

Town Board Meeting  
September 14, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge duly called and held the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 2015 at the Town Hall, the following present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler  
Councilman Douglas Ford  
Councilwoman Susan Herrington  
Councilman Gerald Skiff  
Councilman Robin McMurray

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement Officer

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	#144 – 162	\$ 3,676.99
Highway	#125 – 138	\$17,327.47

Approving of the Supervisor's Report

Resolution #40

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the August 2015 Supervisor's report.

Vote:           Ayes – 5                   Noes - 0

Transfer of Money

Resolution #41

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to transfer \$763.71 from the contingent A1990.4 to A1972.4 for payments to Washington County Treasurer to reduce taxes.

Vote:           Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #42

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2015 meeting with one correction. On page 3 paragraph 3 the sentence should read Supervisor Fedler said she hasn't heard anything, everything is quiet. Instead of has it should be hasn't.

Vote:           Ayes – 5                   Noes - 0

Highway Report

Supervisor Fedler read the Highway report in Highway Superintendent Eric Shaw's absence. The Highway crew has patched Irish Lane and Durfee Road. They have also cut brush in several places. Gary Denny, tree surgeon, cut a big maple tree on Conley Road. They have started cutting firewood for the shop. The Culverts were replaced on Oak Hill Road, Irish Lane and Center Cambridge Road. The cemeteries were mowed. The intersection of Oak Hill Road where it connects with Stage Road was reconstructed. This was a joint effort with the Town of White creek since Stage Road is maintained by them. The intersection is scheduled to be paved on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. They are in the process of going around the Town straightening and updating signs. Highway Superintendent Eric Shaw thanked the Board for allowing him to purchase a much needed mower for cemetery maintenance. A list of current inventory was submitted by the Highway Superintendent. Supervisor Fedler said that the Highway Superintendent suggested that in the future they purchase an arm mower for the mowing of banks and guard rails. Approximately 600 gallons of diesel were used last month.

The Supervisor reported that the fire contract was received from the Village of Cambridge Fire Department. She will be looking into the amounts given because of the increase.

Next month's Town Board Meeting will be changed because of Columbus Day from October 12<sup>th</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

Appointment to BAR

Notice was received from the Washington County Real Property that the term of Robert Wright on the Board of Assessment Review expires September 30, 2015.

Resolution #43

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to reappoint Robert Wright to Board of Assessment Review for the term of 10/1/2015 to 9/30/2020.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Supervisor Fedler reported that they were still planning on having a Highway Committee with the Highway Superintendent and 2 other people. Eric Shaw has agreed to be the chairperson and Doug Ford the other committee member. The Committee would make the recommendations they would not force the Highway Superintendent to do the suggestions. The suggestions would be made and recorded in the record. If these suggestions were not done and something was to happen at a later date, then the situation would be addressed. The Advisory Committee would start at the beginning of 2016 and would be an appointment at the Organizational meeting (they will serve at the pleasure of the supervisor) with no salary.

Receipt of CHIPS money

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Resolution #44

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray that upon receipt of the CHIPS funding to the Highway DB Account the Town will authorize repayment of the amounts advanced from the Highway DA and General A funds.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Town Justice Audit

Town Supervisor Fedler reported that she had received a letter from the State of New York Unified Court System in regards to the Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act. This requires the town and village justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their respective town and village auditing boards. The Town Justice normally supplies every 6 months to the Town Board a report from the Town of Cambridge Court. The Supervisor mentioned that annually now they will be required to do an annual audit of the court records the same as they do with the Clerk to the Supervisor and the Town Clerk. Supervisor Fedler said that this is correspondence that was received in the mail and she has not yet notified the Town Justice but she is sure that she has received a copy in the mail.

County Report

Supervisor Fedler reported that at the County they would be approving the resolution for the 911 center director. They are starting to have budget meetings at the county.

2016 Town Budget

Supervisor Fedler and Margaret Shaw the Clerk to the Supervisor have prepared the 2016 budget. The Town Clerk will be handing the 2016 Budget to the Town Board this meeting. The Supervisor reviewed some of the changes that she has made to the budget. The highlights of the budget are that it is a 2.38% increase over last year. If County Rt. 60 is no longer maintained by the Town it then makes it 6.15% increase. Supervisor Fedler explained that even if we do maintain and get paid for County Rt. 60, it doesn't belong in the main budget. She went over the highlights of the budget: pay for lawyer was increased, Eric Shaw the Highway superintendent put in the figures for the highway portion (Supervisor didn't change his numbers at all), except the Board and the Supervisor everyone else received a 2% raise. She also added in some of the money that had been eliminated for example: the Public Health Officer, contingent funds last four years have had perk because Councilman Skiff did not take his salary. As of January 1, 2016 that extra \$800 will not be in contingent, due to the fact that Councilman Skiff is not running for the Board Position. The Budget Officer position was brought to 250 which used to be at 0. The Supervisor mentioned other things that were not put in that might need to be added: if money needed to be borrowed for paving until CHIPS reimbursement received, if Town has to borrow money then a bond is needed which means need a bond lawyer (which is another expense). Money was added for the 4<sup>th</sup> BAR person which was a \$100, all members must attend training so they should all be paid. Money that is owed to the county, workers comp. is always a

possibility. Councilman Ford mentioned that we have two highway employees that are close to retirement and that this might mean a possible change in the record for Worker's comp. claim. Councilman Ford said this change might occur because of inexperienced young workers on the job. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that there are things that will need to be considered for the future like the painting of the Town Hall, condition of the salt shed, overhead doors for the Highway Garage. She did mention that money in the Town Hall reserve should be used for repairs and that if County Rt. 60 is still maintained by the Town, money should go into the Highway Reserve (this should be considered found money). Supervisor Fedler mentioned that she asked Highway Superintendent Eric Shaw to go over the equipment and the equipment purchasing schedule.

Because the budget is a 6.15% they will need to do a tax cap override. The Town Lawyer has sent a draft of the Town Law to override the tax cap. There must be a public hearing to turn this into a Local Law, they will be having the public hearing at the October 5, 2016 Town Board Meeting at 7:30 PM. It was also decided that they would do a Budget Workshop during the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Supervisor Fedler mentioned no figures are available for Health Insurance yet. She told the Town Board if they had any questions don't hesitate to ask, if questions are in regards to the highway budget, they should be directed to Eric Shaw the Highway Superintendent.

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt handed the 2016 Budget out to the Town Board.

#### Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis reported that the 120 days for Vly Summit Rd. building project are coming to a close. The Board must decide on the extension that was discussed earlier in year. Problem on Brownell Rd. taken care of, neighbors were complaining about the house that was being built (said that the house looked too much like a barn). Many Solar projects are going in and also a big addition on a house on County Rt. 59.

#### Resolution #45

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to extend the Vly Summit Rd. building project permit another 120 days, so the owner can live in his trailer while building the house.

Vote:                   Ayes – 4                   Noes – 0

Supervisor Fedler abstained from the vote.

#### Assessor's Report

Supervisor Fedler reported in Assessor's absence, the school bills are out. The Assessor asked if there are any questions regarding Star Exemptions please direct towards her email or office number. It is easier for the Assessor to speak to residents directly. Supervisor Fedler also mentioned that the Assessor has budgeted in for Computer program. The Town Board had

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questions about this program so Councilman Skiff said that he would stop and see the Assessor for more information. The supervisor also mentioned that the assessor is doing updates and also going to her classes.

#### Planning Board Report

Planning Board Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the Town of Cambridge Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting, September 10, 2015 with 6 members present, secretary and 2 people from the public. The Planning Board held the public hearing on the minor subdivision application submitted by Nicholas Hamilton for the Hamilton Estate. The Hamilton Family will be subdividing off 3.165 acre parcel on the south side of the property on the eastside of Whiteside Rd.. A survey map was displayed for the viewing. Planning Board reviewed the final survey map and found it to be the same as maps at previous meetings with a subdivision of 3.165 acres. There were no public comments; therefore the Public hearing was closed at 7:45 PM. The Planning Board granted the final approval of the subdivision of the Hamilton Estate presented by Nicholas Hamilton. Next month's meeting will be on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that Hunting License sales have been going well. The final day for DMP (Doe Management Permits) is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Town Board

Councilman McMurray questioned the letter that was received by the Town Justice in regards to the Town Hall condition. He asked about the community service at the county level and how that works. The Town would supply the materials and the county would work this community service into their schedule.

Councilman Skiff said that they would like to wish Bridget Rowen owner of O'Hearns and her employee's good luck in the future. He also reported that he went to the Buskirk Fire Dept. fundraiser (the Flea Market) and it was a good day with 140 vendors.

Councilman Skiff asked the Board Members where they stood in regards to Site Plan Review. Councilman McMurray wanted to know if they needed legal advice. They discussed Site Plan Review and the concerns they had with the White Creek Site Plan Review. Town Board said that they are interested in making something like this to fit into the community. It was decided that the best thing to do was for Board Members to go through the Town of White Creek Site Plan Review and pick out what things they like and dislike. The next Town Board Meeting they will discuss these likes and dislikes.

Councilwoman Herrington talked with Lisa Pembroke and thought that maybe the Town Board could have a liaison willing to work with businesses and the Chamber of Commerce. Thought that maybe this would promote business and maybe the Town Boards could meet once a year.

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She was not sure whether this would be beneficial or not. Supervisor Fedler mentioned that there is an organization with the county that does this already.

County

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that at the County level they would be working on the County Budget and having joint finance meetings.

There being no further business before the Town Board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>