

Town Board Meeting
May 13, 2013

At the Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 13th day of May, 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, Ray Gardiner, Rani Bass, Janet DeCarlo Town Justice, Ashleigh Morris reporter for the Eagle, James Morris, Bill Herrington, Terry Hamilton, Ted Berndt, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Joan Thomas, William Thomas, Kevin Tollison representing Joan and William Thomas, Nancy Mabeus, Henry Peabody, Dave Craig, Lillian Herrington, Leon Barkley, Tom Lampros, Terry Justin Monolith Solar Associated, LLC, Don Herrington, Sue Herrington, Don Schneider Sr., and Jim Moore from Cambridge Valley Machine Shop

Auditing of the Bills

General	#84 – 106	\$9,775.57
Highway	#54 – 62	\$8,167.27

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 #21

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2013 Town Board Meeting with 2 corrections. On page 2 in paragraph five it should be John Pedersen instead of instead of Joe and this should be changed in the next paragraph also. On page 3 Councilwoman Fedler corrected that in the second paragraph that she did not speak with the fire dept. last month.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Supervisor Watkins requested that there be a moment of silence to recognize Glenda Harrington Hamilton and Scott Keller's Brother who passed away this past weekend.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #22

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

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Agenda 21 Resolution

Dave Craig a resident of the Town of Cambridge was present at the Town Board meeting. He was looking for the Cambridge Town Board to approve the resolution against the Agenda 21 and the regional sustainability. Mr. Craig mentioned that the purpose of this was to bring knowledge to the community. Mr. Craig explained that a vast amount of the community doesn't know anything about this. He explained that Agenda 21 is a

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document that would dramatically change human life. The Agenda 21 is actually a soft law policy even though the government signed it they don't have to obey it. Since it was signed in 1992 there has been a series of things that the national government and state government have done to enact it. Costing the tax payers billions of dollars. Purpose of this resolution is to draw attention to this problem, and try to get the county to acknowledge this also. The Supervisor requested that the public receive copies of this resolution before the Town Board considers passing it.

Kevin Tollison was present at the town board meeting representing William and Joan Thomas. Joan Thomas on May 2, 2013 walked out of their house and came in contact with chemicals in her face; this was in relation to pesticides that Stannard Farm was spraying. These pesticides were like a cloud of smoke; Mrs. Thomas had immediate burning to her eyes and skin. Stannard Farm was spraying these pesticides in a manor that they drifted over to the Thomas' house. The Thomas' are asking the Town Board for help because this is a risk to the health and safety of these individuals. The Stannard Farm is saying that they will be spraying the orchard every 10-14 days. The other concern that was mentioned was the junk and the debris that is around the property. The Thomas' are afraid the condition of the Stannard Farm will affect their property value. This situation has been going on for years but just recently it has escalated. Councilman Skiff asked what DEC said after they did the inspection of the farm. Mr. Tollison said that DEC did do the inspection of the property and they were not sure what the time frame of this report was. It was suggested that the Health and the Code Enforcement Officer be contacted. Councilman Skiff and Supervisor Watkins said that they would work with DEC, Code Enforcement and the Health Officer to take care of the problem.

Assessor Report

Supervisor Watkins reported that they had one person apply for the position of the Board Assessment Review which was Vance Bateman.

Resolution #23

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to appoint Vance Bateman to the Board Assessment Review to finish the term of Joe Caron.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Councilwoman Fedler asked if he was able to take the schooling now. The Supervisor said no that he would have to wait till next year.

The Supervisor also mentioned that the Tentative Roll has been filed in the Town Clerk's Office and it is available for viewing.

Grievance Day will be on June 4th between the hours of 4pm to 8pm on a first come first serve basis.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that she had gone to the Transfer Station to turn in dump stickers and the only days left to turn in dump stickers were Saturday May 18th and 25th.

The Town Clerk read a proposal to the Town Board; that the Supervisor had approached her about considering changing the Town Clerk's hours for the summer, due to the minimum activity in the office with the discontinuation of the dump stickers. She mentioned that after tax season it is normally slow but without the sales of dump stickers it is even slower. Civil Service was contacted and because the Town Clerk is an elected official they informed us that it was up to the Town Clerk and the Town Board to come to an agreement. In the town Clerks manual it states that there is no law requiring a Town Clerk to keep any particular office hours. It states that the Town Clerk office should be open a sufficient number of hours so that the public may be adequately and efficiently served. In consideration of this if the hours were Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to 9:00 an until 3:00 pm and Thursdays would remain the same, 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The hours could change back the day after Labor Day when hunting licenses would increase.

Resolution #24

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to allow the Town Clerk to change her hours Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Thursday would remain the same 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt said that she would publish this in the paper for 2 weeks and would also put notice on the bulletin boards.

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that she had many complaints about the bicycle race and she assured them that she would bring this up at the board meeting. She said that there were complaints for the whole weekend and she could not even go to town without hearing these complaints. She said the complaints were from interfering with business, to being stopped on the road unreasonably, trash on lawns, yards and along the bike route. People mentioned to her how is this bike race supposed to be helping the town if it is interfering with the steady flow of traffic coming into town. Councilwoman Fedler said that it is a nice novelty, they do a good job. Councilwoman Fedler said that maybe it is only a few bad apples, but this is really starting to wear on the community.

Supervisor Watkins asked Councilman Ford if he had noticed that the guardrails on Rte. 372 had all been sprayed with the herbicides. Councilman Ford mentioned that he appreciated this that turning off of 372 onto Stevenson Rd was very difficult when the weeds were really high.

Councilman Ford mentioned that he had heard similar complaints and he had even gone to town and was cut off by some bicyclers. He said many residents had heard this also and had complaints of their own. Councilman Ford did mention that he had nothing against people trying to run business as long as it doesn't affect the whole town. Councilman Skiff said that he had nothing to report. Councilman McMurray said that he had heard the same thing about the bicycle race. Councilman McMurray mentioned that Dieter Drake needs to be contacted so that these concerns can be addressed earlier.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that the bank that was sliding on King Rd. had been repaired. He also reported that trees had been trimmed and shoulders were cut on King and Edie Rd. to prepare for paving. The culverts were also changed on Edie Rd. There were 2 driveway culverts put in one on English Rd and on replaced on Stump Church. Trees and brush were picked up from the winter and they did some cutting on several roads. Dr. Brown Lane and the Dump Rd. in the Village have been graded. The Highwaymen worked 2 days with Town of White Creek skim patching and they will work with Town of Cambridge 2 days paving. A couple of spots were ditched on Center Cambridge Rd and Brownell Lane. The Truck #3 is at Delureys having work done on the Jake brake. Mr. Davis reported that the Town of Cambridge Highway Dept. would be paving on May 14th and 15th.

Planning Board Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported for the Planning Board in Sally Eddy's absence. The Town of Cambridge Planning Board held its regular meeting, Thursday, May 2, 2013, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, with 5 members present and 5 people from the public.

The following business was transacted:

1. Held a public hearing and granted Final Approval to Lillian & Luther Everly for a 25 acre minor subdivision, for sale, located on Duell Hollow Road. Subdivision includes a house, a pond, a barn and sheds.
2. Don Schneider and Jim Moore, representing Colfax Enterprises, LLC, presented a proposal to combine the 4 separate parcels of that business back into one parcel as it originally existed. The land became divided up over years to settle family matters. The board determined it was not a planning board matter and referred Mr. Schneider and Mr. Moore to the county tax mapping department.
3. Received a questionnaire addressed to all village and town planning boards from John Pedersen, Secretary of the Washington County Planning Board. The questionnaire asked for input from each board concerning which training classes would most beneficial to them. Each board was asked to choose 3 of the 19 topics listed. After Chairman Pearson and members reviewed the topics, they chose Rural Planning as #1; Local Regulations: Enactment Procedure as #2; and Site Plan Review as #3. The completed form was mailed back to Mr. Pedersen.

Code Enforcement

The Supervisor reported that Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis had finished his schooling and that he is certified and the certificates are on file with the Town Clerk.

Town Justice

Town Justice Janet DeCarlo reported at a recent Office of Court Administration continuing education class, they were asked to bring the following information to the

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elected and appointed officials in our town. She reported that it has come to the attention of law enforcement officials that the Sovereign Citizen movement, known as “Posse Comitatus” which means FORCE OF THE COUNTY has re-surfaced. This is causing some very dangerous situations for people in public office. The Town Justice reported on the Sovereign Citizen or “Free Man” as they are referred to, they believe that there is no legitimate form of government and no laws higher than a County Sheriff. These people do not subject themselves to the jurisdiction of the courts or law enforcement agents and can be considered dangerous. She went on to describe indications that the person may be a Sovereign Citizen. The Town Justice mentioned that if you come in contact with an individual that you believe to be a Sovereign Citizen, it is best to report it and be very careful. She gave the Town Board and Clerk a list of resources that OCA has given to her to share with the board.

Presentation from Monolith Solar

Tyler Dustin attended the meeting to present to the board a proposal for the Town to install Solar panels for Solar Power. He said that they can offer PPA structure free solar for the Town Hall and DPW, this would include 2 – 8,000 watt systems. The contract would be for 15-20 years and there would be no cost to the Town. In return for the installation and maintenance of the system, Monolith sells the energy produced back to the town at a 25% per kilo watt hour savings from the current National Grid charge. The estimated savings to the town would be 15.00 per month but Tyler said that the important thing is that the Town is using alternative energy. He mentioned that he got the solar panels from China and they were the highest quality solar panels. There were a few residents in the Town that had questions about American made solar panels and even what the benefit to the Town would be due to such a small savings.

Communications

Supervisor Watkins mentioned that he had talked with the State Transportation Department about the condition of State Route 372 and they will be working on doing rehab on it, resurfacing the black top. There was a bank failure that was fixed and also on 372 by Brown’s they will be cutting the bank back.

Unfinished Business

Residents that were present at the Town Board meeting questioned the purpose of the dump law and whether the Town should have a dump law at all. The Supervisor asked if the residents thought that they wanted to just go by the State Law as it already existed. He suggested that they look at the State law before they agree to it. It was mentioned that the Town Board is pursuing this to try and give some of the power back to the local government and away from the state which does not prevent dumps of this nature. Councilman Skiff mentioned again that his intent was to prevent the dumping of fracking waste in the Town of Cambridge through this new dump law. He said if the residents want they can forget the dump law, he does not want controversy. Many of the residents present had problems with this law as written and they said that it was too involved and very long. Councilwoman Fedler did mention that the law that is written is much bigger than what they originally wanted. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned again that the board could have left the public out and passed the law amongst the board members but they

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wanted the public to be involved. Rani Bass a resident of the Town asked that they send the law back to Mr. Keller the Town Attorney and have him fix the simple errors. Some suggested that the law be sent back, rewritten and that residents give more suggestions as to what changes to make.

Per the request of the Supervisor, Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read an article that was given to her by a resident of the Town. The article was about a woman who was injured due to meandering livestock. Karen Hastings was injured when her van hit a cow on a public road on County rt. 53 in North Bangor, a hamlet near the Canadian border. Lower courts rejected Hastings claims against Sauve as well as William Delarm, presumed owners of the cow, applying the strict liability standard for domestic animals that inflict injuries. This article was related to the Animal Control law that was thrown out after presented to the residents of the Town of Cambridge.

Supervisor Watkins mentioned that Don Schneider Sr. former owner of Cambridge Valley Machinery was present at the meeting and mentioned that CVM attorneys had no objection to the law as written. Resident Ashleigh Morris asked the Board if any of the laws that they wanted to base their law on had held up in court. It was suggested that maybe they review them, this could be a possible starting point for the Town Board. It was suggested by another resident of the Town to scrap this law, to have the Town Board rewrite the law that they want and to have the Town Attorney review the new law. The Board decided to create a simplified version of the dump law by using the 2nd draft and a simplified version of one of the other Towns laws.

County Report

Supervisor Watkins mentioned again the Dump Stickers and how there was 2 weekends left to be reimbursed for them.

Supervisor Watkins said that he would be away for the Memorial Day Parade, but he asked if any Town Board members were interested in participating. It was left that there would be possible participation in the Parade, because many Town Board members had conflicts.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>