

Town Board Meeting
May 13, 2024

The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Cambridge was duly called, Monday 13, 2024 at the Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler

Councilman Larry Carrino

Councilman Robert McIntosh

Councilman Bruce Bailey

Councilman Gretchen Wilmot

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Jim Buckley Highway Superintendent, Jim Morris Eagle Newspaper

Auditing of the Bills

General	#66 – 83	\$ 3,239.67
Highway	#54 – 67	\$237, 992.21

Transfer of money for Town Clerk Lap Top

Resolution #25

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to transfer \$800.00 from the Town Clerk Contractual A1410.4 to Town Clerk Equipment A1410.2 for the purchase of the Town Clerk Lap Top.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Supervisor’s Report

Resolution #26

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the Supervisor’s Reports for March 2024 and April 2024.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Approving of the minutes

Resolution #27

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2024 Town Board Meeting.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Assessor Report

The Supervisor reported that Assessment Letters have been mailed, 6% trend has generated phone calls and questions through out the whole town. The whole town received this 6% trend and special franchise received 12% trend. Supervisor Fedler said just because the Assessment went up does not mean that the taxes will go up.

Spectrum Franchise Agreement

Supervisor Fedler reached out to Councilwoman Wilmot and asked if she would read the Spectrum Franchise agreement and compare to the last agreement that was signed in July of 2008. Councilwoman Wilmot compared the two and found them to be very similar, she said that nothing sticks out when compared. She did not see any problems with signing and passing a resolution to approve.

Resolution #28

Councilwoman Wilmot motioned, seconded by Councilman McIntosh to sign the Franchise agreement between the Town of Cambridge and Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, INC.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Planning Board Report

- Planning Board member Johnathan Shambo reported that he attended the Virtual Smart Solar webinar, he passed around the power point that was sent with the webinar and said that he could forward on to the members and the secretary. He mentioned that this webinar discussed pushing of the variable tilt so that sheep etc. can be put under the solar farm.
- There will be a training at Rensselaer County and the New York State Present “Planning and Zoning: An Introduction” and “Solar Energy Regulation” on Thursday, May 9, 2024 6:00 – 8:30 PM at the Hoosick Falls High School Cafeteria.
- Scott Clark reported that he had met with Councilman McIntosh, Councilman Carrino and Planning Board Chair Bill Tompkins from the Town of Greenwich, on Monday, April 30th. Basically, they wanted to pick his brain, he has been on the Planning Board for over 20 years. Greenwich has Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance; Village has Zoning Board of appeals that work with zoning to handle the issues that come up. Scott Clark said that they discussed the planting rules, landscaping, grazing, set back requirements, no more than 20% agricultural acres could be covered and the developer pays the cost over the 20 year. Easton does that Pilot and payment in lieu of taxes. They did discuss inspections and the volunteer fire dept. access. Our Town has no zoning official, also would have to have third party for inspections. Said that should make it clear that all cost born by developer or owner.
- It was also mentioned that comments need to be sent to NYSERDA soon, so that can wrap this up. Agreement any landowner want to put in solar farm if default landowner then have to sign over to the Town.
- **Sketch Plan Brian Larson**
Brian Larson and Brandon his son were at the meeting to present a minor subdivision at 65 King Rd, Tax Map #280.-2-32, this is a 5.25 acre parcel that he would like to subdivide off a acre for his son. They originally presented that they would like to keep easement Driveway, with Brandon having 150 ft. of road frontage. He mentioned that Jeff Hansen and Nate Gates would be helping with the clearing of the property and the driveway. Brian said that his son would like to bring in a single wide modular and maybe later possibly do a stick-built house. Scott Clark mentioned that would need to get a surveyor and have the layout of where the well/septic and all the property lines are. Mentioned that the requirement for the well and the septic is 100ft. They were given permission to move forward with the subdivision and the 150 ft road frontage was fine. It was mentioned that the County and the bank may want the driveways to be separate. Mr. Larson might want to consider more than an acre. It is important to make sure to plan enough acreage to fit in the well and the septic. Permission given to move forward and proceed with the survey.

Town Clerk Report

- Dell Lap Top has been ordered – same Lap Top was purchased by a neighboring Town and recommended by Tom Darfler and Arek Gordon our Town Assessor. The purchase price is Government State Contract for \$982.18, Lap Top should be here Wednesday, 5/15. Have had many problems with current lap top and even more problems with DEC site printing hunting and fishing licenses. Hopeful that this new lap top will help fix some of the problems.
- Contacting different companies getting quotes on the software/programs for the Clerk to Supervisor. So far, we have information from Edmunds, Harris Computers some info has been sent and will be doing a demo tomorrow 5/14 at 1:00 pm – Sales Manager Alison did say that they will do a course of financing payments if that is a route that the Town wants to take. Williamson and Law (the person that handles the software was at conference and will be back today, 5/13).
- Nancy Quell Dog Control has been in touch and she suggests to send out letters to residents on Conley Road in the 200's, she says has been issue with resident on Conley Road with dogs getting in Garbage (Question whether this could be a bear getting in garbage). Supervisor had concerns of singling out residents only in that area and sending these individual letters. She thinks that this should be investigated further before action is taken.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. reported that they have swept the roads. Gravel roads have been graded once. Hauled gravel to sections of some gravel roads, some patching done on paved roads. Paved a shim on Cobble Road and on Center Cambridge Road from County Rt. 59 to County Rt. 74. Will Shim the rest of Center Cambridge Road and hopefully part of Wright Road later this summer. Jim Buckley mentioned that he spoke with Brian Neilsen about building a Flat bed for the old pickup for \$2500.

Communications

Mail was received in regards to Application for a non-for profit – aged, grant applications to help charitable non gov't organizations benefit the elderly, example: hospital, nursing home, senior citizens, homes, churches. This has been received in the past, passed on to the food pantry, however not eligible.

Solar

Supervisor Fedler reported that Glen in charge of Washington County Fire had given her paperwork to review, on solar farms and fires. This paperwork was passed on to Councilman McIntosh and Carrino to review. There was a short discussion about solar. Councilman McIntosh handed out his notes that he compiled from the meeting on April 22, 2024 with Councilman Carrino, Scott Clark Planning Board Chair and Bill Tomkins, Chair of the Town of Greenwich, Planning Board Chair. The concern was how the

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permitting would be charged: Supervisor said she thinks that money is not received for solar farm until it is operational. Councilman McIntosh said that in one of the webinars that he attended the Lawyer suggested that not to sign the contract unless happy with date that you getting paid. Councilman Carrino is questioning is the pilot program fair? Councilman McIntosh suggested that every 5 years renegotiate the bond and make sure correct. Cost of the Decommissioning must be reevaluated. The Solar company must pay that fee. It was also suggested that Arek Gordon the Assessor be brought in on this discussion and regulations, etc. Councilman McIntosh was again asking on the limit on the Solar Moratorium? The Board was comparing Application fees for solar and Greenwich is \$500/mega watt and Jackson is \$10,000 for the application Fee.

There being no further business before the Tonw Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge