

Town Board Meeting  
February 8, 2016

The regular meeting of the Town of Cambridge duly called and held the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February at the Town Hall, the following:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler  
Councilman Douglas Ford  
Councilwoman Susan Herrington  
Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot  
Councilman Rob McMurray

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Jim Buckley Jr. Highway Superintendent, Bob Wright, Terry Hamilton, Bruce Bailey

Supervisor Fedler called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and immediately led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Auditing of the Bills

General	#9 – 30	\$6,413.48
Highway	#5 – 14	\$7,599.67

Supervisor Fedler mentioned the change in the billing for the Eagle they are now charging for notices for the meeting because they are putting them in the section with the Legal Notices. Supervisor Fedler said that we would have to take this into consideration because of the budget for Town Board and the Planning Board.

A Replacement page 6 was received for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly report of December 31, 2015. This page should replace the page 6 because of change in figures.

Resolution #7

Supervisor's report

Councilwoman Herrington motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the Supervisor's report from January 2016.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

Resolution #8

Approving of Minutes

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes as mailed.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

Bob Wright - Woodland Cemetery

Bob Wright was present at the meeting to propose to the Town Board that the Town Highway Department help maintain some of the Woodland cemetery. Bob Wright referenced an article that was in the 2014 Sept/Oct issue of the Talk of the Towns in regards to the rise of Cemetery Abandonment in the Age of the Tax Cap. . If a cemetery is abandoned, then it will revert back to the town and will be

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their responsibility. He mentioned how the article said that the Town Highway could help in the maintenance of the cemetery. He explained that the cemetery does have an endowment, but it is struggling. The expenses of the cemetery run an excess of \$50,000 per year for mowing and etc. He mentioned that the income of the cemetery is from the sale of the lots and usually that would range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. Last year the cemetery did not sell one lot. Times are changing and mostly lots are being sold for cremations. Those cremation lots are significantly smaller and cost less, which means less income for the cemetery. He also mentioned that now many veterans and their wives are being buried in the National Cemetery in Saratoga which is free. The States guidelines for the cemetery are that the endowment should be big enough by the time the cemetery is completely full, so the income from the endowment will take care of the cemetery forever. Bob Wright mentioned that this is a good idea but it is not working. He mentioned although they are struggling they will probably get through this year alright. Bob Wright has talked with Richard Wirmusky who they contract with to mow the grass and maintain the cemetery. Mr. Wirmusky says at this point they would like assistance with gravel in the driveways. Supervisor Fedler suggested that the Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr., Bob Wright and Richard Wirmusky meet to talk about the cemetery needs. The Town Board had some questions in regards to how much gravel, liability and waiting until the frost is out of the ground. Supervisor Fedler said that these things would be looked into and discussed before anything is done.

Assessor Report

Supervisor Fedler reported in the Assessor's absence that exemption renewal forms were mailed out in December and January need to be returned by March 1, 2016 no exceptions. Valuations for building permits over the 2015 year are being evaluated. Grievance Day is June 7<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall 4 PM to 8 PM. Any questions or concerns please contact the Assessor at the office on Wednesday from 1 PM to 7:30 PM or by email [cambridgeassessor@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgeassessor@gmail.com).

Highway Report

Supervisor Fedler read the Highway Report in the Superintendents absence due to Winter Weather. The new furnace has been installed. They have replaced weather seals top of overhead doors. Phil Spezio came to lend a hand making sure paperwork and posting are up to date. They have cold patched various spots around Town and worked on keeping culverts clear and open. Trimmed brush various places, mostly on Vly Summit between Birch and Stump Church and on Stump Church. They have plowed and sanded roads a couple of times and done general shop work and maintenance on equipment.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported that the total money collected for taxes as of February 1<sup>st</sup> is \$1,523,076.17. The money has been turned over to the Supervisor in the amount of \$648,499.00, which was the total taxes to be raised for the 2016 budget. The remaining funds have been turned over to the Washington County Treasurer. The Town Website has been updated with all newly elected officials, minutes and reports.

Planning Board Report

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The Town of Cambridge Planning Board met on Thursday, February 4, 2016, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. There were 5 members present, Secretary and 1 person from the public.

#### Communications

Chair Eric Pearson reported that he had received an email from NYERSDA on training for Planning/Permitting /Training on Solar Panels. This training was not available in this area however the County Planning Clerk asked if Planning Boards in this area would be interested. The Planning Board said that they would be definitely interested. The Secretary said that she would contact the County Planning Clerk Layne Darfler.

#### Old Business

- 1.) Dominick Giglio was present at the meeting in regards to his parcel #271.-2-27 on Conley Rd. 99.71 acres. Mr. Giglio presented a new sketch plan of proposed subdivision with lot 3 showing 400 ft. of road frontage, per the request of the Planning Board last month. The proposed line between lot 2 and 3 was straightened more. Mr. Giglio said that he would not have a survey to submit till the April meeting.

In regards to the County Planning Board Review Agreement Eric Pearson the Chair said that he would like the supervisor to sign the agreement before he does.

Town Clerk/Planning Board Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that she had spoken with Layne Darfler at the county in regards to the Exemption of Matters of Local Concern from County Planning Board Review Agreement. Layne Darfler Planning Department Clerk at the county said that this is a continuation of the Agreement that we signed with the county in 2013. Do not have to report to the county if not significant project or if not changing anything major. In regards to the Solar training April 19<sup>th</sup> is a tentative date at the County Building.

#### Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis reported that he had 2 Chimney fires already. He also had a call from resident in Coila about fumes that she smelled in the air. He visited Cambridge Valley Machine shop and was there for 4 hours doing a walk through. He talked with the resident 4 times and they determined that it was the smoke from the chimney of the house next door. He explained to her that this was uncontrollable with the heavy air.

#### Communications/Correspondence

Thank you notes were received from both the Rescue Squad and the Senior Citizens for the donations. Supervisor Fedler received a complaint form from Debi Dingman in regards to the issue on Brownell Rd with dogs. The neighbor's dogs have been aggressively approaching Mrs. Dingman dogs and she is afraid that someone is going to get bit or hurt. She also has fear that her dogs will harm the neighbor's dogs because they are much bigger. The supervisor has suggested numerous times that she call the sheriff and make sure that she has this documented in case something happens. Mrs. Dingman also explained in her complaint form that she is unable get in contact with the Dog Control officer; they do not return her phone calls. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the Dog Control officers have many towns that they maintain and also that Ed Holland has had a heart attack, they are trying their best.

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Old Business

The Supervisor mentioned that she would like to review Town Policies the next meeting. She also mentioned that she had been in contact with the Town Attorney in regards to the 5 person Planning Board and the Lanes. She is still waiting for a response what to do about the lanes and Planning Board; the Town Lawyer is working on both issues. The supervisor said that the Planning Board would have to abide by the rules of the 7 person board until the 5 member board is in place, they must have four people present for a quorum.

Acknowledge of Town Court Audit

Supervisor Fedler requested a report of the Court Audit. Councilwoman Herrington reported that she and Councilman McMurray meet with Town Justice DeCarlo to do the 2015 audit. They went through the Annual Audit Process for Towns with the Town Justice. Councilwoman Herrington reported that the Town Justice actually kept a written record in her books which she doesn't have to now because everything is computerized. T

Resolution#9

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to accept the audit of the Town of Cambridge Justice Court Records dated January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 which was submitted at the February 8, 2016 regular Town Board meeting.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

The Supervisor stated that now the Town Clerk will send a letter and the report to the NYS Office of Court Administration.

Town Justice Janet DeCarlo has requested that the Town Board sign the signature sheet that they have reviewed the financials for the last six months of 2015. One signature sheet will be kept on file in the Town Clerk's Office and the other will be given to the Town Justice for her records.

New Business

Supervisor Fedler said that she was looking into working with other Towns and do things together. Possibly work on site Plan Review together, Court System, with the Hurrell-Harring lawsuit settlement coming down the line. The Supervisor explained that right now if you got arrested the public defender must be present, must have a lawyer with you. Said looking into having times where certain times are designated for holding arraignments in one town or another.

Discussion of Town Justice payroll

Letter was received from the Town Justice requesting biweekly payroll for her and the Court Clerk. Currently the payroll is paid quarterly. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that needed to mention that came up at the time of the Organizational Resolution about the Town Justice opening a bank account in a bank that is not designated for the Town of Cambridge. She said that she is looking into this more to see how to correct the problem. Councilman McMurray said that the Town Justice had reasons for changing banks and it had something to do with the end balance. Supervisor Fedler said that the Association of Towns is looking into how to correct. She said that the Association of Towns said that in regards to the payment the Board has the right to set salaries and how they are paid out. There was discussion between the Board members about the way the salary is paid out. Councilman Ford suggested that

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leave the payment as quarterly. Councilwoman Herrington suggested that possibly look at changing when they do the organizational meeting next year.

Resolution#10

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Herrington to leave the Town Justice and Court Clerk Salary as being paid out quarterly.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 1

Councilman McMurray voted not in favor of leaving the payment quarterly.

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that Lawyers recommending sending an email to the Town Justice about the situation with the designating a bank.

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that United Presbyterian minister had an article in the paper about a meeting in regards to suggested uses for the Briemann building. Some of the suggested uses were for senior services, Veterans services, etc.. She mentioned this to Board Members in case they were interested in attending the next meeting.

County Report

Supervisor Fedler reported at the County level they have new supervisors, new meetings and new committees. The Department Heads are all meeting and giving the hot topics for the year. The big hot topic is Tourism whether they have it or not. The County has been working on the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan and this works to encompass the entire county. Ag is one of the biggest incomes in the county. They are interviewing people anywhere from feed dealer, to all kinds of farmers: Dairy, Goat, Christmas Trees, Vineyard, etc... What do we have to do or don't to bring people to this area.

The Supervisor mentioned MWBD, Minority in Women Own Businesses 30% of that money has to be spent to buy from Minority owned businesses. The Governor said that he would like to see this on all Grants.

The Supervisor asked the Town Board if they had anything to add. Councilwoman Herrington said that she had the mug to give to Eric Shaw for his retirement. She suggested that start looking at some things such as the Planning Board and not only a 5 Person Board but also talk to Eric Pearson about restructuring Planning board (what can we change). Councilwoman Herrington thought that it would be a good idea to look into more Shared services between the towns. She was also wondering if they could move to the next step with Site Plan Review. Supervisor Fedler said that the Board members should be ready to talk about the Site Plan Review next month.

Highway superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. came into the meeting after he finished plowing roads and the Board members had questions about the tires purchased. Councilman Ford had questions about the tires that were purchased at Warren Tire and the sizing. Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. explained the sizes and which truck that they went with. Truck #4 had no spare and truck 3# had a cracked rim that needed to be replaced.

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Exemptions of Matters of Local Concern from County Planning Board Review Agreement

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that this is the agreement that was signed with the county 3 years ago and it is just a continuation of the same agreement that was signed in March of 2013.

Resolution #11

Councilman Ford motioned,

Seconded by Councilwoman Herrington,

**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 Law; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of General Municipal Law Article B, Section 239 l 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 Washington County Planning Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement shall take effect immediately.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes - 0

Mobile DMV Unit

Information was received from Julie Hunt who is the DMV Supervisor on the new DMV Mobile Unit that they will have twice a month in Greenwich. She sent packets for the Town Board members about the new unit which will be in Greenwich two Wednesdays per month at the Greenwich Town Hall located 2 Academy St. Hours 9:15 – 2:15. The Supervisor mentioned that no revenue is received for transactions that are mailed to Utica. These Mobile Units will

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hopefully create revenue for the county because the 12.7 % retention fee will remain in the county.

Supervisor Fedler asked the Town Board about their opinion on Tourism in Washington County because it is a hot topic at the County.

Councilman McMurray said need to have it but not sure that cost effective trying to spend a lot of money bringing people here. This area is rural community and how do we promote to bring people here, need a reason to bring people in.

Councilwoman Herrington said that chambers need to support them, they do a lot of events can they be marketed. Not sure need to pay one person for the job of Tourism. She feels that it is definitely worth pursuing.

Councilwoman Wilmot said that they pay a lot of money out and not as much coming back. Whatever shipping to the city need to lure people back to the country. There is nothing to drag people here, Farmers Markets people love and need a venue.

Councilman Ford said that he thought that research could be better spent trying to bring businesses to the area and help the tax base. He mentioned that we should be trying to keep people that are living here from moving out of the area.

Supervisor Fedler said at the County they are working on the Ag and Farmland Plan she read some statistics reported at the county. The 2012 Census the population in Washington County has increased by 2.43 %, but the housing units have increased 8.3 %, they say that this is not uncommon in the Upstate Area. The Supervisor questioned where these housing units were coming from are people selling and rebuilding in the town. The supervisor thanked the Town Board and said that she appreciated their opinion.

Privilege of the Floor

None

There being no further business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>