

Regular Town Board Meeting  
February 13, 2012

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins  
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler  
Councilman Robin McMurray  
Councilman Gerald Skiff  
Councilman Douglas Ford

Others Present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Henry & Harriet Peabody, Leon Barkley, Rani Bass, Jeffry Jackson Town Assessor, Janet DeCarlo Town Justice, Don Herrington, Bob Hamilton, Astrid Davis, Sarah Davis, Elton Balch, Terry Hamilton, Charlie Pearson, Don Jepson, Marie Drost, Jacob Drost, Scott Keller Town Attorney, Holly McMurray, Ed Holland DCO, Jim Buckley, Ashleigh Farellel, Robbie McIntosh, Jim Buckley Jr., Sue Herrington, Tony Millington, Bonnie Farellel, Ray Gardnier

Audit of the Bills

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

|         |          |             |
|---------|----------|-------------|
| General | #23 – 59 | \$ 7,616.17 |
| Highway | # 7 – 20 | \$10,184.28 |

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order immediately after auditing the bills and led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution #23

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes as mailed of the January 5, 2012 and the January 9, 2012 meetings.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Executive Session

The Supervisor made the public aware that the Town Board would be going into Executive Session to discuss the litigations concerning the assessment of the Old Mary McClellan. The parcel was owned by Mrs. Woodcock and it went into foreclosure, at this point it was assessed at 1.5 million dollars. The people that took it out of foreclosure asked to have the assessment dropped to 700 thousand and they turned around and sold it. The assessment was then lowered to 400 thousand dollars.

Resolution #23

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to enter into Executive Session to seek the advice of Legal Counsel on the old Mary McClellan Hospital Property.

Vote:                   Ayes – 5                   Noes - 0

Entered into Executive Session at 7:35 PM

Resolution #24

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Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to come out of Executive Session.

Vote:           Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Exited out of Executive Session at 8:05 PM.

Resolution#25

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to have Alan Wrigley complete the Karen Garewal issue that he has already worked on and it only requires the signature and he can do this pro bono to wrap up this case.

Vote:           Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Mr. Keller the new Town Attorney is going to see if he can challenge the Mary McClellan Hospital assessment. The Supervisor stated that the assessment is no where near what they thought it was going to be it was supposed to be \$725,000. Jeffry Jackson the Town Assessor commented to the public that he had set the assessment higher than the \$725,000. Mr. Jackson stated that like anyone they have the right to appeal this in a higher court. When it got to this point the Attorney representing the town met with the petitioner, this number of the assessment came in lower than what everyone thought it was going to be. When the paperwork was signed it ended up that this assessment stands for 3 years, until 2014. Jeff Jackson said that the Town was going to investigate what options they have and the possibly to appeal the decision.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #26

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to approve the January 2012 Supervisor's Report.

Vote:           Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Transfer of Funds

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to transfer money from the Town Clerk, Contractual A1410.4 to the Town Clerk, Equipment A1410.2 in the amount of \$319.89 to cover the purchase of the lap top.

Vote:           Ayes – 5                   Noes – 0

Town Newspaper

Resolution #28

Supervisor Watkins motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to rescind the motion of the Greenwich Journal Salem Press as the Town paper.

Vote:           Ayes -5                   Noes – 0

Resolution #29

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to make the Eagle the official paper of the Town of Cambridge.

Vote:           Ayes – 4                   Noes – 1

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Supervisor Watkins opposed to making the Eagle the official paper. Councilwoman Fedler stated that they had a good article last month.

The Town Clerk read a letter into the record from William H Buchanan a resident of the town. This letter voiced his concerns about the town board changing the official newspaper to a paper that is not available in the town. Another letter was read from the Greenwich Journal Salem Press declining the designation as the official newspaper of the Town of Cambridge for the year 2012.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported the lap top has been purchased and Cliff DeCarlo has helped the Town Clerk set it up in the office. DEC has issued a new printer with a USB port and this has been connected to the new lap top. The DEC system is working well. The Town Clerk has called Localnet to cancel the town's service with them. Localnet is no longer needed with the updated computer system. The amount due to the supervisor has been paid and the remaining amount collected by January 31<sup>st</sup> has been paid to the Washington County Treasurer. The total amount collected by taxes as of January 31<sup>st</sup> is \$1,346,429.60. The amount remaining to be collected in taxes is \$585,577.97. The updates that were needed for the Town website have been emailed to Tom Darfler. An email was received from him stating that the updates have been made.

Planning Board Report for January and February 2012

The Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported for Planning Board clerk Sally Eddy. At the January 12, 2012 Planning Board meeting there six member present and seven people from the public, including Supervisor Watkins, Attorney Scott Keller and Washington County Real Property Services Director Bill McCarty.

The board addressed two new subdivision requests:

1. Cleo Ford, along with son Ron Ford, submitted a sketch plan for a minor subdivision of a 97.2 acre farm parcel owned by Cleo & Martha Ford. The property is located on Edie Road and is split approximately in half by the road. Cleo Ford is proposing to subdivide the property into tow lots using the road as the dividing factor. Ron Ford will be conveyed all land east of Edie Road with the exception of an existing workshop. Cleo will retain the workshop as well as the reaming land west of the road which contains his house and farm buildings. The sketch plan was granted approval and Mr. Ford was directed to proceed with the survey.
2. Collen Sacala submitted a sketch plan on behalf of property owner John Weaver. Mr. Weaver owns 180.97 acres at 744 State Route 372 which is classified as residential/agricultural. Mr. Weaver is proposing to subdivide the property into two parcels with the highway providing the natural dividing line. The 60 acres that lay north of the highway which contain Mr. Weaver's house and other out buildings will be retained by him. The 120 acres south of the highway will be sold. Mr. Weaver is out of state and Ms. Sacala is acting as his representative. The sketch plan was approved and Ms. Sacala was directed to proceed with the survey.

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Supervisor Watkins spoke to the board expressing his concern over three issues he is currently dealing with: a junkyard, potential CD dump and the possible construction of a cell tower. He stressed the need for the planning board to come up with some type of frame work that would address these issues and others considered unsuitable for the town. A discussion lasted for about an hour among the board members, Supervisor Watkins and Attorney Keller as to possible solutions, ie. zoning, ordinances, local laws. The planning board attempted to address some issues about 2 years ago and was unsuccessful.

At the February 2, 2012 meeting there were four members present. No one from the public attended. There were no subdivisions to review. A general discussion took place concerning the matters that were talked about last month with Supervisor Watkins and Attorney Keller. Next months meeting will be on March 8, 2012.

Town Board

Robin McMurray has proposed a generic complaint form that can be used for Dog, Highway, and Code Enforcement. The only adjustment that they plan on making to this form is to take out the space for the date of birth. This must be a signed complaint and you have to be 18 years and older. The idea of this is a matter of record keeping and this form will be given to the Town Clerk and she will make copies and give a copy to the appropriate person. They suggested that everyone give input. A resident suggested that the forms have a serial number and that there be a response in a timely manner. It was decided to table the decision on this until the March meeting.

Councilwoman Fedler questioned Alan Davis if he had any information on the diesel prices. He stated that the John Ray price of winterized diesel was \$3.55/gallon. His recommendation was to sit tight on the diesel price because this was still a competitive price.

Councilwoman Fedler also requested that Alan Davis Highway Superintendent look over the purchase program and asked if a revised version could be submitted to the Town Board.

Highway Superintendent Report

Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent reported that they plowed and sanded many nuisance storms during the month. The sand has been rescreened to get rid of larger stones and the results have seemed to improve. The highway men have done routine maintenance on trucks, and they have replaced sander chains in #8 using one of the chains purchased at year end. The truck #2 has been to Delurey's once and to Southworth's twice due to lack of power. Trees have been cut on Whiteside and Meetinghouse Roads and started on Gannon Road. They have built wing carts to move wings in shop when working on them. The front brakes and universal on the pickup have been replaced. The Highway Superintendent has met with 2 different reps about wood boiler heating systems. It looks like payback could be about 2 years. He is still waiting for quotes. He has also met with a salesperson in regards to solar electricity, but still looking for grant opportunities. They have found a broken crossmember on #4 and this has been repaired. Also repaired broken wing block and replaced 2 hydraulic lines on side dump. Both of the battery boxes have been replaced on the loader with 2 Viking

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Fabrication built. The Highway men are now chasing oil leaks on hydraulics and engine oil line. They have also spent part of a day sweeping some key intersections.

#### Code Enforcement

LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement has talked with Jeffry Jackson the Assessor about a list of building projects that have been dragging on in the Town for the last couple years.

#### Unfinished Business

The Supervisor reported that he is still working on the ethics policy and the other policies will be reviewed at the same time.

#### Temporary Position of Highway Workers

Alan Davis Highway Superintendent reported that Civil Service says that a part time person can only work an average of 20 hours a week.

#### New Business

The Supervisor received a letter stating litigations against the Town of Cambridge, occurring at 2 State Street. This information was turned over to the NYMIR the Town Insurance Company.

#### Privilege of the Floor

The Public Hearing for the new Animal Control Law was postponed, the board and the residents voiced opinions and concerns. Scott Keller the new Town Attorney has drafted a copy of the dog licensing and Dog and Animal control law in one and given copies to the board members. Mr. Keller thought that after tonight's meeting that if the animal law was to go forward he would incorporate anything that he thought might be significant to the law. There has been many tickets issued that pertain to other animals then dogs and there is no law to go by to enforce these tickets. Many residents were present from the Town and they voiced their concerns about passing this animal control law. Rani Bass a resident of the Town read a letter from Ralph Rossi another resident of the Town and requested that this letter be recorded in the record. The letter from Mr. Rossi stated that he wanted to express his strong opposition to the proposed Cambridge Animal-Control Law. Ed Holland the Dog Control Officer was present and he spoke about the animal control law and stated that the original reasoning behind having an animal control law was geared toward public safety and quality of life. This Law would give authority to hold the people that own the animals accountable for the damage done.

#### County Report

The 15<sup>th</sup> of February Pleasant Valley is going to have hearing at 7:00 PM at the VFW this is open to the public.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>