

Town Board Meeting
March 11, 2013

At the Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 11th day of March, 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, Bob Hamilton, Cathy LaMay and Donna Gallup from Child and Family Health Plus, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement Officer, Terry Hamilton, Elton Balch, Henry Peabody, Linda Burgoyne, Ted Berndt, Rani Bass, Betty and Russell Lacroix from the Town Easton, Dave Craig, Scott Keller Town Attorney, Tony Millington, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, James Morris, Leon Barkley, Dick Sutherland, Robbie McIntosh

Auditing of the Bills

General	#41 – 61	\$31,466.04
Highway	#29 – 43	\$13,741.08

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 #13

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2013 meeting with one correction on the first page under the people present it should be noted that the Clerk to the Supervisor and the Town Clerk presented their books to the Town Board to be audited and signed. The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt also requested that it be noted that in the January 7, 2013 meeting minutes one correction should have been made on page 6. The resolution #7 the seven year term for Bob Hamilton to serve on the Planning Board started on January 7, 2013 and the ending date should be December 31, 2019 instead of 2020.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Councilwoman Fedler abstained from the vote because she said that she was not present at the meeting so she could not vote on the minutes.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #14

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

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Child Family Health Plus

Cathy LaMay and Donna Gallup were present from the Saratoga Hospital and gave a presentation on Child and Family Health Plus. Cathy LaMay mentioned that what they

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do is help people obtain Public Health Services. She explained that the services available were Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus and Medicaid. She also mentioned that this process was complex and there could be up to 15 pieces of documentation that are required to apply. The Saratoga Hospital offers this free service because they wrote the grant. They provide this service of enrollers that help individuals fill out the applications. Ms. LaMay mentioned also that there are many sites in many counties, including Washington County that these enrollers come to help fill out the paperwork: Argyle Town Hall, Village of Cambridge Hall, Town of Granville, Greenwich, Salem, Walkers Farm Tackle/Feed Store. The first step is very simple all someone has to do is call the number and they have a screener available, and they will ask basic questions. She also handed out brochures that briefly explained the program.

Dave Craig a resident of the Town of Cambridge, who lives on Irish Lane spoke briefly on the controversy brewing for years about comprehensive plans. It was mentioned that all over the land local governments are taking a second look at the proposals for comprehensive plans and sustainable development. He mentioned the article about the regional sustainability planning that Governor Cuomo has been promoting. He also mentioned the article that was in the Eagle last week by a resident of the Town Ted Berndt about the comprehensive plan idea. His article was critical of anyone that might oppose such plan. Mr. Craig explained that he had talked with people in the community and a lot of people do not understand the things that are involved in these plans. He explained that this issue was much broader than the five minutes that he was given and that he would give an example. These plans can have dramatic consequences that our founding fathers died to protect, freedom that most of us grew up with. He briefly touched on the Governor Cuomo cleaner, greener, communities program; this divides New York State into 10 Regions. If you look at the maps ours is the Capital Region and with this you have Washington, Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schoharie, Warren. He explained with the amount of counties in the terms of decision making you can imagine who is going to control this. He went on to explain Sustainable Development as the action plan to inventory and control all land, all water, all minerals, all plants, all animals, all construction, all means of production, all information, all energy, and all human beings in the world. He said that for Washington County this is especially emphasized on farming. Mr. Craig requested that the board allow him to show a 20 minute video on Agenda 21/Sustainable Development at the next Town Board meeting. He said that he would appreciate the opportunity to unravel the questions about the topic.

The Town Supervisor mentioned that he would rather have a special meeting. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that it would be appreciated that he give a synopsis of what to put in the paper.

Supervisor Watkins mentioned that there was a draft of the Dump Law on the table and for anyone to pick up a copy and review it.

Resident Russell LeCrieux from the Town of Easton present at the Town Board Meeting presented information about the Agenda 21. He spoke briefly on the topic. He explained

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that this Agenda 21 mirrors the Adirondack park which was called the UN biosphere. Most of the New England states joined this and basically what it did was exported the logging and timber industry overseas. He mentioned that this is what the Agenda 21 does it takes away your Home Rule. He mentioned that before you take any federal or state money make sure that there are no tentacles attached and you are not locked in.

Village Fire Contract

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read the amounts for the Village Fire Contract for the next three years. The amounts were as follow 2013 – 27,409.00, 2014 – 29,141.58 and 2015 – 29,141.57.

Resolution #15

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to approve the Fire contract for 2013 and to pay the Village of Cambridge Fire Department \$27,409.00 for 2013.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Assessor – None

Town Clerk – None

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler reported that she and Councilman Skiff had attended one of the meetings for the New Fire House in the Village of Cambridge. The Village of Cambridge Fire Department covers the areas of Cambridge, WhiteCreek, Jackson and parts of Arlington. To get a fireman trained they have to do 80 hours of training and every year and an additional 30 hours of retraining. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that she does not have an option one way or the other she is simply stating the facts. The proposal for the fire house is 2.7 million. The 10 acres across from the current EMS Building have already been purchased which will be the new destination of the fire house. She explained some reasons of why they needed a new Fire House: in the current fire house the 5 fire trucks are now double parked in the 3 Bays, there is no space to change for a fire, the lockers are along the side wall next to the trucks. The new standard 32 foot fire truck does not fit in the Cambridge Fire House. New fire trucks are special ordered, because they can only fit 29 foot fire truck. When the building is toured notice that all the walls are gone the back bumper is right off the kitchen counter, there is no kitchen. There is lack of room to meet; it is also dangerous for the fire trucks to pull in and out of the firehouse because of main street traffic. The Councilwoman mentioned that the purchases of the past in amount of approximately \$200,000 can be moved to the future fire house. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned also what the people had to be aware of was that the Village pays for the fire department themselves. The residents of the Village can not be expected to pay for this new fire house by an increase in taxes. The fire department covers many of the towns so they are reaching out to the Towns to help with some of the fundraising. One of the Councilmen from the Town of WhiteCreek mentioned that maybe they should consider starting with the building that they have to have with the possibility to add on later. Councilman Skiff wanted the public to realize

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that the current Fire Dept. Building takes up the entire space and the septic is on the adjacent property so they have no space. The Board agreed that the space that they have is full and that the towns need to work together to help raise money for the fire dept. The supervisor mentioned that the fire dept. raises their own money through fund raising. Chief Spiezo said that he would come to one of the Town Board meetings to make a presentation.

Councilman Skiff questioned the Town Attorney Scott Keller about the Lane off of King Road, the old Scagalone lane. He commented that he had begun to research the lanes and how the town could give them back to the land owner. He said that this is a long and extensive process. This current lane that they are speaking of was not being plowed because a No Trespassing sign was put up. The concern was that if there was an emergency and the emergency vehicles could not get into the lane, who would be liable? The Town Attorney Scott Keller mentioned that there was a process that must be followed. He said that he would meet with Alan Davis Highway Superintendent to get the process started by assessing the situation. The Town Attorney mentioned that he would need the name and address of the individuals. He would have to inquire how the owner of the property would like to proceed.

Councilman Skiff also mentioned that he had concerns about 2 or more Town Board members attending the Planning Board meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2013. Supervisor Watkins said that as long as they were not conducting Town Business they could attend public functions.

Highway Superintendent

The Highway men have plowed and sanded several nuisance storms as well as a fairly good snow storm last Friday. Maintenance has been done on trucks between storms. They have also repaired hydraulic tank on truck 4 and replaced several lines as they were not good. The truck 8 had the power steering reservoir replaced. The highwaymen have also cleaned out some ditches with the grader after the rains last month. They plan to start sweeping some intersections Tuesday while roads are wet.

Ted Berndt a resident from the Town questioned Mr. Davis if he would be taking over any more County Roads. If yes, would the money be put into the Reserve Fund? Mr. Davis said that at this time the county was not open to turning any roads over and if they did he was not sure where the money would go.

Planning Board

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the meeting for Planning Board had been changed to March 14, 2013 so there was no report. The Planning Board would meet this Thursday on the 14th of March at 7:30 PM. John Pedersen a resident of the Town of Jackson a member of the Washington County Planning Board would be speaking about planning issues.

Code Enforcement

None

Communications

A resolution was received from the Washington County Planning Board in regards to the exemption agreements with the local boards to streamline the referral of local projects to the County under GML 239-1 and m. These agreements exempt certain projects deemed to have inter-municipal impact from referral to the County Planning Board. These agreements are structured to last for three years, and the current round of exemptions have expired.

Resolution #16

Councilman Ford motioned,
Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler,

TITLE: Exemption of Matters of Local Concern from County Planning Review

WHEREAS, the Washington County Planning Board was created by the Washington County Board of Supervisors as provided by Article 12 B of the General Municipal; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of General Municipal Law Article B, Section 239 1 and m (GML 239) require local municipal bodies in Washington County to submit certain planning and zoning actions to the Washington County Planning Board for said Board's review and recommendation unless excepted by an agreement approved by the municipal body; and the County Planning Board that such matter is of a local rather than an inter-municipal or county wide concern; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the county and local municipal bodies for a local municipal body to be able to take action on matters of local concern without being bound by the referral requirements of GML 239; and

WHEREAS, having such an agreement for exception of matters which are not of an inter-municipal or county-wide concern is not detrimental to the County or the Town of Cambridge Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Planning Board has established a process for exempting matters and actions of local concern from the referral requirements of GML 239; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the attached agreement entitled "*Exemption of Matters of Local Concern from County Planning Review Agreement*" shall exempt actions of local concern under this agreement from the referral requirements of GML 239 shall exist between the County Planning Board and the Town of Cambridge Town Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said agreement shall apply to zoning reviews and actions of the Town of Cambridge Town Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution with the attached agreement shall be provided to the Washington County Planning Board; and be it further

Resolved, that this agreement shall take effect immediately.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

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The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that an email was received by the NYS Office of General Services requesting to use the Town Hall on Wednesday May 22, 2013 from approximately 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM to hold a real estate auction. They anticipate approximately 30 or more people will attend. The board gave the approval to use the Town Hall. The Town Clerk said that she would notify OGS and the appropriate paperwork would be mailed for completion.

The Town Clerk also reported that she had received a letter from the Cornell Cooperative Extension to inform the public about a new resource which has been created for the Capital District. This new website will inform local communities to educational opportunities and to rediscover established programs that go beyond their individual counties' borders. The new website can be accessed by going to <http://ccecapiatalregion.org>. The Town Clerk said the information would be available in her office.

Unfinished Business

The Supervisor made everyone aware that there was a first draft of the dump law available to the public and next month there would be a public hearing.

County

The Supervisor reported that the tentative date was the first part of April for the turnover date for the Recycling Centers.

Hudson Valley Wireless was granted another grant for wireless communications for the county.

Councilwoman Fedler reported that now that the first draft of the dump law is finished it is time to move on to the next step. She mentioned now was the time to move forward to determining how they would approach creating a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Cambridge. Councilwoman Fedler said that she believes the old comprehensive plan has all the history and the vital statistics of the town. She had thought that possibly they could select a group of people to work on different aspects of the plan; she was not sure whether they would interview or appoint. This would be a decision the board would have to make. The Supervisor Watkins questioned the size of the committee? It was suggested that they wait till after the Planning Board Meeting on Thursday 14th of March and the presentation by Dave Craig. The next town board meeting the board will move forward and make some decisions.

The Board decided that Dave Craig would use the Town Hall and advertise in the Eagle himself it would not be a public meeting of the Town Board.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge