

Town of Cambridge Town Board Meeting
July 11, 2011

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 11th of July, 7:30 PM at the Town Highway Garage because of the Construction for the Court System, the following were present:

- Supervisor William Watkins
- Councilman Catherine Fedler
- Councilman Alan Davis
- Councilman Ted Berndt
- Councilman Frank Ziehm

Others Present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Donald Herrington, Lillian Herrington, Astrid Davis, Robin McMurray, Holly McMurray, Marie Drost, Rani Bass, Henry Peabody, Scott Keller, David DeCarlo, Ashleigh Farrell from the Eagle, Nancy Maebus, Dick Sutherland, Dick Bastistoni, Dr. William Figglozzi, Margaret Waterson, Gerald Skiff, Alan Wrigley the Town Attorney, Jim Buckley, Danny Thomas, Robbie McIntosh

Bills audited prior to meeting at 7:00 PM

General	#135 – 162	\$19,564.57
Highway	#73 – 85	\$11,611.92

Transfer of Funds

Resolution#57

Councilman Berndt motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to transfer \$45.00 from Contingent A1990.4 to Attorney, contractual A1420.4 to cover attorney fees for Brownell Road litigations.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution#58

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2011 meeting as mailed without any corrections.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution#59

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Davis to approve the June Supervisor's Report.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Qualifications for appointment

Attorney Alan Wrigley was present at the Town Board meeting to discuss the qualifications for the appointment policy for the Planning Board and the Board of Assessment Review. Councilman Berndt mentioned also that the High Speed Internet Committee is a yearly appointment, the Supervisor stated that something must be done about the High Speed Internet Committee apparently a resolution was never passed to

create the committee. Later in the meeting under Town Board discussion this would be discussed. Supervisor Watkins asked Mr. Wrigley what he thought about requiring that the person applying must be a resident, registered voter, property ownership. The Supervisor's question was what restrictions can be put on this appointment policy? Mr. Wrigley stated that you can't require property ownership, and as far as residency that is part of the being allowed to vote. Mr. Wrigley stated that you could make it a requirement that the person be a resident but they could not put a limit on how many years they must have lived here, which is what Councilwoman Fedler asked. The Town Attorney stated that the Town Board would be making the ultimate decision. Councilwoman Fedler asked if anyone had any other questions. There was discussion in the audience that some of them felt that the people appointed should have the requirement of being a property owner. Mr. Wrigley stated once again that it was the Town Board that had the final decision. Mr. Wrigley stated unless the Town Board sees a real crying need for the ownership of land then why set yourself up for problems.

Councilwoman Fedler stated that these two positions have a lot to do with the property the Planning Board and the Board of Review. She states that these are valid points that are coming from the community and that the Board is expected to make the right decision to pick the right people. Councilwoman Fedler states the next step is to have a public hearing to discuss this appointment policy. Mr. Wrigley stated that a public hearing was not needed that could have a public forum. Councilwoman Fedler's concerns are that if the public disagrees and they don't adopt a policy. How much trouble is it if they decide not to have a policy? There was an objection from a person from the public when the Board mentioned not having an appointment policy. Another person questioned if the Town Board had gone to other towns to see if they have an appointment policy. Alan Wrigley stated that the only one that might have an Appointment Policy would be the Town of Greenwich.

It was decided that copies of this policy would be left at the Town Clerk's office for viewing when Mr. Wrigley is finished reviewing the policy. The discussion is expected to take place at the September meeting this will give Alan Wrigley plenty of time to review and change some of the wording and make this more concise. Councilwoman Fedler went over some of the things that she thought needed to be reworded and changed in this appointment policy.

Proclamation for Anniversary

Councilwoman Fedler read the Proclamation for the Town of Cambridge Celebration of 250th Anniversary which will take place on July 23rd. Supervisor Watkins signed the 250th Anniversary of the Cambridge Patent and this will be given to Sandra Davis who is the Historian for the Town.

Assessor Report

The Tax Roll is final; any one that wants to view the Tax Roll can do so in the Assessor's Office.

Town Clerk

Heather Greenawalt the Town Clerk reported that she had a visit from Jim O'Connor from the NYS Department of Health who checked the Vital Records.

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He made the Town Clerk aware that the Town should be charging \$40.00 for a Marriage License instead of the \$35.00. So it was requested by the Town Clerk for the Board to consider changing the price on the marriage license for the Town of Cambridge.

Resolution #60

Supervisor William Watkins motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to change the amount of a Marriage License from \$35.00 to 40.00.

Vote: Aye – 5 Noes - 0

Last month it was also mentioned by the Town Clerk about the vault and that the dehumidifier was not working correctly. Eric Shaw the Highway Superintendent has installed a new dehumidifier and this has corrected the problem in the vault.

The glass has been installed in the Town Clerks Office, as a result of the funds from the Jcap Grant.

The Verizon Wireless Card has not been working for the past week and a half, a new one is on its way and we will hopefully have it by Wednesday of this week. The contract has expired and it must be renewed and an updated card is being sent.

Planning Board

Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk read the Planning Board report in Sally Eddy's absence. The Planning Board held their regular monthly meeting, Thursday, July 7, 2011, with a full board present and one person from the public.

1. Held a public hearing and granted Final Approval to Gerald Skiff for a .55 acre subdivision from a 6.6 acre parcel which he owns at 99 South Road. The subdivision contains a house. The remainder of the land will be combined with another parcel that Mr. Skiff owns which is adjacent to the parcel undergoing subdivision.
2. The board made a decision concerning a matter they have long been discussing. When reviewing a subdivision request, how far back should the board take into consideration all previous subdivisions before making a ruling of major or minor on the subdivision that is currently before them? They discussed a range of 10 years to 3 years. The Board unanimously agreed upon a 5 year look back period. After the 5 years, the slate would be wiped clean and the owner would start from 0. This is another item the Board would like to have incorporated into the subdivision rules and regulations.

The Supervisor questioned whether or not there had to be a public hearing on the ruling of a subdivision change. The Town Attorney will have to be contacted to see about this.

Highway Superintendent Report

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Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk read the Highway Superintendent's report in Eric Shaw's absence.

Irish Lane and Brownell Road were both spray patched. The Town of White Creek, with 5 crew members, helped the Town of Cambridge. Holes were patched on the graveled roads. Mowing back of the roadsides was started as soon as the new tractor arrived. A driveway culvert was replaced on Petteys Road as well as a section being ditched. The '94 International is being repaired by Doug Ford. It needs a new steering box, clutch & brakes. Cemeteries were mowed for the 4th of July holiday. Two men and two trucks helped the Town of White Creek pave for a day and a half. The main hydraulic hose on Truck 3 was replaced due to lose of oil from a hole in it. Luckily, it blew while a load of gravel was being dumped at the garage. Went to Ballston Spa and picked up a load of culverts at Lane Pipe; they have state contract.

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler was contacted by the Lawyer on the Brownell Road property and there is nothing new and nothing has progressed.

Councilwoman Fedler met with the contractor Don Blair who is doing the construction at the Town Hall. There was an additional letter submitted by the Town Justice Janet DeCarlo. This letter reads that on June 20, 2011, the Town Justice Janet DeCarlo authorized additional \$1000.00 to Easton Country Craftsmen for the purchase and installation of 3 new doors and the installation of 6 air conditioners. The doors will be six panel doors to match the entry doors. Councilwoman Fedler updated everyone on the changes that had been made so far. The inside wall had been taken out to make the judges chambers this is were the closet used to be, the judges chamber was extended all the way to the door and the floor was raised all the way across and on both sides of the bench. The clerk's desk will be left on the left hand side of the bench the reasoning behind this is traffic flow. Still fitting in the budget there was two new lights replaced. The wall is complete between LaVerne Davis's office and Town Justice DeCarlo's chambers and the raised floor where the bench is waiting for the covering. Everything is primed and ready to paint this includes the meeting room, the chambers and LaVerne's Office. Don Blair said that everything is moving along well and he is meeting with the justice and the clerk to the justice tomorrow to make sure that they agree on the final touches of where the wall is to go and the flooring. Everything is also well within budget. Councilwoman Fedler did mention that she hopes when this is all done that the community will us the building more because it is a community center.

Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that she had inquiries about the things that were being posted on the Internet. She also mentioned if they choose to appoint someone next month to fill Highway Superintendents, and if they appoint in house than need to attach to the appointment that the person's old job is preserved. When the appointment is up they will get there old job back.

Councilman Davis mentioned that he had the list for the auction and actually had three different people contact him why can't the local people bid. He had talked to the

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Supervisor and instead of putting the small things on the internet, just put the big things on the internet and the smaller items have a public auction. So the Tractor, Generator, 2 Oil Pumps will be put on the internet.

Councilman Davis also stated that he received a call from Bob Wilmot. Bob made him aware that Agricycle is stripping off some of the top soil. Councilman Davis has looked at the top soil and stated that it looks good. This top soil has aged 4 years, and now they are running it through a screener and shipping out some of the end product.

The Supervisor asked Councilman Berndt where in the minutes the High Speed Internet Committee was adopted because he has gone through the minutes and can't find it.

Resolution #61

Supervisor Watkins motioned, Seconded by Councilman Berndt to adopt the High Speed Internet Committee as a Committee in the Town of Cambridge.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that one thing that needs to be taken into consideration that Eric Shaw the Highway Superintendent is done the end of the month and he should be thanked for the excellent job that he has done.

Code Enforcement

The Supervisor reported that sometime this week the State of New York Vehicle Inspector will inspect on Rt. 74 the Garage. It is being checked to make sure it is in compliance with New York State standards of Inspections and NYS repair shop qualifications.

Speed Limit Reduction

A letter was received by the NYS Department of Transportation regarding the request sent on September 22, 2010 for a speed limit reduction on Vly Summit Road in the Town of Cambridge. This letter states that they have found that the conditions warrant a 30 MPH speed limit between the Easton/Cambridge town line and a point 0.1 miles east of Horton Lane.

Six month Judicial Report

Scott Keller a Citizen in the Town reported for Town Justice Janet DeCarlo. The following was a Summary of the activity in the Court of the Town of Cambridge from 1/1/2011 to 6/30/2011.

The Fines: \$2360.00

Bail: (\$1000.00)

Civil Fees: \$290.00

Surcharges: \$900.00

Money was sent to the NYS Comptroller for January, February, and March in the total of \$2230.00. April, May and June went to Town of Cambridge Fiscal, c/o Margaret Shaw

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in the amount of \$1325.00. The total receipts sent to either Comptroller or the Fiscal officer is \$3550.00. The Cambridge Town Board signed a copy of this report and it was submitted back to the Town Justice.

Communications

The Backup Generator is hooked up and running, it is on standby so it will automatically kick in if the power goes off.

Unfinished Business

Councilwoman Fedler reported that the replacement of Eric Shaw the Highway Superintendent can't officially be appointed until next month, however the candidate can be discussed and the salary. Chuck Watkins has agreed to take the job over for the rest of the year, he doesn't live in the Town so he will not be running for the position. No one else in the Highway Department is interested and Chuck Watkins is believed to be the most qualified. The Supervisor asked about the salary. Councilwoman Fedler said she believes that \$19.00 per hr plus his overtime. Councilman Berndt asked if there was an on going negotiation with Chuck Watkins. Councilwoman Fedler stated that she simply asked Eric and then she spoke with Chuck. Everyone on the Town Board has spoke with Chuck Watkins.

Resolution #62

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilman Davis to pay the person that takes over the Highway Superintendent job \$19.00 per hour and additional overtime pay with the agreement when the temporary appointment is over the person will be guaranteed there job back.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Councilwoman also stated that Gene retires the end of September and she spoke with him he has agreed to stay on the rest of the year part time. Whoever gets the elected position can hire the new person in January. Everyone on the Highway Department feel that they can make it work till the end of the year with Gene on part time but they also feel that this full time position must be filled they need another full time person.

Councilman Davis said that he would like to talk about the part time position, he says the part time people do not get paid much. Councilman Davis stated that Gene should not be paid part time wage. Councilwoman Fedler stated that they could think about this and research it because he is not retiring till the end of September. It was thought that maybe they should talk to Eric and Chuck and see if they had an idea about this.

County Report

The Supervisor reported that the County proposes that on the tax bill it will be broken down as to where your tax money is going. For example Social Services, DPW, all the

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categories of where the money is going and on the back there will be list of all the offices of Betty Little, Roy McDonald with phone numbers.

The County is trying to find a waste management person to run all recycling the woman that was doing the job is now having second thoughts. The county is looking at doing some changes with the hours at the recycling center in Greenwich possibly working 4 – 10 hour days or maybe 4- 8 hour day depending on the budget.

The County is still looking for someone to run the Pleasant Valley Infirm nary, they have 4 people to interview on Thursday.

Privilege of the Floor

Scott Keller a citizen from the town asked about the purple triangular boxes that were hanging in the trees. Everyone made him aware that these were boxes to collect the ash borers which are harming the ash trees in the area.

It was announced by Supervisor Watkins that there will be a Surprise Retirement party for Highway Superintendent Eric Shaw on Sunday, July 24th at Lake Lauderdale. There will be a chicken Barbecue and dinner will be served at 12:00 PM contact Chris Riben if you are interested in attending.

Respectfully yours,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk