

Town Board Meeting
November 6, 2023

The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Cambridge was duly called, Monday, November 6, 2023 at Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Fedler

Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Councilman Robert McIntosh

Councilman Bruce Baily

Councilman Larry Carrino

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Jim Buckley Highway Superintendent, Susan Herrington, Howard Herrington, Alan Davis, Jim Morris from The Eagle, Jonathan Shambo, Anne Snyder

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM and the Supervisor led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Hearing for Local Law No. 5 Tax Cap Override

Supervisor Fedler opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 PM for the Local Law Number 5, 2023 to override the tax levy. The Supervisor went over that the Tax Cap Override Law, this law is submitted in case the 2024 Budget is over the Tax levy. The Supervisor said that this 2024 budget has increases that were out of their control: Health Insurance increases, Insurance has increased due to inflation cost, cost of cyber security Ins. (increased automatically), increases in staff/employee raises 5% increase. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the Town must be competitive in Highway wage, the Town is already short one Highway employee and two are retiring next year. In the budget in the past some increases are the reserves: Highway Garage, Emergency Bridge repair, Equipment reserve. The Supervisor asked three times of the public if there were any questions. The public Hearing was closed at 7:47 PM.

Public Hearing for the 2024 Budget

Supervisor Fedler opened the Public Hearing for the 2024 Preliminary Budget and the proposed Fire Contacts for 2024 at 7:48 PM. The Supervisor mentioned that a change would have to made to the 2024 Budget Alan Wrigley the current Town Attorney will be retiring as of December 31, 2023. Mr. Wrigley has referred the Town to two other Attorneys and they charge per hour. The Personal Services line for the Town Attorney will need to be raised. In order to not change the bottom line on the budget they will be taking \$9,000 from the Highway (Town Shed Reserve) A962 and moving to the Town Attorney Line A1420.1. This will make a total of \$10,000 in Town Attorney line A1420.1. If this money is not used by the end of the year then the money can be transferred back to the Reserve.

Alan Davis a resident of the Town had some questions on the Town Budget in regards to the Highway Crews pay. He asked where the extra money that was in the budget for Highway Personal Services was going? He thought that it was over budgeted, however it was later determined that money that he was figuring was for overtime and parttime employees.

Susan Herrington asked about the last page of the Budget which was the Assessor's page. She was wondering how the exemptions were split up amongst the residents of the Town. Supervisor Fedler said that this question came up at previous meeting and this would be a question for the Town Assessor.

The Supervisor asking three times and there being no further questions from the public the Public Hearing for the 2024 Town Budget was closed at 8:26 PM.

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Audit of the bills

General	#170 – 188	\$3,001.12
Highway	#117 – 131	\$50,871.93

It was questioned by Councilman McIntosh how many yards of sand were hauled total. The Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley reported 3400 yards at \$10.00/yard.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #54

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the Supervisor's Report from October 2023.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Approving of the minutes

Resolution #55

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2023 meeting as mailed.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Year End Meeting

Supervisor Fedler requested to set the year end meeting at tonight's meeting due to she will be out of Town (December 1st – 12th) for the December Town Board meeting. The Year end meeting for Town Board will be on December 27, 2023 at 10:00 AM, bills will be paid and anything else that comes before the Town Board will be addressed.

Planning Board position

The Town will need to advertise for the Planning Board position due to the Appointment Policy. Eric Pearson the current Planning Board Chair position will be up as of December 31, 2023. He is no longer interested in holding the position. There is one interested party in the position Jonathan Shambo and he has been coming to the meetings. The appointment will take place at the Year end meeting and the position will be appointed at the January 2024 Town Board meeting. The position will be advertised for one week in the paper.

Buskirk and Easton Fire Contract

Resolution #56

Councilwoman Wilmot motioned, seconded by Councilman McIntosh to give the Supervisor permission to sign the 2024 Fire Contract for Buskirk and Easton Fire Dept..

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Dog control Agreement

Resolution #57

Councilman Carrino motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to give the Supervisor permission to sign the 2024 Dog Control Agreement.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

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County Route 60 Contract

Resolution #58

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to give the Supervisor permission to sign the contract for 2024 County Route 60 as soon as it comes in.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Planning Board Report

- Planning Board meeting was held on November 2, 2023
- Gerald Moppert presented sketch plan for subdivision located at 382 Cobble Road, tax map #262.-2-5. Looking to subdivide the house and 2 acres from the 29.723 acre lot. The Planning Board requested that give more of a setback between the barn and the boundary line, must be 50 ft. set back from any structure. The tenant that is currently renting the house is interested in purchasing.
- Heard back from Pamela Landi and the Town Board must be the one that determines what is accepted as training credit.
- Eric Pearson the Planning Board Chair term is up as of December 31, 2023. Eric is no longer interested in being on the Planning Board.
- Next Planning Board meeting will be on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Town Clerk Report

- Selling many hunting licenses. DMP's are closed (Doe Permits) last day was October 1st
- Planning Board vacancy as of Jan. 1st. Must advertise so can appoint/interview for the December 11th meeting. (This was discussed earlier in minutes)
- Schedule the Year end meeting? Wednesday, December 27th? (This was discussed earlier in the meeting)

Highway Report

- Winter Sand is all hauled in.
- New culverts have been capped.
- Have done some grading and shoulder work.
- They have made some repairs to the salt shed.
- Jim Buckley the Highway Superintendent has registered for a CDL trainers' class on November 27th.
- Fuel Oil Bids
- Inventory of the Trucks have been sent to DEC – The State requested to determine how going to go to Electric Trucks.

Fuel Oil Bids

Resolution #59

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to give Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. permission to go out to bid for Fuel Oil for 2024.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

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Councilman McIntosh questioned if the current supplier was very reasonable. Yes, the current supplier was very reliable and treated the Town very well.

Approving the Tax Cap/Local Law No. 5

Resolution #60

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the Local Law No. 5, 2023 to override the tax levy.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Approving the 2024 Town Budget and Fire Contracts

Resolution #61

Councilwoman Wilmot motioned,

Seconded by Councilman Carrino,

Be It Resolved and Determined, that the Town of Cambridge Town Board adopts the 2024 Budget as amended and presented at the Public Hearing as the Annual Budget for the Town of Cambridge beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 with the budget figures of \$1,476,559 for total appropriations less \$487,794, less estimated revenues less \$170,000 unexpended balance resulting in \$818,765 to be raised by taxes.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cambridge Town Board accepts the fire contracts with the Village of Cambridge Fire Department for year of 2024 \$39,800, the Easton Fire Department \$9,250 and the Buskirk Fire Department \$19,263.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Privilege of the Floor

Resident Alan Davis was present at the meeting with a complaint of the condition of Center Cambridge Road by his residence and the condition of portions of the Cobble Road where culverts were replaced. He said that the culverts were left uncovered for 6 weeks on Center Cambridge Road and the Cobble. He mentioned that with the Highwaymen receiving a total of 10 % wage increase this is unacceptable. There has been damage to cars and blown tires. Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley mentioned that this has been taken care of, with being short handed and all the rain it has been hard to take care of the situation.

Town Board - Sample Solar Law

Councilman McIntosh requested to start discussing the Solar Law. Councilman McIntosh submitted to the Town Board a copy of the NYSERDA Model Solar Law. Solar Farms are being built up on Agricultural land. It was mentioned that these Solar farms when they become obsolete and abandoned, they do not want to be left to be an eye sore. Need a guarantee in writing of a Decommissioning agreement, in this agreement it should be stated that the land should be restored back to the original state. Need to consider putting in Law that if the Solar Farm is above a certain size automatically goes to the Town, possibly if under 25kw. The Planning Board would be the authority to require that Landowner/Solar developer must come before the Planning Board and get a permit. There would be hoops that they must jump through to obtain this permit. Supervisor Fidler said that there must be setbacks and buffers from neighboring landowners/residences. Councilman McIntosh said that if all board members

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could read this Draft Law and see if there are any improvements that they can think of to make. Main thing is to make sure the Decommissioning part in the law is addressed, the code standards must be met. There was the concern of fire hazards. It was mentioned that the Board would work on this Solar Law little by little at the end of each meeting.

There being no further business before the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge