

Regular Town Board Meeting
February 10, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, was duly called and held the 10th day of February, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

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

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, Robbie McIntosh, Bruce Bailey, Terry Hamilton

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 | #13 – 40 | \$ 9,126.41 |
| Highway | #10 – 25 | \$23,601.32 |

Resolution #12

Approving Minutes

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to approve the January 13, 2014 Town Board meeting with 2 corrections. On page 2 Resolution #4 Supervisor Fedler requested that it be stated that the budget amendment was being made because Councilman Skiff was not taking his salary. The 850.00 was being moved from A1010.1 to A1990.4 the contingent. The second correction was that on page 4 Resolution #6 it should read Bridge Repair and Bridge Culvert repair.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution #13

Supervisor's Report

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Herrington to approve the Supervisor's report for January 2014.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Town Board

Supervisor Fedler reported that she had met with the insurance agents from NYMIR last Friday. They reviewed the policies and it went well. Supervisor Fedler and Councilman Skiff met with Jason Guzzo last week from Hudson Valley Wireless. Hudson Valley Wireless is currently working on another grant to bring wireless broadband into the rural regions. He is working in partnership with the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Rensselaer County. They are looking to set up Internet for the elderly, Ag community and other people that might not be able to afford their service. HVW is partnering with other companies such as Time Warner to get service to everyone. They are not looking to put in more towers they are trying to conceal what they have.

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Councilman McMurray attended the Planning meeting at the American Legion in January. There were speakers from the NYS Department of State. John Pedersen acted as the coordinator. Councilman McMurray reported that the meeting was very well attended and that much information was given out. Eric Pearson, Gerald Moppert, Stuart Ziehm and Bob Hamilton attended from the Planning Board. Councilman McMurray mentioned that they focused on Southern Washington County type communities. He also mentioned that if you do have zoning then the Town should have a comprehensive plan to back the zoning up. There was also discussion if there is zoning in the Town then there should be a Board of Appeals. Resident Robbie McIntosh mentioned that it might even help the Town of Cambridge if they have a Board of Appeals. This way they could enforce the Dump Law and Mobile Home Ordinance.

Councilman Skiff mentioned the Best Value Purchasing article that had been handed out last meeting and would be reviewed this meeting. Supervisor Fedler read the Best Value Purchasing article that was found in the Talk of the Towns. It was decided that the Town Board would call the Association of Towns for sample laws for the Town to review for possible adoption. Supervisor Fedler reported that she would make this call to the Association of Towns.

Councilwoman Herrington thanked the Town for letting her attend the Newly Elected Officials 2014 Training School. She mentioned that the sessions that she attended were very informational, she met many reps. Councilwoman Herrington came back with many questions: Does the Town have a Financial Plan, Ethics Code and other policies. She mentioned that she had talked with Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor to see if the Town had a Financial Plan and Ethics Code. Margaret Shaw had informed her that the Town does have a Financial Plan, Code of Ethics and other policies they review yearly. Councilwoman Herrington had hoped that the schooling would have more information on Community Development and Grants information. She had also mentioned that she hoped that the Town could pursue projects and activities. Such as things like: the Town of Easton's Town picnic, make Town Businesses known, our own Town food pantry, senior coffee hour, identifying the Veterans in the Town of Cambridge maybe an event or ceremony for them.

Councilman Skiff mentioned that the Community has the Food Pantry that is located in the Village of Cambridge. Councilman Skiff, former Supervisor Watkins and Seth Pitts Supervisor from the Town of Salem would go and pick the food up and take it to the distribution centers.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that as of January 31, 2014 which was the last day to collect taxes without penalty. The total amount collected up to January 1st was \$1,407,582.05. The remaining balance to be collected is \$506,759.76. The Town Clerk also reported that she had received Thank you notes from the Senior Citizens and Rescue Squad for the money that was budgeted for 2014 from the Town of Cambridge. The Clerk also reported that she could not sell hunting licenses because of the problems with

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the DECALS system. The IT gentleman was in the office today to look at the computer; hopefully the situation would be resolved soon.

Assessor
None

Planning Board Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported in Sally Eddy's absence. The Planning Board met for their regular monthly meeting, Thursday, February 6, 2014, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall with 6 members present and no one from the public. There were no subdivisions before the board to review. Secretary Sally Eddy stated she received updated information from the county on the procedure of how to file subdivisions maps in Washington County. The Real Property Tax Office supplied the information.

