

Town Board Meeting  
April 8, 2013

At the Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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, Scott Keller Town Attorney, Dick Sutherland, Ray Gardiner, Rani Bass, Don Herrington, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, James Morris, Henry Peabody, LaVerne Davis, Bob Hamilton, Terry Hamilton, Elton Balch, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Liam McMurray, Holly McMurray, Dave Craig, Ted Berndt, Robbie McIntosh, Bert Stern speaker about cell towers, Nancy Mabeus, Ron Ford, Betty and Russell Lacroix from the town of Easton, Jim Buckley, Tony Millington, Bonnie Farrell, Susan Herrington, Don Schneider Sr. and Jim Moore from the Cambridge Valley Machine Shop

Auditing of the Bills

General	#62 – 83	\$9,704.46
Highway	#44 – 53	\$5,925.14

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

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution # 17

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2013 Town Board Meeting with 2 corrections. On page 3 under Town Board Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that she does not have an opinion one way or the other, instead of option. On page 6 the bottom paragraph that discusses the Town Board moving on to Planning for the Town. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that she would like it to be in the record that at the August 2012 special meeting with Darlene DeVoe the board came to a consensus that after the dump law they would move forward with the Planning for the Town (Comprehensive Plan).

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #18

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the Supervisor's Report from March 2013.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Cell Tower

Bert Stern from Tower North was present at the Town Board Meeting to make people from the public aware that they were trying to put a cell tower up in Coila. They have had discussions with landlords and property owners in that area. They are trying to find the least impact to the community visually and best location for coverage. This cell

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tower will have 4G capability depending on the carrier that you have. There was a question from a resident of the town why Coila, when the terrain is so low. The gentleman from Tower North said that actually they tend to set their towers lower, he said that Coila is the main target and 372 going north towards Greenwich. He said that it would be built for four carriers and that AT&T and Verizon are the carriers right now, and possibly Hudson Valley Wireless.

The Supervisor announced that on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM Kathy Marchione would be having a Town Hall style meeting in the Highway Garage. She would also like to meet with the Town Board at 6:00 PM.

#### Assessor Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported on the Star Exemptions, because of the article that was in the Post Star many residents were calling with concerns. This change in the Star Exemptions does not affect this year filing for basic Star Exemption. The re-registering for the Star exemption deadline will be the March 1, 2014. Town Assessor Jeffrey Jackson has posted information pertaining to this subject on his office door.

The Town Supervisor announced that Joe Caron that served on the BAR Board Assessment Review Board has resigned. The position must be advertised in the paper and the board can then appoint someone else. Councilwoman Fedler had concern that this person would not have their schooling by the date of the Grievance Day. The Town Supervisor said that the board has a quorum with just two board members. The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt would place the ad in the Eagle for 2 weeks and then the board would decide.

Supervisor Watkins mentioned that the Planning Board would receive credit for the meeting with Joe Pedersen if the Town Board passed a resolution stating that.

#### Resolution #19

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Council McMurray  
The Planning Board meeting with Joe Pedersen as a special Speaker from the County is recognized as the yearly training for the Planning Board Members.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes - 0

#### Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the taxes had been returned to the county Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and the total amount collected in taxes was \$1,612,416.00. The unpaid taxes that were returned to the county were \$273,246.47.

The Town Clerk also reported that she had received a notice from the county about the change over of the transfer station. The following notice was read: Due to the sale of the transfer stations in Washington County, anyone who is purchasing stickers, should buy only what stickers you need for the next two weeks. The last day that the County operates the stations, is April 20, 2013. After that Earth Waste, and Metals will be running the stations. If you have stickers left after the 20<sup>th</sup>, the company will accept them

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for a limited time, but they cannot be on the bags. The stickers must be handed to the attendant. The new owners will be accepting cash and credit cards, to begin with, and at a later date, will incorporate checks. Refunds for unused stickers can be obtained at the stations ON SATURDAYS ONLY. Through June 1 or at the County Treasurer's office.

#### Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler reported that she had spoke with Val Reagan from the village and the Fire Department. They are still looking for help from anyone that is interested in helping or contributing to the fund raising projects. They will also be getting together and having a meeting and anyone that is interested in the capital fund raising project should let her know. Councilwoman Fedler had a gentleman from the Town of White Creek contact her and he was willing to donate percentage of product to the Fire Department. It was also mentioned that maybe instead of donations maybe trade donations, or just help and time.

Councilman Skiff mentioned the Solar panel meeting that they attended at the school. He said that it was very involved and if the Town is interested they could have a representative come speak. The Company will install and maintain the solar panels for 20 years. Must sign a 20 year contract. The Town would pay 75% less for electric but would still have to pay Nationalgrid for the line. Councilwoman Fedler asked what the initial cash layout would be. There would be no initial cash layout. The company Monolith would do the maintenance and the town would have to do nothing, except sign the 20 year contract. It was decided that they would have the Monolith come and do the presentation.

#### Highway Superintendent

The last storm was on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Highwaymen have graded the dirt roads and the lanes will be done later. They are also continuing to work on the sweeping and getting the intersections done. The truck #5 replaced the break cam and a bracket. The culvert on Tingue Road was replaced it collapsed when they were grading. Three of the plows have been painted and there are 2 to go. They will be done for the year. The Highway Superintendents went to Albany in February to lobby for chips money. The chips money has been announced and the Town of Cambridge will receive extra money in the amount of \$33,000 for a total of \$151,000. The Highway Superintendent is requesting permission from the board to go to Highway School in Ithaca in June.

#### Resolution #20

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to give Highway Superintendent Alan Davis permission to go to Highway School in Ithaca in June.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis announced that there had been a personnel change in the Highway Department, had to let an individual go a couple weeks ago. Mr. Davis hired an individual today, he had eleven applicants apply. He mentioned that he only had one application from the town. He hired Daune Hahn who has worked many years

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driving concrete truck for Collins. He will start two weeks from today which would be April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Planning Board Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported in Sally Eddy's absence. At the March 14, 2013 meeting six members were present along with approximately 15 people from the public including Supervisor Watkins and Councilman Robin McMurray.

One item of business was addressed. Surveyor Peter Bell spoke to the board on behalf of Lillian & Luther Everly regarding their proposed 25 acre minor subdivision located on Duell Hollow Rd. Mr. Bell asked if the public hearing on the subdivision could be held at the April 4 meeting. The subdivision could be held at the April 4 meeting rather than the May 2 meeting since there is an interested buyer who wants to close by May 1, 2013. The survey will be submitted at April 4 meeting. The subdivision approval process would have to be completed in April so as to have the paper work in place in order to be able to close by the May 1 deadline. The board unanimously approved to move the public hearing up one month to the April 4 meeting to accommodate the Everly's situation. A sketch plan for the 25 acre subdivision was presented and approved by the board at the December 2012 meeting and, since the planning board is already familiar with the property in question, they feel they can fulfill the Everly's request.

John Pedersen, a resident of the Town of Jackson, was invited by the Cambridge planning board to speak at the meeting to share his knowledge and expertise in planning matters. Mr. Pedersen served on the Jackson Planning Board for many years and has been a member of the county planning board for the past five years. For twenty five years he has been attending training seminars in planning provided by the Department of State. He has a college education and owns his own business. Mr. Pedersen spoke on many planning topics and issues and shared some of the situations he has experienced and how they were dealt with. There was opportunity for questions throughout the evening from the public and board members. Chairman Pearson thanked Mr. Pedersen for his willingness to come and share his knowledge and information.

For the April 4, 2013 meeting there were 7 members present and 4 people from the public.

Two items of business were addressed:

1. The public hearing for the Everly's 25 acre subdivision was not held because the interested buyer backed out. There is, now, no necessity to expedite the subdivision process. However, the Everly's have decided to move forward, therefore, the normal procedure for subdivision approval will be followed. The preliminary survey was submitted and approved. A public hearing will be held at the May 2, 2013 meeting.
2. George Murray and His son Michael submitted a sketch plan for a 29 acre subdivision of George Murray's property. Mr. Murray's property consists of a total of 128.0 acres spanning County Rt. 59 and English Rd. The proposed subdivision is located on English Rd. and an adjacent landowner is interested in purchasing it. The sketch plan met planning board approval.

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In other matters, the board expressed appreciation concerning the presentation John Pedersen made last month. It was very informative. The board is considering bringing in other speakers at future meetings.

#### Code Enforcement

none

#### Communications

Supervisor Watkins introduced Don Schneider Sr. and Jim Moore from Cambridge Valley Machine Shop they employ the most employee's of any business of the Town of Cambridge. Mr. Schneider said that collectively they are the largest employer and that they currently have 145 employees. They are possibly adding on to the current facility. The company started in Cambridge; he grew up in Cambridge and has a huge attachment to the Town. He mentioned that he still owns all the real estate. He would like to keep the company in Cambridge and that is why he is at the meeting. Jim owns the company; Don Schneider Jr. is the manufacturing manager. Mr. Schneider had run the company for 22 years and then sold it. Cambridge Valley Machine just experienced on April 1<sup>st</sup> 25 years in business.

It was mentioned by the Supervisor about the auction that the NYS OGS (Office of General Services) would be having. They have requested the use of the Town Hall for Wednesday, May 22, 2013 from approximately 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM to hold a real estate auction.

Supervisor mentioned that the insurance policy was not received yet from Dieter Drake for the Tour of the Battenkill which will take place this weekend. It was mentioned that it was possible that maybe the policy would be received later in the week.

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read a letter from Don Letizia a concerned resident from the Town. The letter referred to the continued speeding and the unnecessary air brakes by some of the Goulet drivers, along CR 59 and the JCT of Belle Rd. He also mentioned the deterioration that is being brought to the local community by this "recycling" operation is shameful. The Town Clerk informed the public that Don Letizia has recently within the last week put his house up for sale and will be moving by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month.

#### Unfinished Business

The Supervisor said that they would be discussing the Dump Law this evening and the public would be able to voice their opinion. The Dump Law was reviewed line for line and open for discussion at that moment.

Nancy Mabeus mentioned that she had a one page letter that addressed the Dump Law and requested of the Supervisor that she be able to read it when the time was right. Ray Gardinear a resident of the Town asked why they were addressing a dump law at this time and he questioned if the town had a dump law already. The Supervisor said that

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they have a dump law but it only pertains to burning. The Supervisor says that he has talked to DEC and the concern is that Town of Cambridge has no zoning or Comprehensive Plan. The Supervisor says that if someone tries to bring fracking waste into the Town we have nothing to protect us.

Councilman Skiff said originally it had started out with wanting some law to protect against the fracking material being hauled in. He said that in Pennsylvania they are hauling the brine from the fracking material and they are trucking it up to Watertown. He said that now they have found some town on the New York and Pennsylvania border.

The public is questioning why the dump law is so involved when they thought all that was needed was a one page law. Councilwoman Fedler said that it was mentioned at last August 2012 Special Meeting that people wanted a dump law to protect the Town. She said that the Town Board members looked at some short ones and that was what they were leaning towards. The Town Attorney created a law and he represents the town board and the public. The Town Board has presented this law and she said this can be done two ways: the law can be passed around forever among the board members and they can do the cutting or creating of the law. The other method can be that the Town Board can go over this initial draft of the law with the public piece by piece. This way the public has 100% participation and no one is trying to hide anything from the public.

Councilwoman Fedler started by going over this rough draft of the dump law line for line. The first line Ron Ford asked who determines what looks good as far as “clean, wholesome and attractive” or “aesthetically pleasing”. It was suggested that the attractive and the aesthetically pleasing part be taken out. It was agreed that everyone wanted a clean environment with the vital importance on the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Cambridge.

The glossary of definitions also raised questions, especially the term brine which could be used in relation to pickling. Councilman Skiff mentioned that “brine” in this case was in relation to fracking by-product. Some residents of the Town also voiced concern that the law could possibly restrict the property owner’s rights to generate their own trash, compost piles and other waste. It was suggested by many that they be specific in regards to commercial dumps.

Many also said that the section of the law under exceptions restricted the farmer’s rights. Resident Rani Bass said that this section would not allow farmers to spread manure on their own fields. Don Schneider Sr. former owner of Cambridge Valley Machine was present at the meeting with Jim Moore. They voiced their concerns. They mentioned that they were already subject to numerous state and government regulations however not every business would follow the law. Ashleigh Morris a resident suggested that the law as written has moved away from the original intent. She mentioned that it was never meant to restrict business it was only meant to apply to commercial dump business. The Town Attorney Scott Keller said that the law was meant to determine which types of business would be undesirable for the Town of Cambridge. Business owners could be required to come before the board for permission. This brought up further discussion whether or not residents would be considered commercial if they were to sell eggs on the roadside or firewood. It was decided that the Town Attorney would take the suggestions

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and construct the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the dump law and will try to have it available to the public for the May meeting.

The Town of Cambridge will have the Town wide Clean up day on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The bags will be available at the Town of Cambridge Highway Garage. The Highway Department will do roadside pickup on the following Monday.

Nancy Mabeus a resident of the Town read a letter for the record about the dump law and the Old Comprehensive Plan.

Dave Craig a resident of the Town gave the Town Board a resolution that he would like to see the Town Board pass. The resolution is against Regional Sustainability and the Agenda 21. The board chose to look over the resolution and make a decision later.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully yours,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>