

Regular Town Board Meeting  
August 13, 2012

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

- Supervisor William Watkins
- Councilwoman Catherine Fedler
- Councilman Robin McMurray
- Councilman Gerald Skiff
- Councilman Doug Ford

Others present: Dick Sutherland, Town Justice Janet DeCarlo, Rani Bass, Astrid Davis, Elton Balch, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Dick Battistoni, Leon Barkley, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Lillian Herrington, Ashleigh Morris (from the Eagle), Henry Peabody, Bruce Rolleston, Terry Hamilton, Don Jepson

Audit of the Bills

Bills were audited prior to the meeting at 7:00 PM.

General	#188 – 205	\$10,937.56
Highway	# 84 - 99	\$ 7,413.26

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order immediately after the bills and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #73

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2012 meeting with one correction on page 6. On page 6 where it reads “The Supervisor told the residents that if they live on a county route”, Councilman Skiff corrected that it should read State Route instead of a county route.

Vote: Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

Supervisor’s Report

Resolution #74

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the July 2012 Supervisor’s Report.

Vote: Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

Transfer of Funds

Resolution #75

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to transfer money from the Contingent A1990.4 to the Supervisor, Contractual A1220.4 in the amount of \$26.75 to cover the cost of 500 envelopes.

Vote: Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

Assessor Report

The Supervisor reported that Jeffry Jackson has started to do the ReVal.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the 2012 – 2013 hunting licenses have gone on sale and that she had approximately 8 people in today to purchase their license.

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The new deputy MJ Root did some hunting licenses today to work with the computer and get more familiar with them.

Last month Councilwoman Fedler had asked the Town Clerk if she had spoke with Mr. Darfler about the website and whether it was possible for someone else to do the updates. The Town Clerk reported that she had given the Town Board an informational sheet from the magazine the "Talk of the Towns", that was pertaining to the new law on the Meeting Agenda Packets. The Board had questioned whether or not to keep the website because of the expense; this article was helpful because it explains that the Town did not have to go above and beyond to spend funds to post things on the Town website. The Town Clerk reported that she had spoke with Mr. Darfler that is doing the updates on the Town website and he has sent an estimate on the costs for 2013. The web hosting is 6.99 a month so  $x 12 =$  about \$84. Then if he is to upload all reports together, Planning, Board, and Supervisor's reports. It would be another  $\$15 - 30$  per month = \$360 at \$30. Then if there are other updates photos, web structure changes etc. \$120 (2Hrs @ \$60/hr). The approximate amount for the year on the high end would be \$564. He stated he is trying to keep the updates at the 15 minutes, which would cut the monthly from \$30 to \$15. The Town Clerk also reported that she had spoke with Tom about someone else taking over the responsibility of the updates and he said that the cost of the software was \$200 - \$500. It was mentioned that if the Town Clerk was to take on this responsibility that she would have to have her computer updated, purchase the software and learn how to do the program. It seemed like it would be easier for Tom Darfler to continue to maintain the website because he already knew the program, he was already a webmaster. The Town Clerk left the decision up to the Town Board regarding the Town website.

The Supervisor reported that he Republicans and the Democrats have sent the Town Clerk letters to use the Town Hall for the caucuses. The reason for this he reported is so that there is no conflict. The Town Clerk keeps track of the use of the Town Hall.

Councilman Skiff asked what they were going to do with the website, are we saving paper, he mentioned that Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent had concerns. There was discussion back in forth between the board about what to do with the website. Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent said that his concern was not the amount of money that was being spent. The concern was that the board did not question the bills that went through, the cost, and that they were considering getting rid of the website.

Councilwoman Fedler suggested that this be revisited at budget time.

Rani Bass a resident of the Town had concerns that possibly it should be looked into for someone to maintain the website because after the initial cost of the program the town would be saving money. The Town Clerk's concern was if she had to update the website could she keep up with it with all of her other work.

#### Sales and Compensating Use Tax

Information was received from the County asking the Town to pass a resolution electing to be paid directly the Town's entire share of Washington County's sales and compensating use tax.

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Resolution #76

Councilwoman Fedler motioned,  
Seconded by Councilman Ford ,

WHEREAS, Washington County imposes sales and compensating use taxes pursuant to authority of section 1210 of the Tax Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has elected to allocate a portion of the net collections from its sales and use taxes to the towns in the county; and

WHEREAS, section 1262 (c) of the New York Tax Law authorizes a town to elect to be paid all or a specified part of its share of the county's allocation directly, in lieu of reduction of county taxes and general town taxes levied upon real property in such town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board now desires to make such election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cambridge hereby elects to paid directly all of its share of Washington County's sales and compensating use tax net collections, for calendar year 2013 and thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to such section 1262 (c) of the Tax Law, a copy of this resolution shall immediately be mailed by certified or registered mail to the chief fiscal officer of Washington County and to the Clerk of the Washington County Board of Supervisors before September 1, 2012, for this election to take effect January 1, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Town of Cambridge Town Board in accordance with the notice provisions of such section 1262 (c) of the Tax Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes - 0

The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that she received a letter from the Cambridge Presbyterian Church offering its buildings as a place for organizations to meet if meetings space is needed.

A letter was received from Cystic Fibrosis Foundation they will be conducting a fundraising cycling event, CF Cycle for Life, on Sunday August 26, 2012.

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler asked about the sale/auction of the current pickup truck. It was discussed by the Town Board about whether they will put the truck on the Auctions

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International or a local auction. After discussion between the board members and the Highway Superintendent it was decided to put the truck on auctions international and hopefully get at least \$8,000 for the Pickup and Plow.

Resolution #77

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to use the auctions international for the sale of the pickup truck.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Resolution #78

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to amend the previous resolution #77, the pickup truck will be put on auctions international with the minimum bid of \$8,000.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Councilwoman Fedler reported on the meeting that took place on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 7:30 PM with Darlene DeVoe. She briefly touched on the points that DeVoe made, she is a self employed and works on writing grants and helps with planning for many towns. She has worked closely with Fort Edward as their grant writer and has served on the Village Board. This was an open meeting based on DeVoe's experience in the past. DeVoe used many examples where towns thought that they were protected by a plan or a law and were not. The Town Board and the residents agreed that the first step was to start with controlling junkyards and dumps in the Town of Cambridge by Town Law. Later they would work on creating a committee and then move forward with the planning for the town.

The Supervisor mentioned the dumps Harlem Howl and the dump in Wilton where this was a great example where the towns thought they had a plan to prevent dumps and they were defeated in their battle. The Supervisor voiced his concern because of the situation with the transfer stations, and the County wanting to sell them. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that it was frustrating that the county could not run the recycling centers efficiently she stated that they should be making money on these centers. He questioned the public if any of them had a problem with preventing dumps in the town and he stated that along with this would have to go eventually to a noise ordinance.

Councilman Skiff reported that he and the Supervisor had met with NYMIR and they had suggested that a cable be put on the upper part of the dump. NYMIR gave minor advice on how far off the road and also mentioned that signs should be hung.

Highway Superintendent Report

The Highway department helped White Creek chip seal. The Town of Cambridge chip sealed Center Cambridge Rd. with the help of White Creek. They also applied calcium chloride to the dirt road in the town. The highway department helped the Village pave Myrtle Ave., Division St. and they also sent 2 men to Jackson to help paving. They helped the Village with culvert replacement on Spring St. and helped move the gazebo

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from the school location to the library. They patched pot holes on blacktop roads. They hauled 2000 yards of sand in 2 days with help from the County with trucking. The cost of the sand was 2.50 per yard and the town fueled up the trucks for the county. In return the county will be using the box screen this fall. The Town of Cambridge will rescreen the sand cause of the chunks brought in. Culverts have also been replaced on Vly Summit and they had an issue with a driveway on Cobble Road. Highway Superintendent reported that he had attended Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls to acquire information on Wood Gasification Boilers which are installed inside the building. He handed out a sheet on the type of boilers, BTU's and the cost.

ECONOBURN	300,000 BTU	\$11,495
EMPYRE	400,000 BTU	\$11,495
WOOD GUN	250,000 BTU	\$11,425
VIGAS	341,000 BTU	\$ 9,103

The pricing is for the boiler only will other purchases will be storage tanks, heat exchangers, circulators, piping and assorted plumbing.

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis said that the hook up cost could be approximately \$4,000 and this unit could heat the Town Hall and the Town Garage. Right now the highway garage has 2 years supply of wood and is giving away wood. He is not concerned with the wood needed because with the shared services of White Creek. They don't burn wood.

Supervisor Watkins suggested that the Highway Superintendent speak with Wayne Fitzgerald from Cutting Edge because he has this same unit and will not use it. Wayne says that he has problems with the drafting because they run so hot.

The question brought up was whether to insulate or have a woodstove heat. Many questions still needed to be answered so the highway superintendent will investigate some more into the subject.

#### Planning Board Report

The Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, August 2, 2012, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall with 6 members present plus the Secretary. No one from the public attended.

1. There were no subdivision before the board for consideration.
2. Received a letter from the Cambridge United Presbyterian Church offering its building as a place for organizations to meet if meeting space is needed.
3. Jerry Moppert presented more data to the board in order to give members an insight as to how the town is growing and changing and to become aware of developing trends, if any. This month he researched real property information with the assistance of Assessor Jeff Jackson. One report showed real property sales from 2006 – 2011. The sales totaled 70, averaging 12 per year interval. Another report included a summary of exemptions from the 2011 year (which totaled 1,155) and their impact upon the city/town, county and school taxes. Mr. Moppert related to the board that Assessor Jackson is willing to talk to the board and answer questions. Mr. Moppert stated that he thinks it would be helpful to the

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board if it received yearly updates from the building inspector and the assessor.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis reported that the property on County Rt. 74 had been cleaned up and is in compliance. The property on Cobble Road where a house would be going in was on hold until Alan Davis Highway Superintendent was satisfied with the driveway. Highway Superintendent said that this was taken care of today. Supervisor Watkins asked LaVerne Davis how he was doing with his schooling. Some people had concerns about the schooling and the mileage. The Supervisor stated that it was not the Town that was asking him to keep his credentials up it was New York State's request. The Board said that none of them had any problems with the schooling or the mileage. Mr. Davis reported that his schooling was going just fine.

Communications

The Supervisor mentioned again that he and Councilman Skiff had spoke with NYMIR and that the approach that the Town is taking to the Town Usage Policy for the Town Hall is fine. The Town Clerk will have the disclaimer form to fill out for insurance purposes; this will hold the group responsible. Supervisor Watkins also mentioned the dump again and how that needed to be taken care of because it was a liability issue.

Workplace Violence Policy

This policy has been made available to the public for a month and the Supervisor questioned the Town Board if they were ready to adopt this policy.

Resolution #79

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to adopt the Work Place Violence Policy.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

Unfinished Business

The Supervisor mentioned in regards to Planning the first thing that the Town Board would be working on would be getting information on controlling Dumps from other Towns. He cautioned anyone on relying on Ag & Markets Laws because he said when you do this it is kind of like using a double edged sword. The State Laws are not always to benefit the small Town this is why it is suggested that the Town create there own law.

New Business

The Supervisor suggested that the Town Hall Usage Policy would be considered new and that anyone that wanted to use the Town Hall should submit a letter to the Town Clerk. The form to use the Town Hall can be obtained from the Town Clerk, the information requested will be why the Town Hall is needed and how many people, etc. The disclaimer form must also be made out by the organization using the Town Hall.

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County Report

Supervisor Watkins reported on the Pleasant Valley Infirmary and that the County is still trying to manage it until they can sell.

Privilege of the Floor

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis mentioned that on the Internet Usage Policy it says that email can not be used on the public computer. It was discussed and there is no reason why an individual should not be able to check their email.

Resolution #80

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to change the Internet Usage Policy so that an individual can check their email on the public computer.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>