There was a brief discussion and exchange of comments regarding the recent meeting that took place in January at the American Legion on Route 22 with speakers from the NYS Department of State. John Pedersen acted as coordinator. All agreed it was a good meeting, particularly in the aspect that all the surrounding towns were gathered in the same room discussing the same topic of growth and development. Hopefully, it sparked an interest in the future of developing a multi-town comprehensive plan since all the surrounding towns are similar and those who attended truly care about preserving agriculture and the rural character of the area. However, getting all the towns to work together and agree is another matter.

Members agreed that if a town begins working on its own individual plan, educating the citizenry on what a comprehensive plan actually is and does is of utmost importance. The public's involvement in all phases of developing a plan is crucial. It requires a fully committed Town Board with the voters pushing it.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that they had done some grading before the roads refroze. The highwaymen also dealt with some small storms over the past month and one major storm. They spent time in between storms doing maintenance and repairs on trucks. The power steering pump and the exhaust was replaced on truck 5. On truck 3 the brake valve was replaced and on truck 2 the exhaust has been repaired. They have also rebuilt a couple of wing blocks and wings. The highway superintendent also mentioned that there is a salt shortage, two loads have been ordered and hopefully they will arrive soon. So far this plowing season that will make 700 tons salt brought in. Highway Superintendent Davis submitted to the Town Board a sheet with Grader Tire Prices:

| <u>Warren Tire</u> | | <u>GCR</u> | | <u>Rouse Tire</u> | |
|--------------------|-------|------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Primex 3000 | \$495 | Firestone | \$695 | Galexty | \$495 |
| Solid Deal | \$542 | | \$525 | BKT | \$395 |
| BKT | \$542 | | | | |

The 2 BKT Tires were purchased from Rouse @\$395 each and the highway men mounted the tires on the rims. Also submitted to the Town Board was a copy of the

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Inventory of the Highway Machinery, Tools and Equipment. The Highway Superintendent will update the replacement purchase program for next months meeting.

Code Enforcement

Supervisor Fedler reported in LaVerne Davis's absence that everything was under control.

Old Business

Supervisor Fedler said that the Longevity Policy had been typed up and asked if any of the Town Board had any questions. It was suggested that after 20 years the employee would be getting a pay cut, the way that the resolution reads, "Any succeeding years thereafter will not be subject to longevity bonus." It was suggested that this be changed and that the employee receives this \$500 on an annual basis until the employee retires.

Resolution #14

Councilman Ford motioned,
Seconded by Councilwoman Herrington,

Whereas, the Town of Cambridge wishes to acknowledge their long term employees for their service to the Town.

Whereas, pursuant to discussion at the Budget Workshop meeting on October 24, 2013 it has been deemed the policy of the Town of Cambridge to reward employees for their longevity with the Town.

Whereas, the bonus monies will be added to the personnel services line item applicable to the said employee in the annual budget.

Whereas, the check will be issued through the payroll department with applicable taxes deducted.

Be It Resolved, commencing with the completion of the employee's fifth year, a stipend of \$100 will be awarded and will continue annually thru the 9th year, with the completion of the 10th year anniversary the bonus will become \$250 annually thru the 14th year. At the completion of the 15th year anniversary the bonus will become \$500 on an annual basis until the employee retires.

Be It Resolved, the Town of Cambridge acknowledges the dedication and loyalty of their employees.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

New Business

Supervisor Fedler mentioned to the Town Board that they had all received copies of the Mobile Home Ordinance. The Town Board would be reviewing this as suggested by some of the Board members after problems occurred in 2013 with the Ordinance.

County Report

The PVI sale was final as of February 1, 2014. Supervisor Fedler also reported that she had brought information from the County from the Office of the Aging. The Town Clerk will post this on the Bulletin Board. In this paperwork was an application to nominate a Senior Citizen that was outstanding. There would be 2 picked from the County and recognized.

Supervisor Fedler also mentioned that she had brought a flyer from the county Free Tax Assistance available, open to anyone that makes under \$50,000.

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Privilege of the Floor

Robbie McIntosh a resident of the Town commented on the meeting that he attended at the Legion on the Planning for the Towns. He mentioned that this was very relevant to the situation in our town. The Town had a good start with the first 58 pages of the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Cambridge. He mentioned that the first thing that should be done is that the committee of the Old Comprehensive Plan should be acknowledged and thanked for the work that they have done.

Councilman Skiff questioned if by not having a Plan it kept the development at bay. Also with no infrastructure is this one thing that is protecting the Town of Cambridge or is it holding us back. Those present went on to discuss plans and zoning and the benefits and the drawbacks of them both.

There being no other business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>