

Regular Town Board Meeting
March 9, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 9th day of March 2015 at the Town Hall, the following were present:

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

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Ashleigh Morris Reporter from the Eagle, Stephen Lulla (Co-CEO/CFO of the Compassionate Relief Centers of New York, Inc.), Linda Burgoyne, Robbie McIntosh, Leon Barkley, Terry Hamilton, Henry Peabody, Vince Canini Cambridge Central School Superintendent, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Connie Watkins, Beth Cots (from the School Project), Steve Butz (School Project), Kevin Hayes from the County the County Administrator

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

Supervisor Fedler announced that there was a lot on the agenda tonight with three presentations. She did mention to the public that if anyone would like to ask a question to please raise their hand.

Medical Marijuana Grow Unit

Stephen Lulla Co-CEO/CFO from the Compassionate Relief Centers of New York, Inc. did a presentation on a potential grow unit for Medical Marijuana. They are going to base the facility on the former Mushroom Farm on Plains Rd. in the Town of Jackson. He handed out a Summary of the NYS Medical Marijuana Legislation and a Power Point handout on the Compassionate Care Act. He explained that in June of 2014 the Compassionate Care act was passed and they have an 18 month time frame that they want to implement. They are going to select five organizations which will be vertically integrated, with one cultivation facility and 4 dispensaries. There will be only twenty dispensaries across the state. The lead agency for this project is the NYS Department of Health; they are expecting the application to come out some time in April. They will have a six week turnaround to submit the application and then it will be reviewed. The State of New York will then approve 5 entities to pick up the business of medical marijuana in New York State. He went on to explain that he thought that they had a pretty good team and they have been working on learning the industry the last six months. Mr. Lulla is hoping to bring revenue and jobs to this area. He explained if they were approved that they would have initially 25 jobs at the site. He thought they would have probably another 25 jobs at the 4 dispensaries and the county where the product is manufactured would receive 22 1/2 percent of the tax revenue that the state is putting on the product. For every 10 million in sales it is about \$160,000 to the County. He mentioned that they have gotten support from the Town of Jackson, Village of Greenwich, Village of Cambridge, the County, Farm Bureau and Cornell

Cooperative Extension. So they are going around to the locals because the more support they attach to the application from the local communities the better their opportunity.

He mentioned that this was a pharmaceutical company and there would be no flower leaving the facility. It would all be extracted and processed into the medical form. Some of the concerns that were voiced were the security of the facility. Mr. Lulla said that in regards to security they have regulations to follow with perimeter fences, surveillance of the place 24/7 and physical security. Mr. Lulla said that he has consulted with gentlemen on the equipment side who has worked with state prisons and he has spoken with another gentleman who is the associate director for large pharmaceutical facilities, he will consult with them on how to deal with the moving of controlled substances. Mr. Lulla opened the floor up for questions to the public. There was a question from resident whether the price would be regulated. Mr. Lulla mentioned that they apply to the state for pricing; they want it at a level so there is no risk of diversion if it is priced to low it may go to the black market, if you price the product to high customers will go to the black market. The state wants the pricing appropriate, because another issue is that insurance will not pay for medical Marijuana at this point. Steve Lulla is asking for a resolution of support and he said that if we would like him to draft us a resolution he could.

School Project

Vince Canini Cambridge Central School Superintendent, Beth Coates and Steve Butz committee members of the current building project for the Cambridge Central School attended tonight's meeting to do a presentation. The 2015 proposed building project has three sections to it: Education, Health and Safety and Emergency. The Capital Project will be put to vote on March 31st 12 pm – 8 pm in the CCS gym. Steve Butz a member of the building committee presented a slide show of 2015 proposed building project. The first section of the building project was the education portion: New Academic Library Media Center for both elementary and high schools. The goal of this is to create high quality learning centers and they will have exterior entrance and restrooms to allow for expanded hours for evening use in the high school. The Health and Safety portion of this project centralized office space and securing the elementary entrance. The Emergency portion of the project is the most important the storm water pipe running 15 ft. below the locker rooms is broken in multiple places flooding the undersized elementary gym during heavy rains. This small gym is now unusable for the elementary children; they are currently using the auditorium. The entire pipe must be excavated to repair, this is a major project where the floor will have to be torn up and the excavator will have to come through the gym wall. Both of the locker room floors will have to be torn up also, they are hoping to update the locker rooms and to enlarge the small gym at this time. They are hoping that the district will receive 79.5% of the cost for this repair through state aid. The residents of the Cambridge Central school district will be receiving a flyer in the mail on this proposal. The total project cost is \$10,740,855, smarter school programs -\$914,980, 79.5% State Aid (-\$7,811,571), so the approximate cost to the district taxpayers would be \$2,014,304(over 15 years).

Local Government Efficiency Plan

Kevin Hayes the County Administrator presented a proposal to the Cambridge Town Board requesting a resolution to participate in the Local Government Efficiency Plan. Kevin Hayes the County Administrator explained the purpose of the government efficiency plan and how it works. The Government Efficiency Plan was established in the 2014 State Budget. The plan requires local governments to come up with a plan to save 1% of their 2014 tax levy for three years (2016, 2017, 2018). Mr. Hayes explained that the County would be the lead agency and that the best part of this is the county can meet that 1% that is needed. There is no penalty if it's not achieved. The actual tax levy does not have to be reduced. The main requirements are to comply with the tax cap and make the best effort to meet the efficiency plan. Municipalities must comply with the tax cap. The efficiency plan must be filed by June 1, 2015, in order to be eligible for tax rebate checks in 2016. Mr. Hayes mentioned that Towns could help in the savings by consolidating services, share services and find other ways to cut back. He explained how the Village of Salem was dissolved and this would save approximately \$150,000. The Town of Hartford reinsulated the Highway Garage and using a wood burning furnace which are both considered a saving in energy cost. Mr. Hayes mentioned that if the Town is looking to join the County in the Efficiency Plan then he is looking for a resolution stating this and also any savings ideas that could be used in this plan.

Mr. Hayes also mentioned that Mr. Nolette the Washington County Treasurer regrets that he could not be with them tonight but they have split the towns up in hopes to cover all the town board meetings in the county. Kevin Hayes explained about the Worker's Compensation and how this process worked through the county now. The worker's compensation has been changed from a yearly fee to a quarterly fee. This was actually a savings for the county and the worker's compensation program. He said this is why they are asking the Town's to report payroll to the County quarterly. Mr. Hayes said that he would leave Mr. Nolette's email address with the supervisor so that the Bookkeeper could report this to him quarterly. He said that one of the things that they are trying to promote is safety in the workplace, to keep these worker compensation numbers down. He also mentioned the safety day that they have at Lake Lauderdale, the plan is not to have any claims to keep the numbers down.

The other item that Kevin Hayes touched on was a couple years ago that Al Nolette did a project to help people in Cambridge area bordering Rensselaer county who had problems with sales tax and proof of residency. Mr. Nolette has direct mailed these residents with a card stating proof of residence and he created a website so whoever has problems can go on and verify that they are a Washington county resident. Mr. Nolette feels very strongly that this is a mechanism so that they are taxed fairly and the sales tax stays in the county.

Auditing of Bills

General	#32 – 49	\$18,982.12
Highway	#24 – 39	\$26,948.20

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Approving Minutes

Resolution #15

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2015 Town board meeting as mailed.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Councilman McMurray abstained from the vote because he was absent from the February 9, 2015 meeting.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #16

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Herrington to approve the supervisor's report for February 2015.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes - 0

Planning Board

Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk reported from the Planning Board Meeting. A letter was received from the Village Mayor Val Reagan welcoming the Planning Board to come to the Village and review material or attend any meetings on possible development of the former Mary McClellan Hospital facility and the surrounding property. A letter was received from Jerry Moppert in regards to the former Mary McClellan property proposal. His letter refers to what experience the developer had with similar proposals elsewhere. David Wilmot was present at the meeting and reported that they had not proceeded with survey due to the weather. Robert Wargo was present at the meeting representing himself and his wife Mary Wargo. He proposed that they would like to subdivide their 25.7 acre lot #272.-2-7. They would like to divide off a 2 acre lot for son & wife, Levi & Polly Wargo. The 2 acre lot is on the west side of their property, on Tabor Lane. The lot has approx. 480' of road frontage & the distance to the back; from the road are approx. 228'. The shape of the lot is a trapezoid. The only abutting land owners to the lot, other than them is Henry and John Peabody. The Peabody's land being on the other side of Tabor Lane. Levi & Polly Wargo have already built a homestead on the property, utilizing permits with the Town of Cambridge and have a driveway access from Tabor Lane. The Sketch Plan, which was reviewed and discussed with Mr. Wargo, met planning board approval. Mr. Wargo was advised to proceed with the survey.

Assessor

The Supervisor reported that the assessor had been in the office 2 days one week and 3 days the next. She is very busy with exemptions at this time.

Code Enforcement

LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement Officer said that it has been quiet in the Town because of the weather.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that they have plowed snow and dealt with plowing of snow drifts back. They also pushed back snow banks to make more room for snow. Mr. Davis reported that they have done some routine maintenance on the trucks: replaced the battery cable on Truck 8, hydraulic hoses and some air valves have been replaced on Truck 3. They have helped the village with some of the snow removal. The 2012 F350 went to Carbone's to have the Wheel Hubs replaced because they could not turn freely anymore. It was important to have this done because the truck is still under warranty. On Wednesday, March 4th, Mr. Davis attended the lobbying for CHIPS money in Albany. He mentioned that the Governor had not put any money in the budget for CHIPS money; they are hopeful that he will put this in. Over half of the Legislators have signed on and said that he needs to put this money back in the budget. Mr. Davis said they are hoping to get the same kind of money that they received last year for CHIPS, last year they had the extreme weather money. Mr. Davis received some contact information so that the Supervisor could write letters in addition to all the highway men lobby effort. Supervisor Fedler asked if it was possible that Councilman Skiff and Councilwoman Herrington write letters in regards to this issue. The supervisor said that they don't have to be long, just short and sweet.

Supervisor Fedler said that Councilwoman Herrington was looking for support on the cleanup day which would be on April 25th. She was hopeful that the Boy and Girl scouts, 4-H, Honor Society and some other community service groups would help. Everyone was in support of the cleanup day and Supervisor Fedler told Councilwoman Herrington to proceed further with the planning.

Supervisor Fedler also reported that the tax freeze checks had been received by many and the goal for the State was to have them mailed by February 27th & 28th. She also reported that the Annual Financial Report was done for the Town. Supervisor Fedler said that she would like to review the policies the next meeting, mileage, credit card, procurement card policy. The supervisor had also received information from ASA about meetings that they would be having but the info was received to late, the meeting was today. A letter was received from the village in response to the resolution that the Town passed in regards to the former Mary McClellan property. Supervisor Fedler also said that she had received a copy of the Town of White Creek Site Plan Review Plan; she said that she would review and send on to the Board Members. A copy would also be sent on to the Planning Board.

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County Report

The Probation Officers program was still being discussed. The annual review is being done of goals last year and the direction that they are going in. Job Department reviews will also be done.

Town Board

Councilman Skiff said that he would like to research the idea of the consolidation of the Village Court and the Town of Cambridge court. Councilman Skiff said that he had already spoken with the Mayor of the Village of Cambridge and she would talk with her Justice and the Board. It was mentioned that the Town would be taking over the Village and not the other way around a few questioned how this would save the Town money. Supervisor Fedler said to research this further and see what he could find out.

Privilege of the Floor

Robbie McIntosh a resident of the Town said that he was glad to see that the Town Board was reviewing other Site Plan Review Plans for other Towns.

Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent commented on what was said in the paper at last month's meeting about it not being fair that the Town Highway Department has better vehicles and equipment then the tax payers could afford. Councilman Skiff took offense to this and said that he was quoted wrong in the paper.

Supervisor Fedler asked if the Town Board would like to approve the resolution for the Local Government Efficiency Plan tonight after hearing Kevin Hayes presentation.

Resolution#17

Councilman Ford motioned,
Seconded by Councilwoman Herrington

RESOLUTION # 17 OF 2015

TITLE: To authorize the Town of Cambridge to participate in the Local Government Efficiency Plan.

WHEREAS, the State of New York has required each local government unit to file a Government Efficiency Plan with the New York State Division of Budget (DOB) and

WHEREAS, the County is looking to be the lead governmental unit for filing the Plan, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town of Cambridge hereby agrees to work with the County and submit ideas for the plan which will save at least 1% of the 2014 combined tax levy amount of all participants, and be it further

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RESOLVED that the Town of Cambridge agrees to make its best effort to implement the Plan beginning in 2017 to 2019, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize their Chief Financial Officer to certify the Government Efficiency Plan.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

There being no further business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>