

Town Board Minutes
August 10, 2009

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 10th day of August 2009, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor JoAnn Trinkle
Councilwoman Carol Imhof
Councilman Joel Nichols
Councilman Frank Ziehm
Councilman Ted Berndt

Others present: Town Clerk Sally Eddy, Highway Supt. Eric Shaw, Lou Imhof, Ashleigh Farrell, Dan Schmitt, Gerald Skiff, William Watkins, Dick Battistoni, Cassie Fedler, Rani Bass, Ted Flint, Henry Peabody

Supervisor Trinkle called the meeting to order and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Minutes

Councilman Berndt motioned, seconded by Councilman Ziehm, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the July 13, 2009 meeting and approve them as mailed by the Town Clerk with no additions or corrections.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Items to be Added to Agenda

Under New Business

1. Proclamation for Constitution Week
2. Resolution for FEMA/SEMO money
3. Audit from State Comptroller's Office

Unfinished Business

1. Internet Update

Supervisor's Report

1. The monthly financial reports were reviewed and commented upon.
Councilwoman Imhof motioned, seconded by Councilman Ziehm, to approve the General and Highway financial reports for the month of July 2009.
Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes
2. Supervisor's Trinkle brought to the board's attention an article in a bicycle magazine featuring the Tour of the Battenkill Pro/Am bicycle race that took place in Cambridge April 18 – 19. The Cambridge Farm Team was included in the article accompanied by several pictures.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Sally Eddy announced that conservation licenses for the 2009 – 2010 licensing year will be on sale beginning August 17, 2009.

The Town Clerk read a letter from State DOT informing the town that the request for a reduced speed limit sign on Perry Lane has been denied because it is a dead end road less than a quarter mile in length. It is not the policy of the department to establish a regulatory linear speed limit on roads less than one quarter mile in length.

Planning Board Report

Planning Board met Aug.6 and addressed the following matters:

1. Approved a boundary line adjustment between property owners John Aragona and Thomas & Geraldine Cuite on King Road. A house on Mr. Aragona's property encroached on land owned by the Cuites. Mr. & Mrs. Cuite agreed to convey a strip of property, 40 ft. wide by 166.98 ft. long to Mr. Aragona to correct the situation.
2. Reviewed a sketch plan submitted by Stuart Ziehm to subdivide the farmhouse located at the corner of Durfee Rd. and Schweningen Rd. with about 1 – 1 ½ acres of land. The house is situated on 84.0 acres and is owned by Tiashoke Properties LLC of which Stuart is part owner with his two brothers. Mr. Ziehm wants to own the house himself. No official action was taken by the board since a quorum was not present.

Highway Superintendent's Report

1. The majority of the month was spent screening and drawing 3,032 yards of sand for our stock pile. We also screened and drew 604 yards for the village.
2. Some shimming and patching was done.
3. The mowing continues.
4. The power take off clutches in the Tractor went. Hudson River Tractor made the repairs.
5. Trees and brush that had grown over the roads were cut and removed.
6. The FEMA/SEMO money was received in the amount of \$98,917.31.

No Code Enforcement Report

No Assessor's Report

Communications

1. Supervisor Trinkle received a letter from the NYS Unified Court System asking for a copy of the board's most recent audit or examination of Judge Armet's court records along with the minutes acknowledging the examination. The town clerk was asked to attend to the matter.
2. Received a request from the DAR to adopt a resolution proclaiming Sept. 17 – 23, 2009 as Constitution Week celebrating the 222 anniversary of the drafting of the United States Constitution.
3. Announced that the Hoosick River Watershed Association is sponsoring a bicycle ride on August 22 from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM. It begins and ends at Bennington College. It will proceed through White Creek into the Town of Cambridge and will involve Turnpike Rd., Stage Rd., Oak Hill Rd., King Road, County Route 59 and the Buskirk Covered Bridge. She urged caution on the roads.

Unfinished Business

Cold War Veterans Exemption

Supervisor Trinkle read aloud Local Law #3 of 2009 - A Law providing for the Real Property Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b.

Councilman Joel Nichols motioned, seconded by Councilman Frank Ziehm, to set the public hearing for the Cold War Veterans Exemption for September 14, 2009, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

High speed Internet

Councilman Ted Berndt stated he recently attended an online webinar meeting concerning broadband mapping in underserved areas. Mr. Berndt related there is stimulus money available to companies that have the technology to bring high speed internet services to rural areas.

Resident Dan Schmitt said Hudson Valley Wireless is interested in expanding its service to the area and has the soft ware to perform the necessary mapping. The mapping will aid in developing a plan of how to best implement the high speed internet service. The company is taking advantage of the government money and is seeking to apply for a grant to fund the project. The company is looking for a letter of support from the town board. The letter has to be submitted by August 14.

Councilman Joel Nichols motioned, seconded by Councilman Frank Ziehm, to approve sending a letter to Hudson Valley Wireless from the Town Board supporting the company's proposed broadband project.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

New Business

Supervisor Trinkle received a request from the ONDAWA Chapter of the DAR asking the Town Board to adopt a proclamation declaring September 17 – 23, 2009 as Constitution Week.

Motion by Councilman Berndt

Seconded by Councilwoman Imhof

Passed by a vote of 5 Ayes – 0 Noes

CONSTITUTION WEEK

September 17 -23, 2009

WHEREAS, September 17, 2009, marks the two hundred twenty-second anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention, and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JoAnn C. Trinkle, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Supervisor of the Town of Cambridge in the State of New York do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as CONSTITUTION WEEK,

AND ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Cambridge to be affixed this 10th day of August of the year of our Lord two thousand nine.

Signed: JoAnn C. Trinkle

FEMA/SEMO Money

Superintendent Eric Shaw stated the town received a total of \$98,917.31 from FEMA/SEMO as reimbursement for damages and expenses related to last winter's ice storm. He said the Town Board needs to enact a resolution in order for the monies to be used.

Resolution by Councilman Frank Ziehm
Seconded by Councilwoman Imhof

Be It Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, does hereby authorize the use of FEMA/SEMO monies (\$ 98,917.31) received to amend the budget in the following manner;

\$370 to be used in the A5010.4 fund(Supt. Contractual)

\$31,571.62 to be used in DA5130.2 fund (Machinery Equipment)

\$5,000 to be used in the DA5130.4 fund (Machinery Contractual)

\$20,000 to be used in the DA5142.4 fund (Snow Removal contractual)

\$3,000 to be used in the DB5110.1 fund (General Repairs Personal Services)

\$38,975.69 to be used in the DB5110.4 fund (General Repairs Contractual)

Was duly put to vote and resulted in 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Resolution by Councilwoman Imhof
Seconded by Councilman Berndt

Be It Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge authorizes to transfer \$370 of the FEMA/SEMO money from the DA fund to the A fund.

Was duly put to vote and resulted in 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Councilman Ted Berndt brought to the board's attention that the NYS Comptroller's Office provides audits to local governments and he distributed a list of audits the agency has recently completed. In light of the coming change in the Town Clerk's office, he thought it would be a good idea to have the books audited. The board took no official action.

County Report

Supervisor Trinkle stated that Washington County has received approval from the State of New York to implement a bed tax on all lodging establishments within the county. The proceeds will enhance the county's tourism program.

Privilege of the Floor

Resident Cassie Felder asked if the FEMA/SEMO agencies dictated where the reimbursement money was to be placed? Supt. Shaw responded the money has to go back into the accounts from where it was spent.

In regards to the denied speed limit sign on Perry Lane, Gerald Skiff asked if there was anything the town could do? Supt. Shaw said a yellow "recommended speed limit sign" could be erected. He said the county will want to be involved so he will contact them.

Resident Dan Schmitt stated he contacted ORPS for a legal opinion of the matrix used to figure assessments for parcels of land in the town. The department will not give it to him but will give it to the Town Board if the Board asks for it.

The following bills were presented for audit and approved for payment:

General #125 – 143 \$11,933.60

Highway # 92 – 101 \$16,487.36

There being no further business before the board the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally B. Cuddy
Town Clerk