

Town Board Minutes
September 8, 2008

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 8th day of September 2008, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor JoAnn Trinkle
Councilwoman Carol Imhof
Councilman Joel Nichols
Councilman Frank Ziehm
Councilman Ted Berndt

Others present: Town Clerk Sally Eddy, Highway Supt. Eric Shaw, Attorney Alan Wrigley, Kip Foley, Audrey Hall, Meaghan Wilkins, Dan Schmitt, Gerald Skiff, Robert McIntosh, Dan Thomas, Earl & Donna Horton, Rani Kronick, Alex Bass, Jim Buckley

Supervisor Trinkle called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Agri-Cycle Facility

Kip Foley, President of Cover Technologies, Inc.(CTI), Springfield, MA, gave a presentation concerning the operation of the Agri-Cycle composting facility on Belle Road. Agri-Cycle is a subsidiary of CTI. Mr. Foley gave a brief history of the operation saying that CTI took ownership of the plant from the Wilmot family in 2000. The Wilmots were faced with revocation of operating permits because of DEC violations and, at that point, CTI stepped in. CTI worked with DEC on remediation and, after compliance was achieved, DEC renewed the operating permits in 2001. For a tipping fee, paper sludge and yard waste are received at the facility. After the two items are mixed and processed, the resulting material is spread on the land adjacent to the composting site. A certified nutrient planner works balancing the materials and, it has been found that, after a period of time, a satisfactory compost develops. Crops have been successfully planted on the fields that were spread with the mixed sludge and yard waste. However, no compost product, as yet, has been marketed.

Mr. Foley stated that routine testing is done by CTI and reported to DEC and unannounced on site visits by DEC do occur. H offered to provide the town with all the test results and invited anyone to take a tour of the facility.

Resident Dan Schmitt expressed concern about drainage from the material getting into the water supply. Dan Thomas expressed concern about the safety of the material that's being spread on the fields in numerous quantity.

Robert McIntosh was concerned about environmental safety of the content of the paper sludge.

Mr. Foley spoke to all of the above concerns.

Minutes

Councilman Nichols motioned, seconded by Councilman Ziehm, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the August 11, 2008 meeting and approve them as mailed by the Town Clerk with no additions or corrections.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Items to be Added to Agenda

Under New Business – Budget transfers

New Business was Addressed

Attorney Alan Wrigley submitted a request to the Town Board asking the Supervisor to sign a Quit Claim Deed to Audrey B. Hall for a piece of property on Brownell Road which is about 3/8 acre. When the path of West Cambridge Road(now known as Brownell Road) was moved easterly in 1939 a small triangular piece of property was formed between the old road and the new road. The town never released any interest in the town's right of way along the old road bed. This omission was discovered because of a recent survey of the property abutting the piece in question. Remains of the old road bed are visible. Audrey B. Hall is the owner of the small parcel and she wants to sell it.

Resolution by Councilwoman Carol Imhof

Seconded by Councilman Frank Ziehm

WHEREAS, the Town of Cambridge in 1939 made improvements to a portion of the West Cambridge Road (now known as Brownell Road) including removing a curve and acquiring land from abutting property owners for the new location of the road; and

WHEREAS, the Town has recently been advised by Washington County Office of Real Property and an abutting landowner, Audrey B. Hall, that there appears to exist a triangular shaped parcel of land representing some of the old portion of the West Cambridge Road after improvements to the road; and

WHEREAS, the said Audrey B. Hall wishes to sell the parcel of land and is requesting the Town to indicate it has no claim to the land since the Town now has rerouted the road to its current location; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town does not have any need for the land in question since the Town currently has a valid town right of way along Brownell Road (formerly West Cambridge Road) and the Town is willing to indicate in writing that it has no interest in said lands; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute a Quit Claim Deed to Audrey B. Hall conveying any interest the Town might have in said lands to her, a copy of which deed shall be attached to these minutes along with a portion of the map dated August 28, 1939 depicting the location of the old roadbed.

Was duly put to vote and resulted in 5 –Ayes 0 - Noes

Supervisor's Report

1. Bookkeeper Margaret Shaw prepared a Statement of Finances report in lieu of a detailed financial report for general and highway accounts for the month of August. The August interest statements were not available from the bank.

Councilman Nichols motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Imhof, to accept the Statement of Finances report for the month of August.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

2. Energy Forum – Attended an energy forum on September 4 at the Kingsbury Firehouse that was sponsored by the Washington County Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together government officials, civic leaders, businesses and private organizations to talk about the current economic climate and the rising energy costs. Over one hundred people attended and there was a good exchange of ideas and suggestions of how to cope with the upcoming winter.

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Supervisor Trinkle stated there will be meetings on the local level to provide education, information and resources to assist people to meet the challenges that lie ahead this winter.

Town Board Report

Councilwoman Imhof, who also attended the energy forum, commented there are many agencies county wide that can assist people in need. CARE, United Fund, Red Cross to name a few. She stated the greatest concern is for those families that are just above the poverty line who all too often do not qualify for government assistance but are struggling. It's necessary that neighbors look out for neighbors.

Resident Robert McIntosh asked if someone from the county program for the weatherization of homes (HEAP) actually visits the homes to inspect the condition of the it before giving assistance to pay heating bills?

Supervisor Trinkle responded that they do go onsite and check it out and make the necessary repairs before allocating any money for fuel.

Councilwoman Imhof stated the Post-Star newspaper publicizes the names of agencies that offer help to people in need. She suggested the local paper do it too.

Councilman Frank Ziehm reported that the American Farmland Trust is sponsoring a tour on October 2 & 3 of farms on Long Island. There will be informative sessions focusing on farmland preservation and protection, planning tools a community can implement to enhance farmland and a forum on incentive zoning. The cost is \$250 per person.

Planning Board Report

Planning Board Secretary Sally Eddy reported the board met Sept. 4 and conducted the following business:

1. Held a public hearing and granted final approval to the minor subdivision application submitted by Bliss White McIntosh. Property is located on County Route 59. Initially 4 lots were created but 3 of the 4 will be merged with property already owned by the family members involved in the subdivision. On lot will stand alone.
2. The board discussed revising the subdivision rules and regulations. Chairman Pearson will ask County Planner Chris DeBolt to attend the October meeting to advise as they undertake the task.
3. The Final Draft Comprehensive Plan was discussed.

Highway Superintendent's Report

1. 52 trees on Dickenson Rd, the majority of which were victims of the '04 hailstorm, were cut. The stumps and banks were removed and that section of the road was widened.
2. A bank on Green Road was sloped off and hydro-seeded also.
3. Roads were patched with 35 tons of blacktop.
4. The guard rails were repaired on Turnpike Road where seven 13 foot sections were taken down by a car going off the road.
5. Roadside mowing is nearing completion. We will be making one more pass around the town.
6. At our recent Highway Association meeting we were notified that we can expect 15% less than we received this year in our CHIPS funding for 2009.

In addition, Supt. Shaw submitted a yearly report of an Inventory of Highway Machinery, Tools and Equipment as well as a proposed tentative ten year purchasing plan for highway equipment.

Mr. Shaw recommend purchasing a new front-end loader at State Contract price of \$98,785 minus trade-in of \$40,000. Final price would be \$58,785. The State Contract expires October 31, 2008. He said we can order it now and have it delivered in 2009. Currently, there is \$58,000 in the equipment fund. Decision to purchase can wait until the October board meeting.

No Code Enforcement Report

No Assessor's Report

No Communications

Unfinished Business

Setting a date for a workshop to thoroughly examine and possibly revise the Comprehensive Plan was tabled.

New Business

Mileage - The Board voted to increase the mileage rate to coincide with the rate the county is paying.

Resolution by Councilman Nichols

Seconded by Councilman Ziehm

Be It Resolved , that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge does hereby increase the mileage rate for all town officials driving their vehicle for town business from \$.35 per mile to \$.50 per mile, effective immediately.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Budget Transfers

Transfer #1 – Councilwoman Carol Imhof motioned, seconded by Councilman Joel Nichols, to transfer \$252.00 from B1990.0(Contingent) to B8025.4 (Comprehensive Planning Contractual) to pay for the printing of 50 copies of the Final Draft Comprehensive Plan retroactive to the bill submitted at the August 11, 2008 board meeting.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Transfer #2 – Councilman Joel Nichols motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Carol Imhof, to transfer \$25.00 from A1990.0 (Contingent) to A1110.4 (Justice Contractual) to pay for current and expected Justice contractual expenses.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Transfer #3 – Councilwoman Carol Imhof motioned, seconded by Councilman Frank Ziehm, to transfer \$148.90 from A1990.0(Contingent) to B8025.4 (Comprehensive Planning Contractual)) to pay for the printing of 30 copies of the final Draft Comprehensive Plan.

Vote: 5 – Aye 0 - Noes

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Privilege of the Floor

Resident Dan Schmitt spoke that he's been thinking about the Comprehensive Plan process as it moves forward. He stated, in his opinion, there was not adequate communications between the public and the Comprehensive Plan Committee to keep the public well informed of the progress and content of the plan. He went on to say that when the public expressed their view on a matter to the Committee, the Committee made no room for a difference of opinion. He said that the land is, in fact, the farmers 401K and the restrictiveness of the subdivision section upon the farmer is like cutting the 401K for municipal employees by 25%. He asked the Town Board to take it into consideration.

Robert McIntosh read aloud a letter he addressed to the Town Board. The letter spoke in favor of the Comprehensive Plan and Mr. McIntosh suggested the Board adopt the Comprehensive Plan minus the subdivision limitations. He recommended the Town Board appoint a committee to draft a site plan review law that fits the town's needs. He suggested a new committee be empowered to research different approaches to preserving farmland in consultation with the farmers of neighboring towns, the Washington County Planner and the Agriculture Stewardship Association.

Rani Bass remarked that Mr. McIntosh wants the Town Board to take out the part that he wants to take out and leave the rest of the Plan in tact. She favors abolishing the entire Plan.

Jim Buckley responded by saying that you (Mr. McIntosh) are asking the Town Board to endorse something that's illegal ? Mr. Buckley was referring to the fact that there were no minutes taken of the Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings and that the meeting dates were not published.

County Report

Supervisor Trinkle stated that the county can expect a 15% cut in CHIPS funding in 2009 and a 14% loss in all state funds to the county. All county programs will be reduced by 2%. She commented there continues to be a big push toward consolidation of municipal services, particularly by Senator Little's office.

The following bills were presented for audit and approved for payment:

General # 149 – 162 \$12,808.08

Highway #101 – 113 \$10,345.40

Supervisor Trinkle asked Board members to transcribe the numbers from the 2008 budget into the appropriate columns of the blank budget form in preparation for working on the proposed tentative 2009 budget at the October meeting.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Sally Beelen Eddy

Town clerk.