

Regular Town Board Meeting
October 14, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 14th day of October, 7:30 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, Rani Bass, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Rachael Holbrook Assessor, Henry Peabody, Nancy Mabeus, Ashleigh Morris from the Eagle, Terry Hamilton, Leon Barkley, Ardienne Hamilton from CVRS, Will Moses from CVRS, Tony Millington

Auditing of the Bills

General	#184 – 206	\$ 2,759.24
Highway	#117 – 140	\$40,986.76

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM and immediately led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Resolution #48

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman McMurray to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013 Special Meeting, September 9, 2013 Town Board Meeting and the September 25, 2013 Special Meeting as mailed.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution #49

Councilman McMurray motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to approve the September 2013 Supervisor's report.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution #50

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to transfer \$3,500 from DA5130.2 Equipment to DA5130.4 Parts & Repairs.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

EMS- Rescue Squad

Will Moses and Adrienne Hamilton from the Rescue Squad were present at the Town Board meeting to launch a small campaign to recruit volunteers for the squad. He mentioned how difficult it was to get volunteers and to keep them. He also said that there was a place for everyone you did not only have to be an EMT you could drive the van or be in the auxiliary. Anyone that applies can not have a criminal record. He said that they would bring some pamphlets by to leave in the town hall.

Assessor

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The new assessor Rachael Holbrook was present at the Town Board meeting. The Supervisor introduced her, she lives in the Town of Charlton, NY. She works in both the Town of Charlton and the City of Mechanicville as an assessor. She mentioned that she had meet with Laura Chadwick the Real Property Director for the County. Her hours at the office will be on Wednesday 1:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that the DEC system would be changing and the agent's must attend class for the newest updates. DEC is also requesting that each agent sign a new agreement which was signed in April 2002 when the licensing system was installed. The Clerk said that she had contacted the Town Attorney to review the agreement and the Town Board must also pass a resolution to continue using the system. The next meeting the resolution must be passed after the Town Attorney has reviewed the agreement.

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt also read a letter that was received from the New York State Department of Transportation about the intersection of Stevenson Rd. and Route 372. The yield sign at this intersection will be changed to a stop sign.

Town Board

Councilwoman Fedler reported that she went to the Old Railroad station where the public had donated things for the fire department sell at the tag sale. Councilwoman Fedler asked the fire department to keep the Town Board informed when the meeting would be for the fire department.

Councilwoman Fedler also mentioned that she and Councilman Skiff had met with both Alan Davis the Highway Superintendent and the Highwaymen about the budget. Councilwoman Fedler explained how the highwaymen go above and beyond their job requirements. Some of her examples were renting the lift for trimming trees, mowing cemeteries, Class A driver license and doing own excavator work, and repairs to equipment. Councilwoman Fedler did say that the public has to realize that the Town Board only has \$14,000 to work with because of the 2% tax cap. Often many times this is eaten up by mandated increases such as retirement and health care. This is not a whole lot of money to work with when everything keeps going up. She explained to the Highwaymen that there may have to be a rotation with raises that the highwaymen would receive raise one year and the other employees would receive the raise the following year.

She also mentioned that because of the change in worker compensation and the Town will be made responsible for \$20,000 per incident. This would be 3.5 – 4% hit to the Budget. Mr. Davis suggested being proactive and purchasing private worker's compensation. Supervisor Watkins stated that Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor would provide more information about this at a later date.

Councilman Ford mentioned that the yield sign at the corner of Stevenson Rd. and State Rt. 372 had been changed to a stop sign.

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Councilman Skiff said that he would like to make a resolution for the planning board per their request on setbacks.

Resolution #51

Councilman Skiff motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford that the Town Board request that any new developers or builders in the Town of Cambridge have a setback of 70 ft from the center of the road and 50 ft. from all other boundaries.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Councilman Skiff also said that he would like to discuss the pay loader for the highway department he was concerned on the amount of money that was being spent for repairs. He thought maybe it should be discussed about purchasing a new one. The recent repair was for \$4,300 for the replacement of control panel and electronic controller.

Councilman Ford and McMurray said that they both had talked with Capital Tractor and they said that they had never seen anything like this with a pay loader. There was an open discussion about how the pay loader that the town has now is in good shape but it has a lot of hours on it. Another thing to consider is the availability of the parts for the old pay loader. It was also discussed if the town was to get a new pay loader they don't hold up as well. The pay loader is the most important piece of equipment that the town has when it comes to the snow storms.

Councilman Ford said that he would call Capital Tractor and speak with Dave and see if getting parts would be a problem for the old loader.

Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Alan Davis reported that they hauled the last of the sand to White Creek and the Village. The highwaymen have spent 3 days spray patching with help from White Creek, Jackson and the Village. He reported that they also have spent a few days grading roads from the last time before winter and they had to put calcium down for dust control. Capital Tractor repaired the control panel and electronic controller in transmission. They have finished mowing the roadsides. Jackson came down and spent half a day with their over the rail mower and mowed back behind guard rails on several roadsides. They hauled gravel on Lees Crossing and Tingué to raise the road with the help from White Creek. They replaced several culverts that need to be replaced and started getting the trucks ready for the winter.

The Coila Bridge was discussed Supervisor Watkins said that they would not be making a turn around for the trucks and school bus. He said that the school bus did not need the turn around, he had spoke with Randi Sica. Mr. Sica said that only in the village was he required to pick the kids up at the house, in the town he could pick them up at a common bus stop. Supervisor Watkins said that he had been in touch with the company that had damaged the bridge and discussed with them helping with the repairs. Councilman Ford had asked if Mr. Davis had spoke with the county about repairing the bridge. He said yes and they did not like that idea. Highway Superintendent Davis said that he would talk with Randi Sica about the turn around. It was also discussed about making the road a dead end, however then it was brought to everyone's attention of the traffic from the farm

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trucks accessing the fields. Mr. Davis said that he was still seeking lower prices for the pipe to repair the bridge.

Code Enforcement – None

2014 Budget

It was discussed whether the board would have a budget workshop or a public hearing. Many of the board members were interested in having a workshop so they could discuss things with Margaret Shaw clerk to the supervisor. The budget workshop/special meeting will be on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 10:30 am at the town hall. The board also set a date for the public hearing for the 2014 budget which would be on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

County Report

Supervisor Watkins reported that the county was working on their budget.

Privilege of the Floor

Nancy Mabeus a resident of the Town read a letter for the record in regards to planning for the Town and how she was not in favor of the zoning and planning for the town. She felt that the Town needed to stick with the ordinances and that they could manage the issues that came about with them.

Rani Bass a resident of the town referred to a letter that was given to the board members during the meeting. Supervisor Watkins said that he would like the Town Attorney to read it before he commented on the letter.

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

Respectfully yours,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge