

Town Board Meeting
February 13, 2023

The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Cambridge was duly called Monday, February 13, 2023 at Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler
Councilman Robert McIntosh
Councilman Larry Carrino
Councilman Bruce Bailey

Absent: Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Jim Buckley Jr. Highway Superintendent, Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor

The Supervisor led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Hearings for Local Law #1, 2, 3

The Supervisor opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 PM for Local Law #1 – providing for partial real property tax exemptions for persons sixty-five years of age or older.

The Supervisor called three times to the Public for any comment and with there being none she opened the second Public Hearing for the Local Law #2 – for the partial real property tax exemptions for persons with disabilities and limited incomes. The Supervisor called three times to the Public for any comment and with there being none she opened the third Public Hearing for the Local Law #3 – providing the Maximum Exemption allowable for the Alternative Veteran’s Exemption from Real Property Taxation. The Supervisor called three times to the Public for comment and with there being none she closed all Public Hearings at 7:40 PM.

- The Assessor mentioned that the deadline for the exemption forms are March 1st.
- Grievance Day will change to the date of Wednesday, May 24th - Appointments will be booked through the Assessor’s office. Arek the Assessor said that he would try his best to work with the residents so they did not have to go to Grievance. Middle of March should have the new Assessments from the Reval – May 1st is the Tentative Roll. Grievance must occur between May 23rd and Tuesday June 2nd.
- The Assessor’s hours have changed Wednesday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Auditing of the Bills

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|---------|---------|-------------|
| General | #9 – 28 | \$ 5,026.75 |
| Highway | #3 – 15 | \$28,964.61 |

Supervisor Report

Resolution #9

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to approve the Supervisor’s report from January 2023.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Councilman McIntosh asked about the tax money and what happens with it. Margaret Shaw clerk to the Supervisor said it goes to the designated accounts. The Supervisor and Clerk to the supervisor

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mentioned that they would be meeting this Wednesday with TDBank to review and look for the best deal in regards to interest.

Councilman McIntosh had a suggestion that on the front page of the Supervisor's report where it reads Total Income, he suggested that it read Total cash on hand. So for next months report this change will be made.

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #10

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to approve the minutes for the Year end meeting on December 28, 2022 and January 9, 2023 Organizational meeting with one correction: The minutes for the December 28, 2022 Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor should be added to those present.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Local Law #1 – Aged Exemption

Resolution #11

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to adopt Local Law #1 – in the intent to increase the Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for persons sixty-five years of age or older (Aged Exemption).

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Local Law #2 – Disabilities Exemption

Resolution #12

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to adopt Local Law #2 – in the intent to provide partial Real Property Tax Exemptions for persons with disabilities and limited incomes.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Local Law #3 – Veteran's Exemption

Resolution #13

Councilman Carrino motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to adopt Local Law #3 – in the intent to provide for maximum veteran's exemption allowable pursuant to Section 458-a of the Real Property Taxation.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Auditing of the Books

Margaret Shaw the Clerk to the Supervisor and Heather Greenawalt the Town Clerk presented their books for Audit by the Town Board. The Town Board reviewed the Books and signed off on the 2022 Books of Clerk to the Supervisor and Town Clerk.

Town Supervisor Catherine Fedler and Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. met with NYMIR to review the insurance policy. The Insurance must be renewed by February 23rd.

Holiday Schedule

Resolution #14

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Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule as presented by the Town Clerk.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes - 0

The Holiday Schedule will be posted on the Town Bulletin Board outside the Town Hall door.

It was mentioned that still looking for someone to clean the Town Hall. The quote that was received was double the budget amount for cleaning. It was decided to continue looking. Councilman Carrino said that Keanna was still interested in the position and he would give her a call.

Town Justice Position

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the State stepped in and appointed Judge Flint to the Town of Cambridge Justice position until the end of April. It was mentioned that the Town could decide to appoint someone to the Justice position at the end of April or they could just wait until the election occurred. The Town would have to advertise due to the appointment policy and then check in and make sure that the training was offered for the appointed Justice. Councilman Bailey mentioned that he had concerns: if there are many running for the position in the fall and they have an appointed Judge could there be issues? Should the Town of Cambridge be considering consolidation? The Supervisor mentioned that the Town Board should review the email that Judge Flint sent the Town Board on Consolidation. Suggested that look at both sides when it comes to consolidation.

The Supervisor summarized her understanding of what the Town Board was comfortable with: The Town Board is not interested in appointing at this time and will review the paperwork that Judge Flint has sent out on consolidation of the Court. They will wait till Election in the fall for the election of a new Judge.

Thank you note received from Cambridge Food pantry for money received and for putting line item in the budget.

IDA

The new deadline for the IDA has moved to March 1st. Request that 3 Washington county Representatives sat in the meeting. Solar was hot topic. The IDA will be going over input and bringing a new policy forward. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that multiple Towns not happy with the IDA.

Public Hearing for change of Grievance Day

Resolution #16

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman McIntosh to set the date of the public hearing for the Local Law to change Grievance Day for March 13th.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes

Grievance Day will be May 24th, this year which is the fourth Wednesday.

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Planning Board Report

- Planning Board meeting held February 2, 2023 with 4 members present, secretary, 2 people from the public.
- Sketch Plan presented by Jake Trinkle for his father's property located at 291 Dickensen Road, tax map #280.-1-9. The proposed minor subdivision is to subdivide the house on the corner of Belle and Dickensen Road, out from the farm and the property. The total acreage of the parcel is 214.5 acres. The house will be subdivided out with approximately 1.5 acres. The only concerns that the Planning Board had were the correct boundary lines from the barn which would be 50 ft. and that the well and septic would be with the distance needed. Planning Board gave permission to proceed with the survey.
- Planning Board members asked about the Solar Moratorium and where the Board was with the process of creating a Local Law. Filled them in and forwarded on the sample law.
- Next Planning Board meeting will be on March 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Town Clerk Report

- Taxes collected as of Jan 31st. \$1,638,295.60. Unpaid taxes \$447,116.33
- Amazon account was created with the help of the Assessor
- Court Audit has been submitted to the Unified Court System.
- Solar Sample Law has been forwarded on to the Planning board Members
- Talked with Tom Rogers from Board of Elections and the Polling Site has been changed to Coila Church/the new addition.

Highway Report

- Even though it has been mostly warm they have been busy plowing and sanding roads. Due to the gravel roads being soft they have mostly been plowing with the rubber cutting edge on the pickup.
- They have firmed up the worst of the soft spots with econo-gravel, with mixed results.
- They have patched the bigger potholes on Turnpike
- Cleaned up some trees and brush
- Truck #4 patched back together and back in use – quotes on new body for Truck #4

Ordering of the Body for Truck #4

Resolution #16

Councilman Bailey motioned,

Seconded by Councilman McIntosh,

Be It Resolved, that the Cambridge Town Board gives Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. permission to order a new body for Truck #4 from Zwack Inc. (SDS10SS3039 All Season Body), for the amount of \$53,000.00, all details can be viewed on Quote #23009 from Zwack Inc..

Vote:

Ayes – 4

Noes – 0

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The Town Board gave Jim Buckley the Highway Superintendent permission to order the Truck Body with the understanding that the price (\$53,000) could possibly go up due to a surcharge.

Short discussion about purchasing another plow truck due to the increases and the long waiting list.

Town Board

Councilman McIntosh brought up the topic of Solar law and said that he thought that could possibly omit information on tier 1 or tier II. This was the section on houses/yards, limited 110% usage, not commercial or solar farms. No regulations on non-commercial stuff.

This would be discussed further when have more time, meeting was running late.

Assessor Contract

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the new updated contract with the Town of Cambridge and Washington County Real Property contracting an Assessor from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

The County has decided that maybe they are not getting enough money for contracting services for the Assessor so they are considering changing their prices. The new pricing should come out late summer, so will know in time for the budget time.

Privilege of the Floor

Susan Herrington presented to the Town Board Resolution for an Audit of the New York State 2022 General Election. Copies were handed out to the Town Board Members and Susan Herrington asked that the Town Board possibly read through and consider. She is asking of the Town Board for support of a NYS wide audit. She has requested to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business before the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge