

Town Board Meeting

February 8, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Town of Cambridge duly called 8th day of February 2021 at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler

Councilman Douglas Ford

Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Councilman Bruce Bailey

Absent: Councilman Brian Harrington

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Jim Buckley Jr., Chandler from the Eagle

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

Auditing of the Bills

General	#9 – 29	\$3,766.78
Highway	#4 – 19	\$9,504.48

Supervisor Fedler said to excuse Jim Buckley Jr. the Highway Superintendent he has been up since 2:30 am and has plowed snow 17 out of the last 21 days.

Approving of the Supervisor's Report

Resolution #12

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the Supervisor's report from January 2021,

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #13

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes from both the Year end meeting of December 30, 2020 and Organizational meeting January 11, 2020 with 3 corrections. The first correction being on page 3 Resolution #3 the vote was left out and it should read Ayes -4 and Noes - 0. The second correction is on page 4 in Resolution #5B, the vote was left out completely so the Vote should read Ayes – 4, Noes – 0. The third correction is on page 6 in the middle under the section of the Agreement with NYS Department of Transportation and Highway Department, the 4th line down, need to take out January 11, 2021 and put in State of New York.

Vote: Noes – 4 Noes – 0

Auditing of the Court Records

Councilwoman Wilmot and Town Justice Molea met so she could audit the Court records. Pursuant to Section 2020-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act, the Town Board unanimously voted to pass resolution to accept the audit.

Resolution #14

Councilwoman Wilmot motioned, Seconded by Councilman Bailey to accept the audit of the Town of Cambridge Justice Court Records dated January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 which were submitted at the February 8, 2021 Regular Town Board meeting.

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Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Town Clerk Report

The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported, the last day to pay taxes without penalty was February 1st. The money has been turned over to the Town for the Budget in the amount of \$742,648.00. The paperwork has been sent to the Washington County Treasurer for the Extension on the Tax Warrant, along with check for the tax monies. The total money collected for taxes so far is \$1,619,890.32. The total amount of unpaid taxes is \$569,110.81.

Planning Board Report

Planning Board Secretary Heather Greenawalt reported, the Planning board meeting was held February 4th with 5 members and Secretary present. The Planning Board welcomed Dorothy Yurschak. The Election of Officers were held and Eric Pearson is the Chairman and Scott Clark Vice Chair. The Planning Board discussed Solar. Pamela Landi from the County sent information on solar and many links that could be viewed online. The Planning Board had concerns about solar farms and who manages the clean up when obsolete. The Planning Board discussed their concerns and they had some questions for the Town Board:

- 1.) Can Local Town Law regulate this or do you have to pass Site Plan Review?
- 2.) Decommissioning them – money bonded upfront?
- 3.) Trigger point for production where needs regulation
- 4.) Who do they come to Planning Board or the Town Board?
- 5.) Does the County issue the permits now that we are contracting through them? What is the breakdown between the County and the Town, Layer of protection, does the County review?

Next Planning Board Meeting will be March 4, 2021

The Supervisor suggested that these questions be sent Pamela Landi at the County Level. Eric Pearson had discussed Solar Farms with the Supervisor and was looking for some information and so Pamela Landi was contacted at the County. She did this very quickly so all information needs to be reviewed. The Town Clerk said that she would forward all Solar information on to the Town Board members for review.

The Supervisor gave a banking update. She mentioned that her and Clerk to the Supervisor, Margaret Shaw had a virtual meeting with Glens Falls National Bank Whitney Berger and Arlene Girard. NYCLASS interest rate is at .1% so the money has gone back to Glens Falls. Glens Falls checking accounts must have a balance of approximately \$500,000 or more on a monthly basis to prevent charges. The bank has all kinds of charges now for checking accounts, in regards to deposits, ACH withdrawals and there is a charge for every check deposited (this adds up fast when depositing tax checks). In the savings accounts and ICS's there are no charges however the actions are limited.

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that she did encourage Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor to look for a computer program to try and help with the bookkeeping. This had been discussed in the past but can be expensive. Margaret did speak with the State and even if she does go with the computer system it was suggested to still keep track in the books for a couple of years. Right now, leaning towards the ledgers.

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>

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BridgeNY Update

Email was received from Kelly Kircher in regards to the Stump Church Bridge. There have been six bids on the Bridge Project and the cost/bids are under the funded amount. Bid documents did not specify specific details.

Another Bridge NY project is open this year and it is possible for the Town to submit again. It was suggested that the Board give Jim Buckley Jr. the Highway Superintendent approval to proceed if he needs to do so right away.

Resolution #15

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to give Highway superintendent Jim Buckley permission to apply/submit paperwork for BridgeNY project for the bridge on the Lower portion of King Road at the lower section of 59.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes - 0

Code Enforcement

The Supervisor received email from the State that the Annual Report is due for Code Enforcement. The Supervisor has forwarded on to the County.

Supervisor's Report

The Supervisor reported the Governor is again dipping into sales tax dollars. The Governor is pulling back sales tax money from Washington County for the distress of hospitals and nursing homes, which could impact the 2022 Budget.

Dr. Byron the Health Officer has decided he no longer wants to be the Health Officer. The Supervisor has reached out to another retired Doctor to see if he is interested.

The Rescue Squad and the Seniors sent a thank you to the Town of Cambridge for the money received.

Resolution of Appreciation

The Town Clerk, Heather Greenawalt read the resolution to recognize the years of service to the Town by LaVerne Davis, past Code Enforcement Officer. The Resolution was signed by Supervisor Fedler and framed to present to LaVerne Davis.

Resolution #16

Motion made by Councilman Ford,
Seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot
TITLE: A resolution to recognize Laverne Davis

WHEREAS, Laverne Davis has served as the Cambridge Code Enforcement officer from 1984 – 2020, over 36 years of dedicated service and,

WHEREAS, Laverne Davis has continually dedicated his time to the Town of Cambridge as Code Enforcement Officer and tried to represent the best interests of the people of the Town of Cambridge, now,

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cambridge Town Board, on behalf of the residents of Cambridge, extends its appreciation to Laverne Davis, for his conscientious performance and dedicated years of service and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that Laverne Davis be furnished a copy of this Resolution, which will be included in the record of February 8, 2021 Town Board meeting.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

Highway Report

The Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. reported that they have plowed, sanded and repaired a lot! Superintendent mentioned that training would be different this year. The Supervisor reported that last year the federal gov't said they are not sending trainers out. Phil Spiezo is certified and able to do training, but this year they are not getting together. They are using the Safety Pins for the training.

CHIPS

The last 20% of the CHIPS money has not been received by some, many have only received 15% of it back. However, if things go wrong then may take 20 %, not sure. The CHIPS budget for 2021 is proposed at 11.9 billion, the local roads have been cut by 65 million. No one really knows what is happening. For Advocacy days in Albany, (to beg for CHIPS money) they will be doing this talk through ZOOM. The Highway Superintendent reported that he has done his first Association meeting through ZOOM and it went well.

The Highway Superintendent also reported that he has an Amish Family that will be moving in on the Turnpike. He will be putting signs up for horse and buggy. He mentioned that this could be expensive if the Town has to buy numerous signs. It was suggested by the Supervisor to check with the County, especially because the side road Route 71 is a county road.

Snow Plow Policy

The Highway Superintendent mentioned that he wanted to make it known that in the Snow Plow Policy, mail boxes are not really the Highway Departments responsibility. The Mailboxes should be 50 ft off the edge of the road. The Town of Cambridge will continue to fix/replace mailboxes that are harmed as they always have. He did mention however they will be inexpensive mail boxes NOT \$300 or 400!! It was also mentioned most years they only have 1 to 2 boxes to replace, sometimes may get up to 6 or 8. A short summary of the Policy is that:

The Town Highway Department endeavors to plow, sand and/or salt roads during a storm to keep them open for travel, to help provide a good surface on which to operate. Drivers must be responsible for driving their vehicles according to conditions, which includes but is not limited to reducing speed as needed, to ensure safe travel. **THE TOWN OF CAMBRIDGE DOES NOT HAVE A CLEAR ROAD POLICY.**

Resolution #17

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman Bailey to adopt the Town of Cambridge Snow Plow Policy which can be viewed in its entirety at the Cambridge Town Clerk's Office.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

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Emergency Plan COVID

The Highway Superintendent reported that the purpose of this Emergency Plan is to protect public workers, Essential workers and to have a Plan for future health disasters. This Plan can be extremely simple. The main purpose is to lay out a Plan in case of a future emergency in regards to a communicable disease.

The Supervisor reported that Cambridge Rescue Squad would like to come to a meeting and discuss things they have been doing throughout COVID. They have staff to step up and help with PODS if vaccinations become available.

2021 Tour of the Battenkill

The Town Clerk reported that she received an email in regards to the 2021 Tour of the Battenkill. The race is slated for Saturday, September 18th, 2021, they are requesting a letter of acknowledgement from the Town of Cambridge. The Board viewed the maps that were received and requested more detailed maps. It was also mentioned that this was not the best time for the race, being that this is right during harvest season. The Town clerk said that she would email and request the more detailed maps.

Town Board

Councilman Bailey mentioned that he would like to talk about Site Plan Review, but not tonight.

There being no further business before the Town Board the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge