, the Bridge Reserve account already has 1/3 of that amount. Supervisor Fedler recommended continuing with the process, maybe the Town could get a grant to help pay for that 5%.

Supervisor Fedler reported that Jim Buckley the Highway Superintendent had met with the paving engineers in regards to the paving projects. When Highway Superintendent finds out how much money he will be getting in regards to CHIPS then he will figure out what he can and can't do. In regards to the Stump Church Culvert Project Supervisor Fedler and Jim Buckley meet with Kelley Kirchner and Brenda Crudele from the State. The bids from January 21, 2021 which were awarded as 5 bridge bundle, the Greenwich project has been dropped (one of them). Now they have to relet the bids and the construction has been pushed back.

#### Code Enforcement

Supervisor Fedler reported that the Annual Code Enforcement reports have been filed with the State by John Graham from the County.

#### Town Board – none

#### Unfinished business

##### Tour of the Battenkill

The Supervisor reported that she had been in contact with Dieter Drake with multiple texts and email conversations in regards to the Tour of the Battenkill. The date of the race has now been changed to Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, they emailed 3 maps with a change to some of the course. This was due to some of the bridges being closed. The Town Board viewed the maps, they discussed the new date and found it to be much better.

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Resolution #25

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to support the Tour of the Battenkill on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Standard Workday Resolution

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read the Standard Workday Resolution and mentioned that it may have to be changed next month due to the Town Clerk's hours changing.

Resolution #26

Councilman Bailey motioned,  
Seconded by Councilman Ford,

BE IT Resolved, that the Town of Cambridge/30647 hereby established the following work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement based on their record activities. The Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials will be posted on the Town Bulletin Board and Website for 30 Days.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

County Report

The Supervisor reported that the State's #'s for the great unknown Rescue Plan, are still unknown. Everyone is waiting for Guidance and to form committees to give guidance. The money could be used for water systems, sewer, broadband or COVID expenses from before. Councilman Bailey asked when the money would be coming, Supervisor said not sure. It is also not known what will happen between Town and Village, if money will be combined.

The Supervisor said that the Economic Developer for the County is going out and looking into the low to ground spots that are not getting Broadband. Going to individual households to see where broadband is available.

Ag Planning – economic development talk, NYSERDA presentation, the Air B & B's are now paying sales tax. The DPW is paused for action until clarification on money that will be receiving.

The Supervisor said that she would like to give a shout out for the CVRS, they are the only ones that have certification, they have PODS testing site, they are also helping individuals that can't get out, be vaccinated at home.

Privilege of the Floor

Peter Baily and Alyssa Hewitt were present at the meeting to discuss the speed limit reduction in the Coila Hamlet. They asked the Town Board for the latest update. Unfortunately, it is not the Town Board that would have the update. The Supervisor suggested that they contact whoever Rachel Burr talked to get the box setup for the speed trap. There were also now concerns about the influx of Amish going in and out. The Supervisor explained the procedure again and stated that they have the support of the Town Board. Once they have their documentation to submit paperwork to the State, then the Town Board will pass a resolution to lower the speed limit. Then start the process.

There being no further business before the Town Board the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Greenawalt – Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge