

Regular Town Board Meeting
October 6, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 6th day of October at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

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

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Dieter Drake, Amy Drake, Christine (Tour of the Battenkill), Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, Will Moses CVRS, Jeanette Carman CVRS, Bruce Bailey

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	#176 – 192	\$ 1,901.38
Highway	#133 – 142	\$39,313.67

Approving the Supervisor's Report

Resolution #53

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

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Transfer

Resolution #54

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to transfer money from A1410.4 the Town Clerk's contractual to A1410.2 the Town Clerk's equipment for the upgrade on the computer in the amount of \$358.50.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

A change was needed for the ROA due to holidays not being included in the original for both Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk. A change was made to Term of Office for Assessor.

Standard Workday Resolution

Resolution #55

Councilman Ford motioned,
Seconded by Councilman McMurray,
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cambridge/30647 hereby established the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on time keeping system records or their record of activities.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

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See attached chart for the Standard Work Day and Reported Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials.

Approving of the Minutes
Resolution #56

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2014 Town Board Meeting with three corrections. The first correction being on page 4, sentence 4 They cleaned up a couple of trees that fallen down, it should read a couple trees that had fallen down. The second correction was on page 4 the next sentence The cemeteries have been moved, it should read mowed. The third correction was on page 2 under approving the Supervisor's report Councilman Skiff requested that he could get the report sooner than that day before the Board Meeting, it should read that he requested if he could get the Supervisor's report the day of the Board Meeting.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Tour of the Battenkill

Dieter Drake the head of the Tour of the Battenkill attended the Town Board Meeting to present some changes in the course. The race will now start and finish at the Washington County fairgrounds and the tentative date is April 18 & 19 2015. The amenities and the structure of the fairgrounds are set up perfect for the race with the bathrooms and the showers. The change in the mapping of the race will change the timing of the racers going through the Town of Cambridge. The roads that will be traveled in the Town of Cambridge will be the same: County Rt. 59A, County Rt. 74, Brownell Rd. Center Cambridge Rd. and Meeting House Rd.. Supervisor Fedler suggested to Dieter that they take advantage of the fairgrounds for parking RV's and camping sites. Dieter also suggested that they were always looking for host individuals and that they could charge any price that they would like.

Resolution #57

Councilwoman Herrington motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff for the Town of Cambridge to Support the Tour of the Battenkill for April 18 & 19, 2015.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad

Will Moses the director of the Rescue Squad and Jeannette Carman was present at the meeting thanking the Town Board for their support in the past. He mentioned that this year so far they have had 1500 calls and when Mary McClellan Hospital closed they had 400 calls yearly. They are also looking at having EMT classes and First responder classes this fall. They are also hoping to have the new ambulance delivered next week. Councilwoman Herrington asked if the Town of Cambridge was unable to give any money would that have any effect . Mr. Moses said yes, the money is always needed. He also mentioned that this could cause problems between towns if one is not contributing and the others are. The Town Board thanked them for attending the meeting and everyone at CVRS for their service.

Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis reported that everything was under control. There are four houses being built in the Town of Cambridge, he said that he is not counting the one on State Rt. 372. This house has been in the process of being built for a long time and everyone is questioning the reason it is taking so long.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported they hauled 3,315 yards of sand in 2 1/2 days with 3 trucks and the help of WhiteCreek. They have patched and shimmed Center Cambridge Road, Gannon, Stump road and Irish Lane with the help of the Village. The Town of Cambridge helped the Village do the same thing in return for their help. They also spent part of one day doing the hydraulic hose training. They have graded some of the dirt roads a couple weeks ago when they got rain so there was not a lot of dust. Hopefully they will get back to that this week depending on how much rain they get. The shoulders have been cut on Duell Hollow Road and King road. They have also started getting the trucks ready for winter. They have taken truck #3 down to Delurey's for inspection and a couple of issues that needed to be worked on.

Purchase of the Loader Warranty

The discussion on the extended warranty on the loader was tabled to this month. A decision on the extended warranty must be made so that the warranty does not lapse. Councilman McMurray asked how much money was spent on the old loader when there were electrical problems last year? Highway Superintendent Davis said that the repairs to the old loader were approximately \$6000. Because of the expense of the electronics on the loader the Town Board was leaning towards the longest warranty. Councilman Ford said that it would be wise to choose the longest warranty that they could depending on how long the Town is planning on keeping the loader. Highway Superintendent Davis said that they would keep the loader over 5 years. Councilman Ford said even if they kept the loader for 10 years it would be well worth it. It was decided that the best decision on the loader warranty would be 60 months/5,000 hours (one year of this warranty is already used and the loader now has 750 hours).

Resolution #58

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to purchase the 60 mo./5000 hour warranty for the Doosan DL200 loader in the amount of \$6653.55 which will come from the Equipment Reserve.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

The money from the 1994 Truck which was sold on Auctions International will be put in the Equipment Reserve.

Resolution #59

Councilwoman Herrington motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to put the money from the sale of the 1994 Truck in the equipment Reserve, which will be used towards the purchase of the warranty.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

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Highway Superintendent Alan Davis said that he would have fuel oil bids for November's meeting. The ad will be put in the paper for this month and he would also contact some other fuel oil companies for bids.

It was also mentioned that Peckhams would be having an open house on October 16th, Kathy Marchione and Elise Stefnik would be attending. This would be in the plant in Hudson Falls and Board members and Supervisors were invited the time would be 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Assessor's Report

Supervisor Fedler read the report that assessor Rachael Holbrook submitted to the board. It was reported that New York State of Real Property is conducting another round of Star renewals for those people who had applied for a Basic Star Exemption on or before March 1, 2014. They will receive a letter with the information. Exemption renewal forms for Ag, Enhanced, and Senior in November and December. The deadline will still be March 1st. As for the School increase, she has been researching this issue. It seems that by changing the equalization rate it has made an increase in tax rates. Determining the equalization has many different steps. What you claim can affect you not only one year but others also. In 2013 the assessor wanted the town to be able to claim 100% even though the actual rate was at 106.78%. With the State they say you can have a grace factor of 5% either plus or minus. So if you are a town with a 95% you could technically claim 100% and in the reverse a town with 105% can claim 100%. The assessor determines the rate and follows a formula. If the state doesn't agree with your findings then they will use what they will determine. The town has a grievance time. The previous assessor tried to fight it and it was denied. So even though the assessor has some control the State has to accept it. The assessor tried to fix things by lowering 900 parcels before the next taxable status date. When the figures came in they were at 102.00 which allow me to claim 100%. The effects of the LOA are very hard to understand. The State is pushing towns to stay at 100%. I will continue to check the sales and hopefully this roll year it will be better for all.

There were about 5 people whose Ag renewal form was not sent out due to the computer removing the term year. Two of them contacted me before grievance and I was able to issue a correction. The rest didn't come in until after they received the School bill. I have asked Laura (County Director) to find any opinions of counsel that might say either way whether how this situation is handled.

Town Clerk

The information that was discussed last month on the Civic Plus creating a website and personalizing it for the Town. The Town Clerk has spoken with Jenny the representative for this area and the amount for this service is in the range of \$8,000 – 20,000. It was decided that this was out of budget for the Town at this time, however the Town Clerk did have the representative leave us on the email list. Jenny the representative mentioned that there was a chance that grants would be available down the road.

The law was filed with the Secretary of State for the Best Buy Purchasing. The Town Clerk also reported that the information has been submitted to the county for the change of the speed limit on Lee's Crossing. Councilman Ford mentioned that in the future that if we are going to change the speed limit on the whole road then they should get input from some of the other residents on the road. The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that she had an upgrade on Town Clerk computer from the windows XP to the Windows 7, which has made a huge difference on the

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running of the computer. The Town Clerk approached the Board requesting to close the office on October 15, 2014 because she had a prior commit and neither deputy Town Clerk could fill in for her. The Town Board said that was fine to just put a note on the door that the office was closed. The Board had concerns because this happens constantly that neither deputy can fill in. The Town Supervisor said that the Town Clerk has taken the incentive in already talking to her deputies. The Town Clerk said that she is addressing the situation and will have more information for the November meeting.

Planning Board

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported in Sally Eddy's absence. The Town of Cambridge Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, October 2, 2014, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. There were 5 members present along with Secretary Sally Eddy and 8 people from the public.

1. A public hearing was held and Final Approval granted to George F. Murray for an 11.9 acre subdivision located north of County Rt. 59.
2. Granted sketch plan approval to David Hamilton for a 3 parcel subdivision of the Helen Hamilton Estate. The property is identified by tax map #279.-1-7, is located along both sides of Whiteside Road and consists of 135.3 acres. Mr. Hamilton was directed to proceed with the survey.
3. Each received a communication about an upcoming workshop to be held at the county building on Wednesday, October 22 from 5 -9 PM. It's being sponsored by Washington County and NYS Department of State and is free of charge. The topics covered will be Farmland Protection and Agricultural Viability; and Site Plan Review. Several expressed interest in attending.

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that any Board Members that wanted to attend this workshop on October 22nd from 5-9 PM were welcome to attend.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Fedler reported that when Washington County Residents renew their vehicle's they should renew in person or by mail to the Washington County DMV because when you mail to Utica, NY they receive the money for the retention fee. When the renewal is mailed in to Utica, NY the county does not receive the retention fee. Our local Department of Motor Vehicles can still process the mail-in renewals. The county receives a 12.7% retention fee for each renewal that is done in thier office. The money is then turned over to the county as revenue. The complete renewal application can be mailed or brought to Washington County DMV, 383 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York 12828.

EOC called Supervisor Fedler about setting up a food box in the Town Hall and they would pick it up on a weekly basis for food pantry. The food will be spread out locally.

LDLC had open house for businesses to showcase themselves, contact and mingle at Christ the King at last Thursday.

The Supervisor received a letter of interest from another lawyer. She has no problem with the current lawyer she is putting this in our file.

County Report

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The Supervisor has been spending many days at the county. The last two weeks each committee has met but they also had a joint meeting with finance. Each department head came and presented their goals and budget. They have the rough budgets for each department. Supervisor Fedler also mentioned that they had a presentation from Homefront, which was mentioned last month by the Town Clerk. They offer quick grants for home repairs and expenses. For Correspondence Glens Falls Hospital sent out a reality check thing encouraging and promoting Tabaco free communities.

Town Board

Councilwoman Herrington reported that the Communities NOW did not get enough people to go forward. May have to revise the time and the day so that they can get more people. Training so that community members can stop abuse in the community. Councilwoman Herrington mentioned that the American Legion did have a lunch for the Veterans and she had been in touch with them about her ideas for recognizing the Veterans in our Town. She has been in touch with Wayne Laverty from the Legion and he has the list of Veterans from the Town.

Councilwoman Herrington made a recommendation to the Town Board to create a committee for the Comprehensive Plan. Her suggestion was these committee members not be Town Board or the Planning Board members. Suggestion of forming a group with people in favor and opposing the Plan. This group would then go through the Plan and see if there are parts of that Plan that can be accepted. She said that all five of the Town Board members must be on board with this. Supervisor Fedler said that they were not putting a motion on the floor at this time. Councilman McMurray said that he was not condemning or condoning the Comprehensive Plan at this time. He said that he has done research on them and he has lately talked with Tammy Skellie-Gilbert from the Town of Jackson. They are trying to do their own plan and they are doing it with the Town Board and the Planning Board. They are doing it without any grants and it is quite interesting in what they are doing and he is not sure how it will turn out. When creating the committee need to take into consideration the people that don't want the Plan. He says that there are two sides to this when you are doing these plans, you are giving up rights as landowners and adding governmental expenses to this. When the original committee did the survey in the Town it came back that they did not want zoning in this Town and without zoning the Plan is worthless. Councilman Ford suggested that in the next election to put this up for a vote. Councilman McMurray said that there are a lot of people that don't vote. The board was back in forth with what the correct way to do this.

Supervisor Fedler said that they would continue to research and suggested that Councilwoman Herrington should look at the appendixes that were referenced in the Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Fedler said right now the Town Board has the budget to concentrate on but she did say that she would look into it and see if they could meet as a workshop to look into things.

Board of Assessment Review

The BAR position must be advertised because Vance Bateman finished out a term for someone and that term is up as of October 1, 2014. The Town Board can either reappoint him or another individual but the Appointment Policy in place in the Town says that they must advertise for this position 30 days. A letter of interest must be submitted even if Vance Bateman would like to reapply. The Town Board decided to advertise for this position and also for an alternate position in case one of the members is unable to attend.

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Supervisor Fedler suggested that a second budget workshop be scheduled in case it is needed. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the first budget workshop is Thursday, October 9th at 7:30 PM. The deadline date for the Public Hearing is the Thursday after the Election Day which is November 6th. The Town Board meeting for November will be a week early due to Veterans Day, so the date of the board meeting will be on Monday, November 3rd.

It was suggested that the second Budget workshop be October 15th at 7:30 PM and a tentative date of October 27th at 7:30 PM for the Public Hearing.

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt presented the 2015 Tentative Budget to the Town Board.

There being no further business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>