

Regular Town Board Meeting  
January 9, 2012

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 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, Danny Thomas, Dan Schmidt, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Astrid Davis, Frank Ziehm, Don Herrington, Rani Bass, Henry & Harriet Peabody, Town Justice Janet DeCarlo, Ted Berndt, Leon Barkley, Holly McMurray, Don Jepson, Nancy Mabeus, Dick Battistoni, Bob Hamilton, Terry Hamilton, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Meaghan Wilkins from the Eagle

Audits of the Bills

Bills were audited prior to the meeting at 7:00 PM.

General	#1 – 22	\$9,880.44
Highway	#1 – 6	\$5,226.73

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order immediately after auditing the bills and led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #13

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes as mailed for the December 19, 2011 meeting and the Year End Meeting on December 27, 2011.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Presentation

Robbie McIntosh a resident was present at the meeting to present a plaque to Frank Ziehm for his many years served on the Town Board.

Resolution #14

Councilwoman Fedler motioned,  
Councilman McMurray seconded,  
Title: A resolution to recognize Franklin C. Ziehm.

Whereas: Franklin C. Ziehm has served on the Cambridge Town Council from 1984 – 1995 and again from 2000 to the present, and

Whereas: Franklin C. Ziehm has consistently tried to represent the interests of the people of Cambridge, now, therefore,

Be It Resolved that, on behalf of the People of Cambridge, the Cambridge Town Council does hereby recognize Franklin C. Ziehm’s 24 years of service with gratitude and appreciation.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes - 0

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Aged Exemption

Supervisor Watkins had mentioned at previous meetings about a raise in the Aged Exemptions from \$16,000 to \$18,000.

Public Hearing opened at 7:33 PM.

Public Hearing closed at 7:34 PM.

Resolution #15

Resolution by Councilman Skiff,  
Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler,

TITLE: To Provide for Tax Exemptions for Persons 65 of Age and Older

Resolved, that pursuant to the provisions of Real Property Tax Law Section 467, that property owned by persons 65 years of age or older within the Town of Cambridge is hereby exempted from taxation by the Town of Cambridge pursuant to the following schedule:

Percentage Assessment

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Valuation Exempt from Taxation</u>
Up to 18,000	50%
18,000.01 – 18,999.99	45%
19,000.00 – 19,999.99	40%
20,000.00 – 20,999.99	35%
21,000.00 – 21,899.99	30%
21,900.00 – 22,799.99	25%
22,800.00 – 23,699.99	20%
23,700.00 – 24,599.99	15%
24,600.00 – 25,499.99	10%
25,500.00 – 26,399.99	5%

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

Transfers

Resolution #16

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, seconded by Councilman Skiff to transfer funds from contingent A1990.4 to Town Justice contractual A1110.4 in the amount of \$35.23. The 2<sup>nd</sup> transfer from contingent A1990.4 to Town Hall, contractual A1620.4 in the amount of \$406.54 to cover Accounts Payable (2011). The 3<sup>rd</sup> transfer was from contingent A1990.4 to Highway Garage, Contractual A5132.4 in the amount of \$1,001.63 to cover Accounts Payable (2011 bills). The 4<sup>th</sup> transfer was from Snow removal, Personal Services DA5142.1 to Snow Removal, Contractual DA5142.4 in the amount of \$1,148.44 to cover Accounts Payable (2011 bills).

Vote:                      Aye – 5                      Noes – 0

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Supervisor's Report

Resolution #17

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, seconded by Supervisor Watkins to approve the December 2011 Supervisor's Report.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Councilwoman Fedler made everyone aware that she had spoke with Margaret Shaw the Clerk to the Supervisor about the auditing of the books. Margaret Shaw and Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk would have there books available to be audited by the Town Board on February 8, 2012 between the hours of 9:30 and 2:30. At this time any questions will be answered for the new Town Board Members on how the Books work.

Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor reported that she had received a call from Terry Dansin from Cambridge, offering AFLAC to local businesses. She wondered if the Town would be interested in offering AFLAC to its employees. It would not cost the Town anything, and it is strictly on a volunteer basis if employees wish to take it. The Town would need 3 or more to have a Payroll rate. Terry would be willing to give a 20 minute presentation if anyone is interested in AFLAC. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis stated that he would like to her what she had to say. He said that he would contact Margaret and let her know.

Assessor's Report

All Ag, Star and Senior Exemption renewals have been sent out and are due in the Assessor's office March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Town Clerk

The taxes have gone out and the money has started to come in. Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt proposed to the Town Board to purchase a Lap Top Computer for the office. She suggested that the Lap Top would be a good idea so that the DEC computer could be changed over. This would enable us to use the wireless internet and the Local Net for the DEC computer could be canceled. This would save approximately \$180.00 a year. It had been discussed before combining everything on the one computer however the concern was if the computer were to crash.

The Town Board and the public questioned if there was really a need for 2 computers or even if a Lap Top was needed. The Town Clerk explained the problem with the DEC computer and how slow it was a hunting license time. When tax time is here and the deputy and the Town Clerk are trying to work at the same time it is difficult. Councilwoman Fedler also questioned whether or not we would be able at budget time with this new computer to project the budget on the screen so the public could view. The Town Clerk would look into this at the time of purchasing the computer.

Resolution #18

Councilwoman Fedler motioned,  
Seconded by Councilman McMurray,

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Be It Resolved that the Town Clerk has the permission of the Town Board to purchase a Lap Top Computer for the use in the Town Clerk's office.

Vote:           Ayes – 5           Noes – 0

Councilwoman Fedler had questioned how much the Town Clerk expected to spend on this Lap Top. The Town Clerk thought that she could get a Lap Top for the amount of \$600.

Councilwoman Fedler amended her resolution.

Resolution #19

Councilwoman Fedler motioned,  
Seconded by Councilman Ford,

The above resolution #18 was amended to read that the Town Clerk has permission to purchase a Lap Top Computer limited to the amount of \$600.00.

Vote:           Ayes – 5           Noes – 0

Town Board

On January 11-13 2012 the newly elected and appointed Town Board members will be attending the schooling in Albany.

Planning Board

There was no Planning Board report the meeting was changed to Thursday, January 12 @ 7:30 PM.

Code Enforcement

LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement reported that he attended a class on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January.

Highway Superintendent Report

Two of the Highway men spent 3 days helping the village with tree removal. Three of the Highway men also spent 3 days helping White Creek with tree removal. The Highway Garage office was painted, and the trucks bodies where scraped and touched up. January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> the roads were sanded. Also the new tires were mounted and holes on the dirt roads were patched.

Highway Superintendent wrote up paperwork for the Town Board on Tire prices that were bought the end of the 2011. The Highway ended up buying Goodyear tires from Rouse. Also on the sheet are the Recap prices which were through state contract. The Spreader Chains which were purchased from Chemung because they had the best prices.

Mr. Davis also mentioned that some lights will have to be replaced in the shop. He brought it up to the board that the Town of Jackson had an energy audit done, this was in regards to using solar power. He talked to Dick Wilson about this and he said that the first thing that has to be done is that Nationalgrid will come in and do an energy audit.

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The Town of Jackson received a grant it was a 2 year pay back, Highway Supt. Davis stated that he would like to look into this more about applying for a grant he stated that he had talked to Brian Gillis and he thought that it was a 90 % grant.

Highway Supt. Davis also stated that he would like to look at possibly setting up an outside boiler for the Highway Garage and the Town Hall. He stated that last year it cost approximately \$5,000 to heat the Highway Garage including the wood that they burn. He is not sure about how much it cost the Town Hall. It was thought that if they were to salvage everything that they cut then they would have penalty of wood to use. There was a question about whether or not there would be an issue with the smoke. He thought that if the smoke stack was high enough there would not be a problem.

Resolution #20

Supervisor Watkins motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to give Highway Superintendent Davis permission to go forward with researching an outdoor wood furnace.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

The last meeting John Ray's fuel prices were discussed and Alan Davis brought to the board that last year they paid .34 per gallon over rack for the kerosene for the shop and fuel oil for the Town Hall. Glen White came and they are going to do the same thing 34 cents over rack. Last year diesel was 8 cents over and this year it is 25 cents over. His question was how to find out what state contract prices are for diesel. Supervisor Watkins had said that you could go on line and find out what state contract amount was. The Highway Superintendent stated that he would look into the State Contract price because John Ray really jumped the diesel price up.

Part time rate for experienced MEO

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis voiced his concerns with the amount paid to Gene Gienza now that he is retired. Alan explained the worksheet that he had done for the part time rate, he took the full time guys and included Gene at the lower rate. He also looked at the overtime for the last three years and he averaged this. The average overtime is \$8,000 and you add this up using the highest paid man and the total amount is \$147,263. This amount that he came up with was figured by using Gene for only 2 days a week at the lower rate. Budgeted for 2012 was \$166,295 so there is about \$19,000 left in uncommitted money. If Gene's pay is raised this will only cost the town \$2,200, figuring on 832 hours. These figures were done by using Gene for 2 days a week.

The concern of Councilwoman Fedler and Supervisor Watkins was that this new amount paid would not be for just any Part time person hired in. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis stated that his understanding was that they would have to go through the county and set something up permanently, stating that it would be \$14.00 per hour experienced part time MEO. The Supervisor stated yes through Civil Service.

Councilman McMurray questioned if traditionally the highway department used the part time help this much. It was his understanding that because they were short a full time

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man in the fall they changed the hourly wage for experienced part time help. The question now was whether or not the part time help was needed, and if in the past the part time help was needed this much. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis stated that in the past part time help was used more.

Resolution #21

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to add the position of the experienced part time MEO at the amount of \$14.00 per hour with the understanding that everything is looked into with the Civil Service to do this correctly.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Concerned Citizen Danny Thomas voiced his opinion about the consistency of the sand that is being used on the roads. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis stated that he is not sure what happen but the sand is very coarse.

Unfinished Business

Supervisor Watkins spoke to Mr. Darfer today about the website and he is going to help the town maintain the website. Maries Drost is going to help maintain the website with the updating, also the amount quarterly will be approximately \$60.00.

The Supervisor made everyone aware that next month the Policies would be reviewed such as the procurement and investment policies, etc.

Mr. Keller has the appointment policy and he is working on getting that straighten out and will hopefully have that for next meeting.

New Business

Animal Control Law

Next Month there will be a Public Hearing on the Animal Control Law. The Town Clerk had some copies available at the meeting and will have more copies available at the office. Rani Bass questioned the Law, she thought that the pages were out of order and this should be looked at. She also requested that the Supervisor explain the reasoning for this law. The Supervisor stated that this law pertains to animals that are hazardous to other people. I was questioned how many times this has happened. Town Justice Janet DeCarlo stated that she has 18 tickets pending as of now. The incidents involve pigs, horses, llamas.

County Report

The Supervisor reported that the county was still trying to sell the Pleasant Valley Infirmary, this is not going very well. Still possibly have two or three people that are interested.

Privilege of the Floor

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Nancy Mabeus read a letter and requested that it be submitted to the record. It was in regards to budget increases and also her hopes that the new board take into consideration the spending of the money and tax increases.

Ted Berndt a resident in the community questioned if there were any updates on the Brownell Road Property litigations. Councilwoman Fedler reported that there weren't any. He stated that he had contacted the court and apparently there was some action in September, Judge Krogmann had asked all legal counsel to compile there total bills and submit them to him. Councilwoman Fedler stated that she was the contact and she has heard nothing from the lawyer, and if she does everyone is informed at the next meeting. He asked if the bill was approaching \$9,000 now, Councilwoman Fedler stated no. She thought that the bills would amount up to \$7,400 and change, there were a couple of bills at year end so this may make it approximately \$7,500.

Ted Berndt also questioned if there was any update on the South Union Street bridge from FEMA. Supervisor stated that FEMA has all the information and that if the home owners want to have a remap they can request this. FEMA has all the information from the engineers.

Ted Berndt also asked about updates on high speed internet. A Resident from the Town stated that he would be going with the Supervisor on February 6<sup>th</sup> to meet with Washington County LDC. They will be having a phone conference with verizon to see how much more money they need. Mr. Berndt asked if they actually have a commitment with Verizon to do this project. Supervisor Watkins stated no not yet, he mentioned that there was originally until someone called them. A concerned citizen called them and said that they did not like the way they were going about this and they said they would stay away from this until it is straightened out.

Astrid Davis questioned about the new paper and where it could be purchased in the town of Cambridge. Supervisor Watkins said that it was the Greenwich Journal Salem Press. Gerald Skiff said that he had talked with the owner and he said in the village you could not purchase it yet. The concern was that this paper could not be purchased in the Town of Cambridge. There was also no one reporting this evening for this paper. It was brought to the public attention that there is no place to purchase a paper in the Town of Cambridge. The only place to possibly purchase a paper in the Town of Cambridge is O'hearns. Councilwoman Fedler stated that last meeting she abstained from the vote to let the rest of the board to decide. Councilwoman Fedler also stated that it is only fair to give someone else a chance, and it is understood that some people are not happy with how the meetings have been reported in the past. It was decided to give the Greenwich Journal Salem Press time to see if they could have the paper put in a place of business in the Village.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>