

Regular Town Board Meeting

June 10, 2013

At the Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 10th day of June, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

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

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Astrid Davis, Matthew Davis, Leon Barkley, Dick Battistoni, Lou Imhof, Dave Craig, Scott Keller Town Attorney, Robbie McIntosh, Tom Armet, Ted Berndt, Tom Lampros, Bruce Rolleston, Terry Hamilton, Rani Bass, Ashleigh Morris reporter from the Eagle, James Morris, Sue Herrington, Don Schneider Sr., Paul Gruber, Laurie Hopper

Auditing of the Bills

General	#107 – 132	\$4,016.63
Highway	#63 – 75	\$11,277.28

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #25

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013 Town Board Meeting as mailed.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #26

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to approve the Supervisor's report for May 2013.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Agenda 21

Dave Craig was present at the Town Board Meeting requesting the Town Board to pass the Resolution Affirming the Town of Cambridge's Continuing Support For Home Rule And Opposition To Initiatives To Erode Local Authority.

Councilman Skiff asked if this was the same resolution that the Town of Saratoga approved. Mr. Craig said that this resolution was adjusted for the Town of Argyle, WhiteCreek, Jackson.

Supervisor Watkins said he was looking for a motion to adopt the resolution. Some residents voiced there opinions of the resolution and the Agenda 21. Some felt that the resolution was appropriate to bring home rule back to the Town and others felt that the Agenda 21 was not as serious as everyone made it out to be.

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Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to pass the resolution. Robbie McIntosh a resident of the town asked if there would be anytime for discussion. He thought that there should be some amendments made to the resolution. He stated that equal threat to home rule is the huge threat that multi-corporations on legislative process in United States. He said that stores and lobbyists should work at federal and state level in all 50 states to pass legislation that is favorable to corporations. He suggested that a Where as be added and that Large Corporations employ lobbyists to advocate for laws favorable to corporate interest. In the first Resolved section it was suggested to add after regional administrators, corporations and lobbyists. Mr.Craig said that this is an excellent idea because one of the ideas in Agenda 21 is the favoritism because businesses will do what the government wants.

A resident of the Town said that this agenda 21 is to help towns out that are going bankrupt not to take over towns. This should be looked at more closely. Other residents present suggested that if you looked closely at this Agenda 21 that there was a controlling factor with this money that was being granted to these towns for projects.

Resolution #27

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to change the resolution as requested by Robbie McIntosh a resident of the Town of Cambridge. The changes that were requested were an addition of: Where as, Large Corporations employ lobbyists to advocate for laws favorable to corporate interest. The section of the resolution Be It Resolved at the end after regional administrator, corporations and lobbyist were added.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution #28

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to adopt the resolution presented by Dave Craig affirming Town of Cambridge' continuing Support for Home Rule as amended.

Title: Resolution Affirming the Town of Cambridge's Continuing Support For Home Rule And Opposition To Initiatives To Erode Local Authority.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cambridge is a rural community whose economic mainstream is agriculture and,

WHEREAS, the concept of Home Rule precedence was established under Article IX of the NYS Constitution and power to the States and People through the 10th Amendment to the United States Constitution and,

WHEREAS, a number of recent initiatives such as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, UN Agenda 21, the Capital Region Sustainability Plan among others direct a movement in authority to a more regional and even national level and,

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WHEREAS, these initiatives and others not only generate and additional layer of government with the attendant overhead costs to the taxpayer but also tend to address problems and assess solutions based on an urban model that would mitigate against many of the land use practices and cultural attributes of the Town including such things as private ownership of single family dwelling, traditional agricultural practices, woodland management and wildlife management among others all of which will have severe consequences to the Town of Cambridge in particular and rural communities in general and ,

WHEREAS, the activities within this sphere have been sanctioned and implemented through Executive Order without any congressional oversight, research or deliberation and,

WHEREAS, this is a contradiction to the Home Rule policy that is supposed to guide regulatory activities in New York State,

WHEREAS, Large corporations employ lobbyists to advocate for laws favorable to corporate interest and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cambridge requests that the State and Federal Executive branches maintain the intended separation of powers within the State and Federal governments by ceasing to sponsor regulations originated by an implemented by unelected regional administrators, corporations and lobbyists and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislative branches of both State and Federal governments cease passing laws/regulations/statutes/etc. which erode the citizen's rights to make local decisions on the use of natural resources as local citizens are the most impacted by the use of the resources and therefore have the best ideas and motivation to ensure that those resources are used in a manner which will promote the long term benefit of the community and the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Cambridge calls upon the Congress of the United States to direct the cessation of all regulative activities inconsistent with US Constitution.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Assessor Report

The Supervisor reported that the Assessor had approximate 12 residents for grievance day on June 4, 2013.

Town Clerk

None

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler said that she had talked with Amy and Dieter Drake about the Bicycle Race and they said they spend many days cleaning up after the race. They said that as far as the changing of clothes on lawns, in some cultures this is acceptable. They

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are proactive and are aware of the problems; some of the businesses in the town do well the weekend of the race and are happy. Councilman McMurray asked if the traffic violations had been addressed and Councilwoman Fedler said that she had forgotten about that.

Councilwoman Fedler made the suggestion that the Town Board Meeting change back to the 7:30 PM time for the summer.

Resolution #29

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to change the time of the Town Board meeting to 7:30 PM for the summer.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Councilwoman Fedler mentioned also what a good job the Town Attorney is doing and how his work has been in a timely manner. Councilman McMurray said that he agrees and said that he does not know how he does it. He again thanked him for his time.

Solar Presentation

Tom Lampros a resident from the Town of Cambridge was present from Lampros Solar. He gave a presentation about the benefits that solar energy could have for the Town of Cambridge. He made the cost comparison of the town purchasing their own solar electric system versus getting one through a PPA agreement such as what Monolith Solar. Mr. Lampros said that a system could be purchased for approximately \$60,000; many options were available for savings and financing this system. The possibility of community loan fund or trading a resident for the funds to build the system in exchange for the tax credits. He also compared the \$10,000 savings that would be from monolith versus owning your own system and saving possibility \$100,000. Councilman Ford asked about damage by hail on the system. Mr. Lampros said that this system would be insured with a 20 year warranty and he did mention that state mandates a 5 year warranty.

Highway Superintendent Report

Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent reported that the highwaymen had spent 2 days paving sections of King Road, Edie Road, and the intersection of Conley and Belle. They also went to Jackson to help them pave. The highwaymen have also spent several days hauling gravel to shop for stock pile. They have spent a lot of time cleaning ditches, clearing trees, and repairing washouts after several storms. All of the highwaymen attended full day of training on mine safety at Fort Edward. They have mowed and trimmed each cemetery before Memorial Day. Two men and 2 trucks went to help White Creek to haul gravel for 3 days. Truck 3 was in shop to repair jake brake to fix and exhaust leak. Truck 2 had compressor replaced on the air conditioning system. They are also working on getting the roadsides mowed. Mr. Davis also reported that he had attended the highway school in Ithaca and that he found it to be very educational. He said that one of the classes that he attended was on weather changing, storms, the impact that the rain had on the ditches and the roadways. He thanked the Town Board for giving him the chance to attend the school.

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Planning Board Report

Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk reported in Sally Eddy's absence. The Town of Cambridge Planning Board met, Thursday, June 6, 2013, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. Four members were present; no one from the public attended. There were no subdivisions to address and no communications were received. Members voted to change the July meeting date to the 11th because the 4th falls on the first Thursday of the month.

Code Enforcement Report

LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement Officer reported that he had a dispute between two residents about the property lines. The one resident thought that he owned the whole road and was cutting wires. LaVerne said that he had gotten things calmed down.

Communications

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that she had received information on the cycling race for cystic fibrosis. The race would be on Sunday, August 25, 2013 and it would be traveling through the Town of Cambridge, White Creek, Jackson, Salem, Hebron, Greenwich, and Easton.

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read a complaint form from William Drew a resident of the Town of Cambridge. He was concerned about the safety of the small children on the corner of Stevenson Rd. and 372 due to excessive speed and failure to stop. He explained that being that this is a bad intersection, where many accidents have occurred. They are requesting that a stop sign be put there

A Notice was received from the Washington County Cares the Offices of Aging and Disabilities Resources. Washington County Public Safety will be going to the local senior meal sites to talk about: Disaster Preparation, Animals in Disasters, Seasonal Weather Precautions, Emergency Management and 911 Call Center. There are many programs available through the Office for Aging and Disabilities, information is available in the Town Clerks office.

Old Business

Dump Law

The new copy of the dump law will be made available to the public before the next Town Board meeting and will be discussed at that meeting.

The Planning Board has requested that the Town Board address set backs and they have considered 70 ft set back from the center line of the Road and 50 ft from the property lines.

County Report

The County is working on selling the property that is in Hartford that was the dump.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:37 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>