

Regular Town Board Meeting

June 9, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 9th day of June, 2014 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

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

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent Alan Davis, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, 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	#104 – 124	\$4,708.70
Highway	#77 – 87	\$53,048.10

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #32

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2014 Town Board meeting with four corrections. The first two corrections are spelling errors: on page 5 Wolff is spelled wrong and on page 4 Gansevoort. The third correction is on page 6 in the first paragraph in reference to the truck is a heavy built truck and not to lose it for a few thousand dollars. I had used the word loss instead of lose. The fourth correction is on page 5 in the first and third paragraph. The truck that is being purchased should be a single axle dually; I had referred to the truck as a single axle tandem truck which is incorrect.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #33

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

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Transfer of Funds

Resolution #34

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to transfer from A1355.2 Assessor, Equipment to A1355.4 Assessor, contractual in the amount of \$258.89. The second transfer is from A1990.4 the Contingent to A1355.4 the Assessor, contractual in the amount of \$86.37.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

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Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Fedler reported that the Mortgage tax check that was received from the County was less than was budgeted for. The Assessor's expenditures were also more than budgeted. The Supervisor said that they will have to keep a eye on this. The Planning Board Position that was advertised for 30 days had no letters of interest submitted to the Town. Therefore the Town Board will wait and advertise for the position again in January 2015 for the full seven year term. The BAR position deadline for the letters of interest is not till the end of June. Interviews for BAR position will be at the July 14th Town Board meeting.

The Supervisor received information back from the Town Attorney and has given the paperwork to the Town Board members. She has requested that they review the Best Buy Law and the Trailer Ordinance from the lawyer and give her suggestions. The Supervisor finally received a copy of the letter with the lawyers opinion on the short paper fiber. Supervisor Fedler told the board members to look over the information and the notes that the Attorney wrote about the Trailer Ordinance. Then let her know if they had any questions or how they want to progress on the ordinance. On the Best Buy Law the Board members were to read it over and let the Supervisor know what they think. Then after the board members have a chance to review this it will be presented to the public for their input. Councilman McMurray asked about the bottom of the first page of the Best Buy Law. He was questioning if the stated dollar threshold of \$20,000, is amended by the New York State Legislature in the future, the dollar threshold set forth herein shall be simultaneously amend to match the new amount pursuant to General Municipal Law §103. Supervisor Fedler said she believes because this Best Value Law is based on the General Municipal Law §103, she thinks that they have to be tied together. Supervisor Fedler said that she would ask the Town Attorney.

Supervisor Fedler said that she talked with some more business owners this month. She set up some meetings with businesses and the Economic Developer from the county. This is a meeting where the business owner meets and greets the Economic Developer to see what she can help with. Supervisor Fedler asked in the department about the Hospital Property to see what can be done. It was discovered that the Hospital Property was zoned a Rural/Residential with a special permit for Medical use. This will make it hard to do anything with the property unless the zoning is changed. Supervisor Fedler has made the Mayor aware of the situation because any changes would have to be done through the Village.

Assessor Report

Supervisor Fedler reported in Rachael Holbrook's absence. The main goal of the Assessor is to stay at 100 percent and investigate the land values. She has found some discrepancies within the town and wants to get ahead of the problem. During the month of May she met with 6 different taxpayers. She was able to stipulate their assessment resulting in 7 stipulations. Also there were 3 corrections made to tentative roll. 2 clerical errors and one inventory mistake. On June 3rd the Board of Assessment Review met at the town Hall from 4:00 PM – 8 PM. One person came and grieved and another person filed by fax. The final roll is due the week of June 16th. Any grievances that were denied

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by The Board of Assessment review can be taken to small claims court. The Assessor's office will be closed on June 25, 2014 due to training. She will be attending a 2 day class given by the Albany County Cooperative Extension; it is a workshop on Agricultural Assessment. Also during July, The Assessor will be out of the office the week of July 13th due to a seminar in Ithaca NY. If there is an emergency she will leave her cell phone number with the Town Clerk. She will be checking her email periodically. Final lists for Basic Star removal are out. If someone receives notice they need to contact the State Department of Tax and Finance.

Resolution #35

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to give permission to the Town Assessor to attend a 2 day class given by Albany County Cooperative Extension, the workshop is on Agricultural Assessment.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that she had sent a letter of appreciation to Gerald Moppert for his time served on the Planning Board.

Highway Report

Town Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that they had replaced a driveway culvert on King Rd. They also installed a new culvert on Irish Lane and replaced several Street signs. The Highwaymen prepared roads for paving and the paving was done with the help of White Creek. They spent several days hauling gravel back to stock pile and started the roadside mowing. Several low culverts have been patched with the hot black top. The Highway Superintendent and Fred Wolff went out to Campbell to bring the truck back. The highwaymen spent a couple of days ditching on Oak Hill Rd. and Stump Church. The hydraulic hose press has arrived but they haven't had a chance to set it up yet.

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis thanked the Town Board for allowing him to attend the Highway School in Ithaca, NY. He said that it was very informational and he learned a lot. In fact he informed the Town Board about the new procedure that is to be followed for CHIPS money. Highway Superintendent Davis said that he attended a session at the conference on CHIPS News – Updates and New Appropriation. He explained that the CHIPS money is not meant to be a reimbursement funding program. As soon as the paving is done in the Town the monies is to be paid to Peckhams, and a copy of the check is to be sent to the Comptrollers Office. The paperwork is submitted to the State and the check is sent to the Town for the monies that were spent on paving. It was explained that the Town's were supposed to have the money already budgeted for the road repairs. The Highway Superintendent explained that this program used to be administered through DOT and is now done through the Comptrollers Office. Highway Superintendent Davis said that he discussed the situation with the CHIPS representative and the new upcoming representative: He explained to them that we were a small town and did not have that money budgeted for. The CHIPS representative explained a way to the Highway Superintendent that the Town could manage the payment this year.

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Highway Superintendent Alan Davis gave the Board Members a copy of the schedule for the conference and he marked the classes that he attended.

It was decided by the Highway Superintendent and the Town Board to put the 1994 International Truck on Auctions International. They discussed whether or not they would have to put a minimum bid on the truck. Highway Superintendent Davis said that no minimum bid was needed they could just put pending Board Approval at the close of the auction.

Resolution #36

Councilwoman Herrington motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to sell the 1994 International Truck on Auctions International with no minimum bid pending the Board approval at the end of the auction.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Highway Superintendent Davis reported that he had been in contact with Lane Enterprises, which is where they would purchase the culvert for the bridge in Coila. They can make a one piece culvert 30 ft. which would cost approximately \$5,800. The culvert is made of aluminum material and has a lifetime of 75 years. This culvert is made in Ballston Spa and this will be a large saving in trucking.

Resolution #37

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to give the Highway Superintendent permission to order the culvert for the Coila Bridge.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

The Board discussed with the Highway Superintendent about trading in the pickup truck for a new one. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that he had spoke with Carbone and the cost of a new pickup with a trade in would be \$5,500. However, this would have to be done soon so that Carbone could sell the truck in the fall. Highway Superintendent Davis said that he thought it would be a good idea to sell the 2012 F350 pickup on Auctions International and then buy the new truck with that money. The Town would not be committed to buy a new pickup until they sell the current 2012 pickup truck.

Resolution #38

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to post the 2012 F350 Pickup truck on Auctions International with no minimum bid pending the Board approval at the end of the auction .

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

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Supervisor Fedler reported the humidifier in the vault had be taken care of and that also the cemetery near the intersection of Lees Crossing Rd. and Mead Rd. has been cleaned up.

Code Enforcement

None

Planning Board Report

Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk read the Planning Board report in Sally Eddy's absence. The Town of Cambridge Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, June 5, 2014, 7:30 PM. Five members were present along with the secretary and two people from the public.

The following business was addressed:

Chairman Pearson received a communication about upcoming planning and zoning summer schools sponsored by the NY State Association of Towns. The schools will be held at 4 different locations – Malone, July 28; Kingston, July 29; Latham, July 31; and Batavia, August 8. Several topics will be covered and registration for Associations members is \$80.00 in advance and \$90.00 at the door. Each location will provide 5 hours of training. Some members expressed interest in the Latham venue.

Held a public hearing and granted Final Approval to David & Susan Craig for a 4.81 minor subdivision located on Irish Lane. The lot will be conveyed to their son to build residence thereon.

Town Board

Councilman McMurray reported that he had attended the Jackson Planning Board Meeting and he had nothing positive to say. He said that he has a copy of the Plan and there is so much that is unanswered.

Councilwoman Herrington congratulated the supervisor on being the only one that passed on the information about the 4 day training on Communities NOW Connecting for kids. Councilwoman Herrington attended this training and feels that it is a very good program. Washington County is the first in New York State to welcome this program. Communities NOW is an innovative, research-supported, and community-based initiative built on the belief that all people who are concerned about well being and safety of children. This program educates concerned citizens on the role of protecting children and supporting families.

Councilman Skiff thanked Councilwoman Herrington for putting the ad in the Eagle thanking the people that helped clean up the Town of Cambridge roadsides.

Councilwoman Herrington reported that she talked with Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin at the White Creek office on June 6th. She mentioned to him the Short Paper fiber concern that was in the Town of Cambridge. This was something that he was not aware of and thanked her very much..

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Councilwoman Herrington also asked the Town Board about a date for the Town picnic. It was suggested that Councilwoman Herrington pick either July 18th or 25th and see if Lake Lauderdale was available.

Communications

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that on July 11, 2014 at the Washington County Fair Grounds there would be a Washington County Senior Citizen Picnic. The theme of the picnic is Hippie, Peace and Love and a five dollar donation is suggested. The flyer will be posted on the bulletin board in the Town Hall.

The Washington County Parks will be open 7 days a week as of June 28th.

Supervisor Fedler reported that she received a letter from an attorney for the Washington County Home for Aged Women, a charitable, non-for-profit Corporation. The letter was in regards to FY2014 grant funding that is available on and after June 12, 2014 and they must be completed by July 11, 2014. Those that qualify for this Grant are charitable non-governmental organizations which provide benefits to elderly Washington County residents. Included with the letter was the Grant Application Form Request FY2014.

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read a letter from Abdon J. Buckley stating that he had difficulty hearing when attending the Town Board Meeting. He has in the past requested through the Town Clerk's Office a recording of the meeting. In his letter he mentioned that the recorder the Town uses is only compatible with a Japanese product (Sony). He suggested that the Town purchase an American software (Microsoft) or to fix this problem by downloading software to convert the recording files. Councilman Skiff said that he would record the meeting for Abdon Buckley if he brought him the recorder.

Supervisor Fedler also said that she had received a proposal from Francis Buck to paint the water damage spot on the ceiling in the Town Justice Office. The proposal was \$385.00 to seal and paint the ceiling in the Town Justice Office. It was thought that this seemed a little expensive for the small water damage spot. It was decided that the Highway Department will paint the ceiling in the Town Justice Office.

County Report

Supervisor Fedler reported that at the County they are reviewing the 2014 Budget and prepping for the 2015 Budget. There will be a Casino presentation this week at the County. The conditions of the Casino's are that they must have resolutions of support from Town and Counties.

There being no other business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>