

Town Board Meeting
November 14, 2011

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 14th day of November, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler
Councilman Frank Ziehm

Councilman Ted Berndt – Absent
Councilman Alan Davie – Resigned

Others Present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Town Justice Janet DeCarlo, David DeCarlo, Henry Peabody, Rani Bass, Astrid Davis, Nancy Quell, Ed Holland Dog Control Officers, Ralph Greenawalt, Nancy Maebus, Scott Keller, LaVerne Davis, Lillian Herrington, Terry Hamilton, Robin McMurray, Holly McMurray, Bob Hamilton, Dick Battistoni, Leon Barkley, Danny Thomas, Gerald Skiff, Sally Whitney, Robbie McIntosh, Dieter and Amy Drake

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

General	#238 – 271	\$25,930.77
Highway	#125 – 136	\$25,237.42

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #100

Councilwoman motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ziehm to approve the minutes from the following meeting with some corrections. The minutes of the October 10, 2011 Board Meeting with one correction on page 5 in Resolution #98 it should be understood that this is only to proceed with the paperwork to have the state evaluate for a possible change of the speed limit. In the October 17, 2011 Budget Workshop minutes there were no corrections. In the October 26, 2011 Public Hearing minutes for the 2012 Budget on Page 1 at the bottom of the page it was suggested to leave out the part that reads there must be a public hearing and a vote with at least 60% voting yes. On page 2 of the minutes it was suggested by Councilman Ziehm that when referring to the Highway guys please use Town Highway Employees it is more appropriate.

Vote: Aye – 3 Noes – 0

Transfers of Funds

Resolution#101

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ziehm for transferring for the Town Clerk's Copier from the Town Clerk's Contractual A1410.4 in the amount of \$980 to the Town Clerk, Equipment A1410.2. The second transfer is a transfer for Attorney Fees (Brownell Rd.) from Contingent A1990.4 in the amount of \$21.60 to Attorney, Contractual A1420.4. The third transfer was a transfer for the Justice from Contingent A1990.4 in the amount of \$154.62 to the Justice, Contractual A1110.4. This is to cover court officer charges and purchase of magnetometer. The fourth transfer is for the Town

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Hall Contractual \$150.00 from Contingent A1990.4 to the Town Hall Contractual A1620.4 to cover incurring bills.

Vote: Aye – 3 Noes – 0

Tour of the Battenkill

Dieter Drake a Resident from the Town came on behalf of the organizers of the Tour of the Battenkill Cycling Race seeking a resolution of support from the Town Board. The 8th Annual event will take place on April 14 – 15, 2012. With the past support the event has grown to become the largest cycling race in North America. They are expecting nearly 3,000 racers from around the world for the event. Part of the event will benefit various local organizations. The Schedule will be Saturday, April 14, the Tour of the Battenkill Pro/Am and on Sunday, April 15, the Tour of the Battenkill Professional.

Resolution #102

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to support the Tour of the Battenkill on April 14 – 15, 2012.

Vote: Aye – 3 Noes – 0

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt read the letter of resignation from Temporary Highway Superintendent Chuck Watkins which was effective on November 2, 2011 at 12:30 PM. He had stated in the letter that he would be going back to his previous position. A letter was also read from Alan Davis effective on Friday, November 11, 2011, that he would be resigning from his Town Councilman position, so that he may accept the appointment of the office of Highway Superintendent.

Resolution #103

Councilwoman Fedler motioned,
Seconded By Councilman Ziehm,
Be It Resolved, that the Town of Cambridge Town Board appoints Alan Davis to the Position of Highway Superintendent for the remaining of 2011 effective immediately.

Vote: Aye – 3 Noes – 0

Supervisor William Watkins requested that Town Justice Janet DeCarlo swear Alan Davis in as the newly appointed Highway Superintendent for the Town of Cambridge. Town Justice Janet DeCarlo requested that Astrid Davis, Alan's wife come forward and hold the Bible while he received the oath of office. Everyone welcomed Alan Davis to his position as the new Highway Superintendent with a round of applause.

Resolution #104

Councilman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to approve the Supervisor's report for October 2011.

Vote: Aye – 3 Noe – 0

Assessor

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At last months meeting it was decided to advertise for the Assessor position in order to meet the requirements to apply for the civil service waiver for Jeffrey Jackson. A letter was received from Jeffrey Jackson in response to the ad in the Eagle, stating his continued interest in serving as the Town Assessor for the Town of Cambridge. This was the only letter received in response to the ad in the Eagle.

Resolution #104

Motion by Councilman Ziehm, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler

Be It Resolved, that Jeffrey Jackson the appointed Sole Assessor of the Town of Cambridge continue serving the town, and be it

Further Resolved, upon the approval of the waiver with the Department of Civil Service Mr. Jackson will finish the unexpired Assessor's term which ends September 2013.

Supervisor Watkins – Aye
Councilwoman Fedler – Aye

Councilman Ziehm – Aye

Town Clerk

A Resolution must be passed for the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution RS 2417 – A for both the Active System Members and for all job positions. These will be posted on the Town bulletin board outside the Town Hall for 30 days.

Resolution #105

Motioned by Supervisor Watkins,
Seconded by Councilman Ziehm,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cambridge/Location code 30647 hereby established the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials of **all Job Positions**, and will report the following days worked to the New York and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system records or record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body.

Vote: Aye – 3 Noes – 0

Resolution #106

Motioned by Councilman Ziehm,
Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cambridge/Location code 30647 hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials of **Active System Members**, and will report the following days worked to the New York and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system records or record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body.

Vote: Aye – 3 Noes – 0

See the attached paperwork for Standard work day charts.

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Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt also reported that she had received information from the Association of Towns. There would be a Webinar on December 8, 2011 “Just Elected – What Do You Do Now?”. Also there would be a Town Officials School that would be 2 ½ days of great training for Newly Elected Town Officials. The days will be January 11-13, 2012 in Albany. This was just a notice of the dates, when the paperwork comes in the Town Clerk will let the newly elected officials know.

Planning Board

The Planning Board held their regular monthly meeting, Thursday, November 3, 2011, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall. Four members were present along with two people from the public. One item of business was addressed: 1. Held public hearing and granted Final approval to Peter & Pauline Grimes for a 10 acre minor subdivision on Cobble Road. The Grimes own a total of 43.8 acres on Cobble Road with the road splitting their property. They are proposing to subdivide off a 10 acre lot on the east side of the road to construct a residence thereon. They will retain the remaining acreage.

A letter was received from the American Stewardship Association (ASA) inviting board members to participate in a meeting focusing on the development of ASA’s next five year strategic plan of how to protect farmland and promote agriculture in Washington and Rensselaer counties. The meeting will be held November 12 at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, 575 Burton Road, Town of Easton, from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Stuart Ziehm stated he will be attending.

Board members were apprised of the Appointment Policy the Town Board is considering when appointing members to the Planning Board and the Assessment Board of Review.

It was brought to the Town Board’s attention that Earl Horton’s appointment has come up for a reappointment or a new appointment. The Supervisor had talked with Earl Horton and he was still interested in serving on the Planning Board. Residents from the town asked why they weren’t going to advertise the position. The Supervisor said that in the appointment policy it states that the board can first contact those whose appointment is expiring to inquire if they wish to be reappointed.

Resolution #106

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to reappoint Earl Horton to the planning Board for a seven year term commencing January 1, 2012 and ending on December 31, 2018.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Code Enforcement

LaVerne Davis stated that he had nothing to report. Supervisor Watkins questioned if he had heard anything about the two cases of the condemned properties. As far as the person that owns the barns on County Rt. 59, no one has heard anything. The place on County Rt. 74 has been condemned and the property should have been vacated immediately. The hearings for the properties that are condemned are set for the 22nd of

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November. The Town Justice said that once she has heard both sides of the case she will most likely reserve decision. This means she will take a few days to make up her mind on what she will order to have done with both the animals and the barn.

Communications

Supervisor Watkins made everyone aware that the Dog Control Officers have written a Law that pertains to open range of animals. This would help with the situation on county Rt. 74. The Supervisor said that this law will be made available to the public and any input will be considered.

The Town Justice stated that these two laws Dogs running at large and open range animals overlap and that maybe these laws should be consolidated. It was brought to the Town Justice attention that the Dog Control officers are only allowed to respond to the Article 7 Law of Ag & Markets which only pertains to Dogs. She mentioned that if they were to handle situations with other animals then maybe their position should be renamed Animal Control Officers.

Unfinished Business

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

Aged Exemptions

Resolution #107

Resolution by Councilman Ziehm,
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:

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Percentage Assessment 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 – 3 Noes – 0

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Supervisor Watkins mentioned that there was an article in the Post Star last Thursday in the Supervisor's report Financial Committee meeting. It stated in this article that the Town has the money for High Speed Internet. On Friday the 18th of November the Board of Supervisor's will approve the money, and Sam Caldwell will be contacted from Verizon about updating the equipment. So hopefully the Town will receive DSL.

New Business

It has been suggested that the Town of Cambridge switch the telephone service from Cornerstone back to Verizon as a provider in hope to get DSL for the Town.

Resolution #108

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ziehm to switch the telephone service from Cornerstone to Verizon.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Appointment of Town Board Position

The Town Board discussed about how to go about filling the vacant Town Board Position. Councilwoman Fedler reported that she had spoken with the Association of Towns about what they had to do and what not to do in filling the position. Because the new appointment policy is not in place the Town Board can do it however they please. Councilwoman Fedler said that they could post the opening of a Town Board position for 30 days in the Eagle. In January at the Town Board Organizational Meeting on the 5th at 6:00 PM, they will do interviews and then appoint a person to the position. This person will then be able to take classes in Albany on January 11 – 13, 2012, with the other newly elected officials. The Town Board position, even though there is two years left, will be a one year term. Next year at Election time the position will be open for someone to run for the remaining of the four year term which would be 2013, a one year term. The Board is requesting a letter of interest from anyone applying for the position. Councilwoman Fedler also reported that she checked with the Association of Towns and there is no problem running on a three person board till the end of the year.

It was also decided to have the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected officials on January 1, 2012 at the Town Hall at 2:00 PM.

County Report

Supervisor Watkins reported that they were working on keeping the budget at zero, because the money is not out there. The Transfer stations are working on having Wednesdays open in order to provide more access for the public. The Supervisor stated that if you hear something about an increase in the sticker price he is against this.

Privilege of the Floor

There was question about what was happening with Pleasant Valley Infirmary. The Supervisor stated that right now they are still looking at some of the people that are interested in purchasing it. A resident from the Town stated that Pleasant Valley was one of the most beautiful nursing homes in the state and she has been in many. She stated

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that they have high quality care, they have volunteers that come in and play games with them and make sure that their minds are active. It was said that we should be proud of how we take care of our elderly at this home this place is the Jewel of Washington County.

The Town Justice mentioned that she had an open house on November 4th and some attended including the people from the Court Administration. The people from the Court Administration that originally told them what had to be done looked over the facility and the entire building is in complete compliance with the state code. The entire building has benefited from the Jcap Grant and another Jcap Grant has been put in for the painting and insulating of the building and painting of the archives.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>