

Town Board Meeting  
February 14, 2011

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2011, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins  
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler  
Councilman Alan Davis  
Councilman Ted Berndt

Councilman Frank Ziehm was absent

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Eric Shaw Highway Superintendent, Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor, Rani Bass Janet DeCarlo Town Justice, Richard Look from NYMIR, John Wisniewski from Global Underwriters, David DeCarlo, Bob Hamilton, Terry Hamilton, Scott Keller, Henry Peabody, Ashleigh Farrell, Danny Thomas, LaVerne Davis, Dick Battistoni, Dick Sutherland, Astrid Davis, Gerald Skiff, Leon Barkley, Robbie McIntosh, Amy & Dieter Drake, Bruce Rolleston

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

General	#16 – 41	\$8070.00
Highway	#4 – 17	\$37,728.55

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

Resolution #13

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, seconded by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2011 Town Board Meeting.

Vote:           Ayes – 4                   Noe – 0

Resolution #14

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, seconded by Councilman Davis to approve the Supervisor's report for the month of January 2011.

Vote:           Ayes – 4                   Noe – 0

John Wisniewski an Insurance Broker from Global Underwriters attended the meeting to present a proposal which included the following recommendations:

- 1.) They are providing separated Directors & Officers and Employment Practices Liability limits of \$1,000,000 each. This eliminates the sharing of the \$1,000,000 limit our current policy provides.
- 2.) An umbrella policy has been quoted due to the litigious climate we live in. The Town has several large trucks on the road. The larger the vehicle, the greater the damage it can cause.
- 3.) The Town's buildings are all located within close proximity to each other. The possibility of damage to the other buildings, such as fire, is greater due to

this proximity. They have chosen to insure the Town's buildings and the contents to their full 100% value, rather than a lower 90% limit. In the event of a catastrophe, the insurance company, rather than the tax payer, would pay for the replacement of the property.

- 4.) They have added computer fraud, as they have seen numerous creative ways for people to steal from others due to today's economy. This protects the Town in the event someone were to access and divert Town funds via computer. This is not limited to a Town Computer, but can be any computer, such as your bank's computer system.

John Wisniewski goes on to explain how they have considerably enhanced the protection of the Town and they have done this with a competitive premium level.

Councilwoman Fedler asked to address the board before the meeting gets started she stated that everyone has been in office for a year or better now. Everyone was voted in to represent the community and Cambridge is a good town. Councilwoman Fedler states that this is a good community that has no debt and she feels when the townspeople picked the Board to represent them, the Board has a fiscal responsibility to the citizens. She feels that there have been some mistakes made in the past and that there has been trouble with this board working together. She also feels that the mistakes from the past should be learned from and not constantly dragged up. Councilwoman Fedler would like to lay it out there that this board try to put the past in the past and concentrate on the present so that they can better help the community. Councilwoman Fedler states that they have to take the complaints from the community and think about what they say and act on them the best way they can.

Councilwoman Fedler stated that the next point is Old Business and a hot topic. Councilwoman Fedler and Councilman Davis talked about it and decided that on the recommendation of the lawyer they move into executive session to handle a couple of things. Before this was decided Janet DeCarlo the Town Justice requested to speak because it followed along with what Councilwoman Fedler has just said.

Janet DeCarlo the Town Justice requested to speak at this time in regards to some things that were said at the last meeting which she was unable to attend. The Town Justice did state that she read the article in the Eagle and listened to the recording of the meeting and has talked to people in the community and she stated that this behavior is making the Town of Cambridge look foolish. She stated that she has gone to several Judicial meetings and that the Town of Cambridge has been ridiculed and laughed at and people even asked if they could come to the meeting to see the show. Janet DeCarlo mentioned that the Town Board needs to work together and that the purpose of her speaking is that she needed to touch on some things that were touched on at the last meeting. The Town Justice read notes that she had written and she has requested some respect for the office of the judge. Janet DeCarlo touched on the last meeting and the mention of her being involved in the agenda for the meetings, and how the computer usage policy for her computer doesn't apply. She stated that she has nothing to do with the agenda, and her computer is part of the Unified Court System however every document that is printed from her computer says on and for the use of the Town of Cambridge. The reason they are not on our computer policy is because they are under the Office of the Court

Town Board Meeting  
February 14, 2011

Administration because they remain under their policy. She also states that she has written the biggest check this year and that is to the Town of Cambridge for her taxes and she feels that this entitles her to attend the meetings. Other things were touched on such as the Consolidation of the Courts dispute in 2010, as far as the Jcap Grant she has yet to hear anything. The Town Justice Janet DeCarlo has requested that if anyone has any questions to call her.

Resolution #15

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, seconded by Councilman Davis for the Town Board to go into executive session regarding the article 78 proceedings as suggested by the lawyer.

Vote:           Ayes – 4           Noe – 0

Executive Session was entered into at 7:56 PM.

Resolution #16

Supervisor Watkins motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to come out of executive session.

Vote:           Ayes – 4           Noe – 0

Executive Session exited at 8:20 PM.

Councilwoman Fedler reported that the Town Board went into executive session to discuss the information given to them by the lawyer. She stated that she read down through the paperwork, they went over the questions.

Resolution #17

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, seconded by Councilman Davis that the Town Board on the recommendation of the Lawyer, is making a notice to join the appeal of the Article 78 proceedings.

Vote:           Ayes – 4           Noe – 0

Assessor Report

Jeff Jackson the Assessor has keep busy, during the report period, receiving, and verifying renewal applications that were mailed out in late December 2010 and early January. These applications are for enhanced STAR, aged exemptions and agricultural exemptions where the income needs to be reviewed annually. As a reminder, the filing date is March 1, 2011 for all exemptions.

Pursuant to new legislation enacted by the State of New York, starting with 2011 tentative assessment roll, for those towns that maintain website, a link will be required to be posted on our website that enables an interested resident to access the complete 2011

Town Board Meeting  
February 14, 2011

tentative roll that will be posted on the county website. Because the county posts this information already on its website, section 1590 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law requires that we only have to post a link (imo.co.washington.ny.us). I will contact the town's website manager to inform him of this requirement. Tentative assessment rolls are filed on or about May 1 of each year.

Jeff Jackson received a tentative report from the State of NY indicating that a 2011 equalization rate of 100% will be approved by them. The report is part of the States pre-decisional process but after speaking with them, He was informed that the 100% eq. rate would be certified by them.

Constituent relations were considered good during the report period in spite of the busier workload with the exemption renewals and the need for me to be absent from the office at times, to do necessary field review work.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the last day to collect taxes without penalty was on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The total amount that has been collected in taxes as of January 31<sup>st</sup> was \$1,359,926.39. The Town Supervisor has been paid in full for the Town portion of the taxes in the amount of \$580,144.00. A check was sent to the County Treasurer for the remaining amount collected on Wednesday, February 8, 2011. The amount left to collect in unpaid taxes is \$505,164.42. Taxes will be collected with a 1% penalty until February 28<sup>th</sup>. Dog licensing seems to be running smoothly with the new setup and many new tags have been issued.

Planning Board

In Sally Beelen Eddy's absence Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk read her report. The Planning Board met Thursday, February 3, 2011 with 5 members present. Bill McCarty, Director of Washington County Real Property Tax Services, was present, at the board's request, to answer questions the board had concerning boundary line adjustments and to explain the procedure the county follows when processing such adjustments. The board received clarification from Mr. McCarty along with other useful planning information.

Jerry Moppert gave a brief report about a meeting he attended apprising the public about the progress of Global Foundries plant in Malta, NY. The meetings are held quarterly and open to the public. He stated he was impressed by the magnitude of the project and urged board members to visit the site. Another quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2011.

In addition, there will be a lunch-meeting at the Century House in Latham on February 17, 2011 sponsored by National Grid from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. The cost is \$25 for Chamber of Commerce members, \$40 for non-members. The topic of the meeting will be: Global Foundries – Its impact on You and Your Business. To register call Kate Ollier at 518-274-7474.

Town Board

Councilman Davis questioned the Supervisor about whether or not they were still looking at getting a generator for the Town Hall. The Supervisor said that him and Eric Shaw the Highway Superintendent would like to find a generator however money is an issue.

Councilman Berndt made everyone aware that for some reason the county and real property says that for tax purposes there must be a link on the Town website to the tentative assessment roll. Councilman Berndt also stated that he needs to have the agenda emailed to him so that he can have it put on the Town website. Mr. Berndt also stated that he did check with Radio Shack to see if they had a antenna, they don't sell them. Supervisor Watkins stated that the Town Hall will have an amplifier to help boost the Verizon Wireless Internet Card, Cliff DeCarlo and the Town Justice Janet DeCarlo are working on getting this hooked up. Councilman Berndt also asked if the Town Board was interested in having a Highway cleanup day in April around Earth Day. It was suggested that maybe this could be coordinated around the date of the bicycle race.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Eric Shaw reported that the entire last month has been spent dealing with snow and ice storms. They had a number of breakdowns. The list follows. Sensors on the pickup went bad due to the weather and now it has manifold gaskets leaking. The 1994 wiper control arm broke. The 1998 had a hub break. The 2003 steering control arm loosened up and a brake canister went bad. The first 2007 had an air control valve go bad which did not let the brakes release. The second 2007 had injectors go bad and I had to go to Milton Cat to be repaired. The loader's throttle control body went bad. The total salt that was purchased so far this winter is 689.71 tons. Eric Shaw the Highway Superintendent has to calculate a year in advance how much salt will be used. He put in for 700 tons for this year. If we are thinking about doing County roads, Eric Shaw will need a commitment from the Board and County by April because that is when he needs to put in for winter allotment. Eight tires were needed for the Sterling.

The prices were as follows:

Hancocks from Augies Wholesale	\$422.16 each
Good Year from Warren Tire	\$565.00 each
Bridgestone from G.C.R.	\$374.00 each
Michelin from Rouse Tire	\$394.00 each
Good Year from Rouse Tire	\$599.00 each

8 of the Michelin tires were purchased

Code Enforcement

A written report was given to all Board members and the Town Clerk. The Building Inspector's Report for 2010 was as follows: New Homes 2, Farm Help Housing 1, Storage 7, Demolitions 1, Alterations 9, Septic 8, Remedy Violations 3, Certificate of Occupancy 7, Decks 1, Solor 2, Chimney Fires 1, Miscellaneous, Phone Calls etc. 38,

Town Board Meeting  
February 14, 2011

Site Inspections 8, Mobile Homes 1, Renewals 1, Woodstoves 2, and the amount of miles traveled was 1,365 and the number of inspections made were 354.

Internet

The Supervisor and Councilman Berndt are still planning on meeting with Terry Dwyer to see what they can do about the High Speed Internet. In the mean time an amplifier has been purchased to try and improve the Verizon Wireless card, an Antenna can also be purchased. Councilman Berndt has requested that a hold is put on that until they meet with Terry Dwyer.

A letter was received by the Board of Elections about the Old Lever action voting machines and they have requested that the Board make a decision whether or not they want the county to dispose of them or the Town to take possession of them.

Resolution #18

Supervisor Watkins motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to keep the lever action voting machines and to dispose of them ourselves.

Vote:           Ayes – 4                   Noe – 0

The Board of Elections has also asked the Town of Cambridge to consider consolidating the two polling sites for the Town of Cambridge. This would mean that the Town Garage would be the Polling site for both district 1 and district 2.

Resolution #19

Supervisor Watkins motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to consolidate the two polling sites district 1 and district 2 to the Town of Cambridge, Highway Garage.

Vote:           Ayes – 4                   Noe – 0

Communications

A letter was received from two concerned citizens who live on Brownell Road about the Brownell Road Property Litigations.

New Business

A Sheriff would like to attend the March meeting to talk about speed zones, and speed limits and also safety issues that anyone may have in the town..  
The Town Justice stated that the road patrol had been cut to one car at night which means less coverage and troopers, which also has meant less tickets for the court system.

Councilman Berndt asked the Supervisor if there was an update on the South Union Street Bridge project. The insurance man is working on the paperwork and it is very in depth when he finishes this it will then be forwarded to DEC and than to FEMA after that.

Privilege of the Floor

Town Board Meeting  
February 14, 2011

Councilman Berndt mentioned that he had a few other things to add such as the Burn Plant he stated that the two chairmen of Warren and Washington County are supposed to meet with a trustee regarding the payments. Within a month or two the counties are going to stop paying into the burn plant fund.

It was also reported by Councilman Berndt that there was a tentative offer on the hospital.

Also on January 20<sup>th</sup> the advisory board had a meeting to talk about the Solid Waste Plant and Robbie McIntosh a citizen from the Town of Cambridge was present to talk about this. He made everyone aware that the county appointed a recycling advisory board back in May 2009. On this board there are 4 citizens and 4 Supervisors, Robbie McIntosh is one of the citizens and Dick Wilson is one of the Supervisors. They were appointed to look into improving the recycling operations and the more they studied the problem the more they realized they needed to study the solid waste system. This advisory Board put in a bid to do the Solid Waste Management Plan for the county. They are coming close to finalizing the draft of this Solid Waste Management Plan, there will be meeting in Greenwich and Granville to get some input from the public, this board will be explaining what they are up to and talk about ideas. They are working with Dick Wilson to keep the transfer station open and coming up with ideas to make the recycling centers more efficient.

Councilman Berndt will be attending the Renneselear County Chamber of Commerce for a meeting on Global Foundries - impact on you and your Business with the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce.

Bruce Rolleston a citizen of the Town of Cambridge was present and brought up the topic that he would like the town board to notify the public when a position is up for reappointment on the Planning Board so that anyone from the public can run. He would like the Town Board to consider passing a resolution that for 30 days prior to the existing office of the Planning Board, they would advertise the position and put it on the Town website. Also any candidate that wants to be on the Planning Board should come before the Town Board for an interview in front of the public. He feels that it is very important that these notifications are put out there to the public. Councilwoman Fedler suggested that the Town Board research this and look at other Towns and see what they do before they make this decision. Councilman Davis says that he thinks this is a good idea and that it should be looked into. Scott Keller a citizen asked if there was a requirement that you must be a landowner in order to be in this position on the Planning Board. He states that he is asking the board if this should be a requirement or not.

Resolution #20

Councilman Davis motioned,

Seconded by Councilman Berndt,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Cambridge, hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials, and will report the following days worked to the New York and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Vote:

Aye – 4

Noe – 0

Town Board Meeting  
February 14, 2011

Shown in the minutes is a chart of the hours recorded for retirement purposes. The official Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution will be posted on the Town Bulletin Board and Town Website for 30 days.

Title	Name	Social Security Number (Last 4 digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/ Month (based on Record of Activities)
<b>Elected Officials</b>							
Town Clerk	Heather Greenawalt	5939	43361955	6	1/1/10-12/31/11	N	20 (10/biwk PR)
Highway Superintendent	Eric M. Shaw	8561	13984992	8	1/1/10-12/31/11	N	20 (10/biwk PR)
Justice	Janet S. DeCarlo	n/a	Retired	6	1/1/10-12/31/14	n/a	14.67/mo
Assessor	Jeffry A. Jackson	n/a	Retired	6	1/1/10-12/31/13	n/a	8/mo
<b>Appointed Officials</b>							
Dpty. Town Clerk	Melissa Q. Stannard	9177	50222041	6	1/1/11-12/31/11	N	Per diem
Clerk per diem	Sally Eddy	7482	35258573 (Retired 5/1/10)	6	1/1/10-12/31/11	N	Per diem
Clerk to Justice	Karen Drost	4501	39019294	6	1/1/11-12/31/11	N	2.36
Registrar	Heather Greenawalt	5939	43361955	6	1/1/11-12/31/11	N	.50
Dog Control	Edward Holland	6386	40888190	6	1/1/11-12/31/11-	N	6.69
Dog Control	Nancy Quell	9993	40888208	6	1/1/11-12/31/11	N	6.66
Fire&Building Code Inspector	H.La Verne Davis	3685	50200880	6	1/1/11-12/31/11	N	5.58
Clerk to Supervisor	Margaret Shaw	0081	36109882	6	1/1/11-12/31/11	N	11.8

**Audit of the Clerk to the Supervisor and the Town Clerk's Books**

The Books for the Clerk to the Supervisor Margaret Shaw and the Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt were Audited and signed by the Town Board.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk