

Regular Town Board Meeting
July 9, 2012

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 9th day of July, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

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

Others Present: Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt, LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, Rani Bass, Nancy Mabeus, David DeCarlo, Town Justice Janet DeCarlo, Ray Gardiner, Scott Keller Town Attorney, Charlie Pearson, Astrid Davis, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Dick Battistoni, Ted Berndt, Elton Balch, Terry Hamilton, Bob Hamilton, Ashleigh Morris (from the Eagle), Lillian Herrington, Tony Millington, Bonnie Farellel, Bruce Rolleston, Henry Peabody

Audit of the Bills

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

General	#156 – #187	\$16,970.31
Highway	# 66 - #83	\$ 5,357.95

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

The Supervisor introduced Sheriff Murphy and Deputy Sheriff Murphy and they explained the new liaison program. It was explained that each Supervisor in the county would be assigned an officer. This would allow the Supervisor of the Town to keep in contact with the Deputy and to let him know how everything is going in the town. This allows proactive communication between the public and the sheriffs. It was mentioned about the break-ins that have been taking place around the town. The Deputy Murphy suggested that the best thing that the residents could do would be to talk with neighbors, friends, family and to tell everyone that they need to lock their doors. Most of these break-ins take place during the day. The burglars are possibly supporting a habit such as drugs, this is a fuel for their habit. The Deputy suggests, “Lock your doors, garage doors, car doors.” Motion lights were suggested as a deterrent. The deputy said to make the burglar earn it.

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution#65

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting with one correction. On page 4 it should read that there is already a cable on the lower section of the Vly Summit Dump. It was the upper section of the dump that needs a cable.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Supervisor’s Report

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Resolution #66

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

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Transfer of Funds

Resolution#67

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff, to transfer money from the Contingent A1990.4 to the Town Board Contractual A1010.4 in the amount of \$90.00 for the 2nd quarter of the website fees.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Assessor Report

The Supervisor reported that the Assessor has the Final Assessment Roll available for the public to view.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that there had been some confusion about the Dog Control Officers. The Town Clerk reported that the Dog Control Officers are still operating the shelter. The Clerk had received some questions about this because some residents had heard that the shelter had been closed down. The truth behind this is that the state had inspected and the shelter had failed the inspection. This was because of a fan was not working correctly, the state will inspect again later.

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler questioned the Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt as to whether or not she had a chance to look into the website and doing the updates herself. Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt said that no she hadn't yet; she will do this before the next board meeting. Councilwoman Fedler suggested that the board find out the cost of the website before budget time is upon us.

Purchase of the Pickup Truck

Councilman Ford reported that the bids are in for the truck. He reported that the State Contract for the Ford F350 4X4 in the amount of \$23,324.28 and the Carbone Auto Group for the Ford F350 4X4 was \$22,634.00.

Resolution #68

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to accept the bid from Carbone Auto Group on the Ford F350 4X4 for the amount of \$22,634.00.

Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Councilman Skiff questioned about the recognition for the Volunteers, he was not sure if a notice had been put in last month's article about the Town Board recognizing all volunteers. Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle said that she was not sure whether or not it

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had been in the paper. Councilwoman Fedler said that she would write something up and make sure that it gets put in the Eagle for this week.

Councilman McMurray brought up the topic of the Dog Control in the village and whether or not the mayor had been contacted. The Supervisor had spoke with the clerk and stated that right now this is in limbo because it seems that the gun was jumped in regards to who is in charge of this. The Village will be doing their own dogs until they get everything straighten out and find who is responsible. The Supervisor and Mayor are still trying to get in contact with each other.

It was also brought up about the DOT stops in the village of Cambridge and just outside the village limits. Councilman McMurray mentioned that they were saying that they were going to set up three times a month check points. Councilman McMurray said that this looked like they were taking money away from other towns. The Supervisor stated that he would talk to the Mayor about this.

Highway Superintendent Report

The Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that they had ditched Stevenson Road, put shoulders back on Turnpike and patched blacktop where the culverts were replaced. The cemeteries were mowed for the 4th of July. The excavator and 1 man was sent to the village for several jobs. The two new radios were installed in the grader and the truck #4. They have also graded roads where needed and weed whacked along all guardrails. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis attended Cornell Highway School in Ithaca. He reported that it was very informational however at the same it was very overwhelming. The information on ditching the roads and keeping them clean was great. He also explained that there was a broad range from really big towns to extremely small. The lacking of funds however seemed to be everywhere and it was agreed on that no one wanted to raise taxes.

Planning Board Report

The Planning board held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, July 5, 2012, 7:30 PM with 6 members present. No one from the public attended.

New member Judy Leon was introduced and welcomed.

There were no subdivision applications to consider.

Members were reminded about the upcoming training courses on Wednesday, July 11, at the county: 1) Subdivision Review from 5:00 – 7:00 PM and Site Plan Review from 7:30 – 8:30 PM. The fee is \$20 per attendee.

Another training school will be held on July 12 at the Fort Edward Fire House presented by the law firm of FitzGerald, Morris, Baker, Firth for officials of planning boards as well as zoning board of appeals.

The hours are 5:30 – 9:30 PM and the fee is \$20 per attendee.

Jerry Moppert presented a summary of the data he collected pertaining to new

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residential construction covering the past twelve years. There was a total of 61 new residential building permits issued which averaged out to be 5 per year. In addition, he tabulated data from the Real Property System pertaining to the total assessed value of the town for each year starting with 2007 through 2011. In 2007, the assessed value was \$204,097,566 and in 2011 it was \$206,981,189, an increase of \$2,883,623 or 1.4 percent. Overall, for the last five years the total assessed value has increased an average of 0.3 percent per year. The next phase of his project is to look at exemptions and their effect on the tax base.

Supervisor Watkins reported that he would be talking with the Mayor from the Village of Cambridge about the Dog Control Officer. He also mentioned the Dump and how the three towns would be changing the time of the month and the perimeters that they test at. These changes should pay for themselves with in the next few years.

Appointment Policy

Resolution #69

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to accept the Appointment Policy and Procedure.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes - 0

Resident Rani Bass questioned the appointment policy where it mentioned how the position would be advertised. She thought that it should be advertised in all three: the bulletin board, paper and website. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that this was looking into the future if by chance there was not a website. It was still suggested that the word “or” be taken out and only the “and be left in so the policy will read: vacant positions shall be advertised in the local newspaper and posted on the Town bulletin board and placed on the Town’s website for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the date in which the appointment may be made.

Resolution #70

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to adopt the Appointment Policy and Procedure as amended.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Violence in the Workplace

This Workplace Violence Prevention Program Policy & Procedures Manual for the Town of Cambridge was made available to the public at this meeting and will be discussed at the August 13th meeting.

Town Hall Usage Policy

The Supervisor mentioned that there was several Town Hall usage Policies around and that also NYMIR had given him a Use of Facilities Document so that the person using the Town Hall is liable for any damages. Many Towns do have a Town Hall Usage Policy and the board will review these and make a decision after that.

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Code Enforcement

LaVerne Davis reported that they are working on getting the power to Lapan's house on County Rt. 60. Also, he a party that wants to refinance their house and they are having problems. LaVerne has to give a statement whether this house is a modular or a double wide. He also reported that he has had one week of schooling and he will be starting again this coming week.

Town Justice

The Town Justice Janet DeCarlo presented her six month report to the board members for signatures and gave a copy to the Town Clerk for her records. She reported that during the period of January 1, 2012 till June 30, 2012 they took in a total of \$4233.00 of which \$1000.00 of that was bail. This was returned to the person who posted it at the conclusion of the matter. The amount turned into the Town of Cambridge chief fiscal officer was \$3233.00. She also reported that the first two months, the barn that was in danger of falling in the road was taken down. The property on county rt. 74 is approximately 75% in compliance with the Court clean up. LaVerne Davis Code Enforcement, will be taking pictures both inside and outside for the next appearance which will be on July 17, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

The Town Justice also mentioned that she has been invited to apply for a Jcap Grant for 2013. She would like to apply for the full amount because she needs some new equipment. The Town Justice requested a board resolution be passed giving her permission to apply for another JCap Grant.

Resolution #71

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to give the Town Justice Janet DeCarlo permission to apply for a JCap Grant for 2013.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Future Planning for the Town of Cambridge

The Supervisor mentioned a young woman that would be coming in August to talk to the public about developing the Town plus how to handle Dumps and Junkyards. She gets \$50.00 per hour and the Supervisor told her that it would probably be 2-3 hours.. She will be available the week of August 15th and can start at 7:30 PM. Her name is Darlene DeVoe and an ad will be put in the paper to make the residents aware. Supervisor Watkins mentioned that they want the public involved. The board has some plans from other Towns that the Town Board have looked at. This meeting will be informative to everyone in what direction to possibly go for future planning.

Resolution #72

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff to have Darlene DeVoe speak at a Special Meeting on August 15th at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. The meeting will be to educate everyone on possible ways of controlling future development for the Town of Cambridge. Darlene DeVoe will be present to discuss and answer any questions that residents may have and she will be charging \$50.00 per hour.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

County Report

The Supervisor reported that the county is still trying to do something with the healthcare program. He commented that the county couldn't give the program away so the county is going to have to pay someone to take it. He also reported that PVI combined the A wing with the rest of the facility and the rest is shut down. They have 33 empty beds.

Privilege of the Floor

Councilman McMurray questioned if it should be put in the paper about the Violence in the Workplace Policy that would be discussed for next meeting. The Supervisor suggested that they discuss this as a board first and then put it in the paper for public comment. The public can review this by picking up a copy at the Town Clerk's office. Councilwoman Fedler mentioned that they do not need to have a public hearing for a policy.

Nancy Mabeus read a letter to be submitted for the record. In December 2011 she called the Association of Towns to ask about the laws on the official newspaper. They said that the Town did not have to have a official newspaper. She mentioned how she was sorry that this paper change did not happen and that this would have left room for another newspaper to report the truth.

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis asked if the Town Board had been receiving mail from the Glens Falls Hospital on the bike and walking trails. The Town Board said that they had not. The Highway Superintendent mentioned that there were grants out there for the Towns to create these trails in the Town. He mentioned that he would be interested in attending. He couldn't attend the one in June but possibly he would attend the one in September. He explained that it would be nice to have a bike lane on the shoulder of County Rt. 59 similar to what they have on Rt. 313.

The Supervisor told residents that if they live on a county route they will probably be getting a letter about spraying the sides of the roads for weeds. This paperwork should be filled out and sent back whether or not it is ok to spray the road near the residence.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge