

Town Board Meeting
December 19, 2011

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 19th day of December, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler
Councilman Frank Ziehm

Councilman Ted Berndt – Absent

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Town Justice Janet DeCarlo, Highway Superintendent Alan Davis, David DeCarlo, Henry & Harriet Peabody, Kathleen Ward, Dick Battistoni, LaVerne Davis, Terry Hamilton, Leon Barkley, Astrid Davis, Gene & Lucinda Gienza

Auditing of the Bills

Bills were audited prior to the meeting at 7:00 PM.

General	#272 - #300	\$7,662.50
Highway	#137 - #146	\$3,845.01

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

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #109

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2011 meeting with one correction. The Standard Workday Resolution on the bottom portion where it reads I further certify that the full board consists of blank members and that blank members were present and blank members voted. It should read that the board consist of 4 members and that 3 members were present and that 3 members voted in favor.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Transfers

Resolution #110

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ziehm to transfer funds from Contingent A1990.4 to the Justice, Contractual A1110.4 in the amount of \$329.28 to cover incurred expenses. The second transfer was to transfer money from the Contingent A1990.4 to the Town Hall, Contractual in the amount of \$864.34 to cover incurred expenses.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Supervisor's Report

Resolution#111

Councilman Ziehm motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to approve the Supervisor's Report from November 2011.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Assessor

The Assessor will be sending out the renewals for the Senior Star Exemptions the end of the month and the Ag Exemptions renewals will go out the first of the year. Jeffrey Jackson is working on filling out the paperwork for the Civil Service Waiver.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that as of the first of January 2012 the price of dump stickers will be going up 25 cents which will make them \$2.35 per sticker. Verizon has been contacted in regards to switching the telephone provider. The cost for the month will be approximately \$200.00 a month, even with this switch there is no guarantee that the Town Hall will get DSL. The Newly Elected classes information was handed out and the classes will be on January 11-13, 2012 in Albany.

Supervisor Watkins reported that the Attorney Generals Office is asking that every town in New York send a copy of their Ethics Policy. The Supervisor mentioned that just so everyone knows that every elected official has to be sworn in and also must know their ethics policy.

Town Board

Councilman Ziehm thanked the public for putting up with him for the last 24 years, and he wished the Newly Elected Officials good luck. He said to use common sense and good judgement and go from there. Harriet Peabody presented Frank Ziehm with a Card of Appreciation for his time and dedication. Harriet and Henry Peabody and all of the Townspeople donated to the gift in the card.

Planning Board

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the Planning Board held their regular monthly meeting, Thursday, December 1, 2011, 7:30 PM with 6 members present. The following items of business were addressed:

-Re-stamped the Viola & James Gray subdivision map with a new approval date because the subdivision map was not filed with the County Clerk within the 60 day filing period. The subdivision was originally approved on Sept. 8, 2011 but was not filed in a timely manner.

-Eric Pearson was elected Chairman and Earl Horton Vice-Chairman for 2012.

-Members were informed about a meeting on Dec. 5, 2011 at the County sponsored by Washington County Local Development Corporation and the NY Department of State, Division of Local Government. It will cover two specific topics: one session will deal with Comprehensive Planning (5:00 – 6:30 PM) and the second session will focus on Adopting and Amending Zoning regulations (7:00 – 9:00 PM). Two members showed interest in attending.

-The meeting for January has been changed from January 5, 2012 to January 12, 2012 due to the special meeting of the Town Board on the 5th of January.

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Highway Superintendent

The Supervisor asked if all the radios on the trucks were inspected. Alan Davis reported they almost all were inspected and that they had till the 13th of January to get this done. The Inventory report was given to the Town Board. Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent reported, that they have spent several days patching black top roads and holes and also patched on a number of the gravel roads also. Gary Denny cut several large trees along the roads for the Town. Chuck went to the village for 1 day to install 2 dry wells. Some ditching was done in a couple of areas and some trees were cut down and banks cut back on the Old Conley Road. The hydraulic line was replaced from the pump to the steering box on the loader. They also hauled approximately 400 ton of stone for the stock pile for the gravel roads. The Highway men spend a couple of days cleaning up outside around the shop and the town hall and a load of scrap was taken to the scrap yard and a check was received for \$320.00. The check was given to Margaret to be deposited. The first snow on December 8th was heavy, only approximately 2 inches. Everything went well and the trucks were washed and greased after the storm was over. They had an issue of someone dumping garbage at the old dump, the highway men picked the stuff up. Mr. Davis thought that the cable should be put back up at the dump so that they don't have to deal with the issue of dumping. When things were slow they worked on the loader repairing the fenders and door that have rusted out, and worked on painting it. Chuck went and picked up some culverts, 2 guys went to the village to help with tree removal. Mr. Davis has priced tires for the front of Truck #2. Michelin were \$864 but this was too expensive. They are going with Good Year which are \$587. Truck #2 will need a new set of tires on the rear, recaps have been priced and they were \$180. The recaps will be good for a couple years. Alan Davis has also purchased a couple of sander chains because as of now they don't have any on hand.

Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that in the past that they had a write up of the tire quotes to have on file. Mr. Davis said that he would do that, it was not a problem.

Councilwoman Fedler and Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent, presented a plaque to Gene Giemza for his many years of service on the Highway Department. On September 30, 2011, Gene Giemza retired from the Highway Department after 21 years of service.

Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent mentioned that he had one other thing that he would like to bring up. He mentioned that right now the Highway Department uses a cold water pressure washer and he has priced a hot water pressure washer that runs off diesel and he would like to purchase one. He was up to Salem and saw one and they showed him one. The one that he is looking at is 2750 psi, hot water, heated by diesel. The account that is used for tools (DA5130.2), this year only \$900 has been spent out of it and there is approximately \$7000 left. The hot water pressure washer that he is looking at is \$2872 which is state contract through tifco.

Resolution #112

Supervisor Watkins motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ziehm to purchase the hot water pressure washer and to look at other options and not to go over 2875.

Vote: Ayes – 3 Noes – 0

Code Enforcement

LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement reported that all was quiet. Supervisor Watkins asked what was happening on County Rt. 74. He said that they are working on cleaning up the area and that they had moved out of there and gone to the village. Concerning the building on County Rt. 59, there has been no response to the letter that LaVerne has mailed. The Supervisor made everyone aware that the letter was sent certified mail and there was no response to it. The Town Justice that was present commented that this is called deemed received and after 30 days the barn can be pushed down or taken down. The Town Justice said that both of these cases were scheduled.

Communications

Catherine Littel was hired by the previous administration to maintain and update the website. She has contacted us and there is going to be a substantial increase in the amount. She wants \$50.00 for updates and other changes billed at an hourly rate of \$40.00. The Supervisor has found interested parties to possibly maintain the website. The question was brought up whether or not the town owns the website because of the copyright. It was discussed and decided that the Town has paid for the domain name and hosting fee so the town owns the website. So as of the first of the year Catherine Littel will no longer maintain the website for the Town of Cambridge.

Unfinished Business

On January 5, 2012 at 6:00 PM there will be the Organizational Resolution and a special meeting to appoint a person who has submitted a letter of interest to the Town Board. The Regular Town Board meeting will be on January 9, 2012 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall and the bills will be audited at 7:00 PM, and there will be a Public Hearing for the Aged Exemptions. The Year End Meeting will be on December 27, 2011 at 2:00 PM. On January 1, 2012 at 11:00 AM at the Town Hall there will be a swearing in ceremony of the Newly Elected Town Officials this was changed from 2:00 PM to 11:00 AM.

Fuel Oil Bids

Supervisor Watkins requested that the letters be open for the fuel oil bids. The letters that were received were only asking for bid specs. The one was from the Hess Corp. New Jersey, and the Buckley Corp., Bridge Port, Conn.. The question was asked who that we have and whether or not we like them. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis said yes that he was very happy with John Ray. The Supervisor mentioned to keep them. Councilwoman Fedler suggested that they check with John Ray because she had heard that some changes had been made. She also requested that he have these amounts by the Year end meeting on Tuesday, the 27th of December.

County Report

The Supervisor reported that they were still trying to sell Pleasant Valley. It was questioned how much they wanted for the nursing home. The Supervisor said that they

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don't have an amount, he has told the people at the County that usually if you are selling something that you have an amount that you are selling for.

Councilwoman Fedler read a resolution that Robbie McIntosh the chair of the Democratic Party had written to recognize Frank Ziehm's 24 years of service.

Title: A resolution to recognize Franklin C. Ziehm.

Whereas: Franklin C. Ziehm has served on the Cambridge Town Council from 1984 – 1995 and again from 2000 to the present, and

Whereas: Franklin C. Ziehm has consistently tried to represent the interests of the people of Cambridge, now, therefore,

Be It Resolved that, on behalf of the People of Cambridge, the Cambridge Town Council does hereby recognize Franklin C. Ziehm's 24 years of service with gratitude and appreciation.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>