

A Town Board Meeting was held Monday, February 11, 2008 at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Ronald K. Hotaling, Jr., Supervisor
Dawn Rogers, Councilwoman
Thomas A. Boehm, Councilman
James C. Youmans, Councilman
Richard Touchette, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Albert Deering, Highway Superintendent

Supervisor Hotaling opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Hotaling stated that the record should reflect that there is a full Town Board in addition to Town Clerk Millious and Highway Superintendent Deering. He continued by saying that there will be a presentation prior to the regular agenda items.

AGENDA

- Public Comment
- Presentation
 - Coeymans Hamlet Neighborhood Association, Update on Coeymans Hamlet Design
- Approval of Minutes
 - Town Board Meeting, January 14, 2008
 - Town Board Workshop, January 22, 2008
- Old Business
 - Community Development Block Grant
- New Business
 - Request to Set Speed Limit on Rowe
 - Exchange of Services Contract, Senior Projects of Ravena
 - NYS Building Officials Conference Membership Renewal
 - Request for Training for Code Enforcement Officers
 - Authorize Forwarding POTW Design, Planning & Flow Management Annual Certification Form to C.T. Male & Return for Signature & Forwarding to DEC
 - Approval for Sewage Treatment Plant Operator to Attend Training Course and Associated Charges
- Resolutions
 - Appointment of Part-Time Police Officer
- Correspondence
 - New York State Department of Transportation
 - Assembly Standing Committee on Local Governments
- Town Board Workshops/Meetings
 - No February Workshop, Association of Towns Conference
 - Town Board Meeting, February 25, 2008, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, March 10, 2008, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Workshop, March 18, 2008, 6:00pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Hotaling invited the public to comment, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

PRESENTATION

Coeymans Hamlet Neighborhood Association – Update on Coeymans Hamlet Design

Supervisor Hotaling stated that this is the attempt of the Historic Coeymans Landing Association in their concerted effort to get to the point of making a presentation. He added that he is excited to see what they have to present and continued by saying that he believes that those present will be pleased with the presentation, which will be also be available for those watching the meeting at home. He then introduced Deborah Fahrbach who would be giving the presentation on behalf of the Association and asked that she give an overview of the history of the Association and their effort and how it has evolved to this point, which will segway into other introductions and the presentation. He concluded by asking that the Town Board move to the audience section in order to move the screen to the center of the room.

Ms. Fahrbach introduced herself and continued by saying that she is a member of the Steering Committee of the Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association and added that the Association has been together for 7 months and they are happy that there has been progress made in a relatively short amount of time. She continued by saying that the Association got its start with funding through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which is administered through Albany County Rural Housing Alliance and added that there has been improvement over the last five years to homes in the Hamlet because of that funding in addition to the Town making some improvements along the waterfront. She went on by saying that they feel as though the Association is the next step, which is resident involvement to work with the Town, Kellogg Foundation and Albany County Rural Housing to move things along and take resident input and be able to move forward with what residents would like for the Hamlet, which is what the Association is all about and added that they feel as though the time is right to begin to move forward with the next step. She continued by saying that the Association is the brain child of Judy Eisgruber from Albany County Rural Housing Alliance and John Bonafide who among other things is a local Historian and added that they got funding through Kellogg to begin the Association because if there is not resident support the changes don't continue and advancement does not continue to be made. She went on by saying that with the funding they introduced to the Association Cheryl Doble, who is an Associate Professor with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, who in turn came to most of their meetings with groups of graduate students who looked at the Hamlet and interviewed residents and talked to those that attended meetings and asked their opinions on things that they liked and disliked and what their dreams for the Hamlet are and what they can see the Hamlet becoming. She continued by saying that they took all of the information and helped create some concrete ideas about how to move forward in making the Hamlet the kind of place that the residents suggested that they wanted it to be and added that they actually created a Draft Vision Statement. She went on by saying that she wanted to emphasize that it is not a statement of what it is but rather what they would like the Hamlet to be and continued by reading the following:

“Coeymans Landing is a small riverfront community distinguished by its active waterfront, historic character, architecture, and beautiful natural surroundings. The Hamlet is a pleasant pedestrian neighborhood with community facilities, small businesses and accessible parking. Well maintained streets and property reflect the community pride and sense of caring. The river and surrounding natural areas provide recreation opportunities for the Hamlet, Town and surrounding region.”

She continued by saying that this is a place that she wants to live and added that those who have attended the meetings as a group have decided that they want to move forward

with making the statement a reality and to work toward whatever needs to be done to do so. She added that the Town Board has told them that they would like to work with them and they know it to be true because they have had Board members attend almost all of their meetings. She went on by saying that they outlined vision goals and action steps and added that she would not be going through them all because she had handed them out prior to her presentation and continued by saying that she wanted to highlight those that they felt to be most significant and read as follows:

- Work with Town leaders to achieve the Neighborhood Association's vision through planning and infrastructure upgrades.
- Enhance businesses along the river front and bring business down to the waterfront.
- Make a concerted effort to welcome new residents to the Hamlet and make sure that they feel as though it is a community that they would like to continue to live in.
- Maintain historic structure of the Hamlet.
- Have people feel happy, safe and proud to live in the Hamlet.

She continued by saying that she wanted to thank a few people including the Town Board and added that they want to thank John Bonafide and Judy Eisgruber for their help in creating the Association and especially Judy for her continued support with organizing and attending all of the meetings over the seven months as well as Cheryl Doble and the graduate students that have worked with her in their outstanding work. She went on by saying that the models along the wall were created by the graduate students from what they heard the Association say as far as what they want in the Hamlet as well as what they could see themselves what the Hamlet could be and added that those that live in the Hamlet cannot see all of the possibilities. She continued by saying that the students have spent countless hours with the designs that are quality and lovely and added that they were a pleasure to work with as well as thanking the approximate 60 residents that have attended their meetings, which is outstanding for a small Hamlet. She concluded by saying that she was going to turn the presentation over to Cheryl Doble, Associate Professor SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse to do a power point presentation, which will explain one of the final drafts that they came up with and the students defined and added that she will be talking about what could be in the Hamlet. She then invited Ms. Doble to give her presentation.

Ms. Doble thanked Ms. Fahrbach for the introduction and continued by saying that they have had a wonderful experience in Coeymans this past fall working with the graduate students and added that when they were first called to work with the community their intent was to give the students an opportunity to work with community members. She went on by saying that this was a process working with the community helping them to explore ideas and articulate a vision and continued by saying that this was a community project that Ms. Fahrbach had described very well. She added that they asked a lot of questions and in turn got lots of information and had attended a number of meetings over the course of the fall and they are now in the process of trying to finalize things in a document to leave with the Association so that they can continue to move forward. She continued by saying that it was a process of exploration and they asked questions like how they use the community, where did they go, where do people gather as well as asking what places are sacred that they want to protect in the future and not want to see change, which was helpful for the students to understand what the community values. She went on by saying that this was a starting place for them as designers and added that there were some concerns that came as well as identifying opportunities, which they can begin to build on to address some of the concerns. She continued by saying that they went from this understanding to drafting a vision, which was read earlier and then put together a series of goals and in turn worked on them to refine and refocus them and once this was done they began to identify action steps to accomplish the goals. She went on by saying that by the second meeting they brought back three models and added that one of the things that what she loves about design is that it gives you an opportunity to explore options, which you always have and added that sometimes you don't realize that you have as many as you do and continued by saying that in turn you make choices as far as what is going to fit, given the time and place and what you really want to do and added

that in thinking about the future for the community there are many options. She went on by saying that the students came back with a series of models to share some of the ideas that they felt were built on what they learned from the community and added that there was discussion about each model and in turn they came back with more detailed design studies that looked at issues such as circulation on Main Street and redevelopment of the riverfront. She continued by saying that the final step, which is still a work in progress, is beginning to think about what the big ideas and big moves are and as landscape architects they began to look at how you would express the vision through changes in the landscape itself. She went on by saying that the conclusions that the students came to following the meetings was that there are three critically different areas in the Hamlet, the Main Street area, the residential neighborhood between Main Street and the river and the river front. She continued by saying that the drawing expresses some of the big ideas that came out of the planning and stated that she would start with the Main Street area and identified the following:

- Main Street is important to the community and holds the history through the architecture and memories associated with it.
- Traffic is higher, the streets are narrow and the steep bank to the west constrains Main Street.

She continued by saying that they looked at a lot of different solutions and felt that what was important is celebrating Main Street and beginning to think about Main Street as a scene between the Hamlet and the Town as well as the thinking about the whole corridor as an entrance to the Hamlet. She went on by saying that some of the things that seemed important were rehabilitating, looking at adaptive reuse of some of the buildings, reorienting some of the buildings to take advantage of the view of the river, restoring and saving the architecture that is there. She added that it is going to be very important to work with the Department of Transportation on the process in making it an entrance and continued by saying that she thinks that the entrance to the Hamlet begins just before the bridge over the creek and went on by saying that you should know that in coming into the Hamlet you are coming into something special. She continued by saying that some of the recommendations were ideas of traffic changes and improving the connections that bring the Town down to the Hamlet and added that they believe that there is room on the building side of the street for enlarged sidewalks and lower lighting and looking at the placement on that side of the street rather than the western side of the street so it actually creates a separation from the street so you are not feeling the traffic going right by you as well as some whimsical ideas from the students such as sculptures with water flowing out of them that reflected the water. She added that one of the issues that is important is to slow the traffic and improve sight lines and visibilities in addition to another important issue of where Westerlo Street goes down to the river and continued by saying that they were looking at bumping out the curbs so you can actually have clear visibility. She went on to say that some of the issues related to Main Street are traffic and improving visibility at the two intersections that connect the Town to Main Street and improving the pedestrian crossing at those two locations and to also mark the street the importance of the street and its connection to the river. She added that after a lot of study of Main Street they believe that there is real potential for some of the ideas and reiterated that they would have to involve the Department of Transportation and continued by saying that the idea for Main Street is to celebrate the history, protect the structures and work toward slowing the traffic and making it a more pleasant pedestrian area than it currently is.

Ms. Doble continued by saying that the second area is the residential neighborhood area that it is between Main Street and the river and added that it is a fantastic area because it has the scale of the historic settlement that was there, which is the spacing of the building is close together and when you walk through it is very comfortable. She added that there were some challenges noted in their meetings and listed them as follows:

- A number of buildings are deteriorating.
- Vacant lots have broken the pattern of buildings that use to be there.

- Inconsistent levels of maintenance by homeowners.

She continued by saying that their feeling is that there is a lot that can be done to improve the pedestrian feeling in that area and make it walkable and added that a lot of people had stated that they are not comfortable walking in certain areas of the Hamlet at night. She went on by saying that one suggestion is to reestablish and transform the area along Pape Street into a pedestrian corridor that links Main Street all the way down through the Hamlet and added that there would be an addition of lighting as well as fencing to separate private property from the pedestrian walk and continued by saying that they need to strengthen some of the pedestrian routes. She went on by saying that another item that came up was vacant lots and added that one of the thoughts was that some of the vacant lots could temporarily be parking gardens, which would integrate some intentional parking on some of the vacant properties. She added that there is a lot of space for parking in the public area but in the residential area because of the narrow streets there is not much room for resident parking and continued by saying that it would clean up the vacant lots, give them a use and someone would be caring for them. She went on by saying that another thing that came up is that they don't want to block the view of the river and added that one of the wonderful things about the Hamlet is the grade change, which is great for the view and added that there would be vegetation planting but it would be lower and you would be able to see over the top of it. She continued by saying that in addition to creating a pedestrian walk along Pape Street they would also recommend looking at Second Street as a combined pedestrian and vehicular street where the paving would slow cars moving through them and people would be able to walk along them in addition to possibly developing a sidewalk along First Street adjacent to the street. She added that all of this would be to try to encourage, facilitate and make more pleasant walking in that area and continued by saying that vision planning is about getting a vision and putting ideas out there and trying to refine them and went on to say that all of the ideas need to be further explored in terms of feasibility. She continued by saying that another idea was bridging across the creek, which would extend the pedestrian network to the north and to the harbor area being redeveloped and then coming off the public lands with a nature trail. She added that as they come up with the ideas in turn they have to think about how they can accomplish them and continued by saying that there is funding available for nature and pedestrian trails.

Ms. Doble continued by saying that they spent a lot of time talking about the third area, which is the river front and added that they came away with the sense that it is a tremendous resource for the entire town and not just the Hamlet. She went on by saying that there is a lot of public land and added that their thoughts were focused on what can be done to make it more useful and a better resource for the town. She added that it was expressed that a lot of visitors come in and use the boat ramp but there is not as much down there that draws Town's residents to use that area. She continued by saying that they started to look at different ways that you could take advantage of it and build it into a stronger town resource and added that one thought was that you could build a natural amphitheatre using the grade of the property in addition to extending the circulation over to the area going to Yanni's and the riverfront. She went on by saying that one of the things that the students were trying to do in response to the comments that they heard was to provide more public resources along the river and added that they were hearing this especially from the kids because they want to see more activity down there. She continued by saying that they were looking to try and accommodate a lot of different uses and added that they reorganized the parking, which is a huge area and when it is not organized people can park randomly and in turn you would not be getting the maximum benefit of the space. She went on by saying that another idea that they explored was a Coeymans Community River Center, which would be an activity center for water and river related ideas and added that it could become a boat house or a place to have a private concession with someone renting or a space for programs for the youth such as rowing, sailing or kayaking courses. She continued by saying that people that live in the community could leave smaller boats down there and there would be a launching area out front and added that a lot of communities have created community boathouses and water facilities. She went on by saying that there were also ideas about bringing in more entrepreneurial and commercial activity in the area such as a farmers market and coffee shop, which would mix the public investment along with private investment. She added that a shelter could be used for summer youth programs, festivals, flea markets, etc. in

addition to the possibility of a skate board park with trails going off to the south. She stated that they were trying to explore how you capture the river and resources so that the whole town can take advantage of it. She continued by saying that they also explored how you bring private development, such as Yanni's and how you connect it to the public activities that are going on so there is a sense on continuity along the riverfront and added that a river walk continuing to Yanni's with more public parking is something that they thought about. She went on by saying that the idea is that all of the pieces, private and public start to connect to one another and it would give a sense of character to the area and added that they would be creating edges that separate where they need to separate and join where they want it to join.

Ms. Doble concluded by saying that a lot of ideas came out of the planning that were not physical and added that she had showed them their explorations through the models and illustrations and added that they are at the point of departure and that they need to look at some of the ideas in more detail and begin to think how they can be initiated.

Ms. Fahrbach stated that she hoped that everyone could see that the Association was working with talented people who tried to listen to the things that were said about the Hamlet and things that they wanted to see happen in the Hamlet and added that they could not have done it on their own. She continued by thanking Ms. Doble and the graduate students as well as thanking the Town Board for allowing them to do their presentation in addition to looking forward to working together to bring some more things to fruition to the Hamlet. She concluded by saying that for anyone interested there will be an Association meeting on February 21st at 6:00pm at the Town of Coeymans Municipal Building and adding that they continue to look for input and opinions about the way that they would like the Hamlet to evolve.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that from his perspective the presentation was very impressive and added that it projected a vision, which is not what it is but what it can be. He continued by saying that the Town Board has always recognized the potential for the river and the Town has been blessed with an access where you don't have to go across rail road tracks or down a big escarpment to get to it. He went on by saying that as members of the Town Board they can see the vision and added that it is palpable and on the cusp of making a difference and continued by saying that the Small Cities grant that they have for the old brickyard will energize employment opportunities and with employment comes needs for things such as lunch, coffee, a place to live and recreate. He concluded by saying that it is a building block and beginning, which he will support to every extent possible and added that he believes that it is the feeling of other members on the Board.

Supervisor Hotaling asked if there were any comments from the Town Board.

Councilman Touchette stated that he was also impressed with the thoughtfulness and level of professionalism of the plans and added that it is exciting. He continued by saying that he had attended a few of the meetings and added that he is looking forward to working with the Association in getting it going and making it happen. He concluded by saying that it is the time to do this and if they do not do it pretty quick the opportunity is going to be lost, which he recognizes.

Councilman Boehm stated that he had attended some of the brain storming sessions when they were writing down the ideas and added that it has come a long way since then. He continued by saying that the presentation had some great conceptual ideas that they need to support in order to move forward. He concluded by saying that it is beautiful area with a lot of potential.

Councilwoman Rogers stated that it was a great presentation and added that she would like to attend the next meeting on the 21st and get involved with it as well.

Councilman Youmans stated that it was a very impressive presentation and added that he drives through the Hamlet almost everyday to look around because there is a lot to see there. He continued by saying that there is a ton of potential and he supports any redevelopment or rebuilding that they can do there because it is a tremendous resource

that the Town has and concluded by saying that he would like to see them use it to their benefit.

Ms. Fahrback interjected that she wanted to make people aware of the website, which is www.historic-coeymans.org.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that he had included their next meeting in the upcoming Workshops and Meetings, which he will be going over at the end of the meeting. He continued by saying that there are many people who have given great time and effort to join and help plan with the Association and continued by asking if there were any other comments from those in the audience.

Mr. Keith Boxley stated that he has been a resident for almost three years and resides on Second Street and continued by saying that he didn't think about the lot across the street when he bought the house and added that he didn't buy it for an investment. He continued by saying that there is a gazebo in his back yard and you look right down to the river, which is one of the best views around here. He added that all three presentations show the lot as a park and added that he didn't have that in mind for community property and went on by saying that everyone is not 100% behind it. He went on by saying that some of it is conceptual possibilities but not necessarily 100% is supported by everyone. He concluded by saying that a big emphasis can be cleaning up the trash such as soggy mattresses, wrecked cars, and litter as well as lighting the sidewalks.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that if he has been here for three years he has been the recipient of some assistance from the Town in an attempt to do that because they sent out some postcards about a year ago and added that they continue to make an effort to try to do that. He continued by saying that in a fair assessment, those that live there would have to say that there has been some progress and added that it may not have been as quick or as one would like. He concluded by saying that they will do everything that they can to encourage it and added that it is not necessarily about government solving it all but rather neighbors respecting each other and as a neighborhood they have to understand the value of their property as well as their neighbors property and the role that they can play in bringing back the entire Town to where they all want to take it.

Mr. Charles Brooks stated that he lives in the Hamlet and added that one of the things that the Association is looking to do is exactly what Supervisor Hotaling had just said, which is looking to get the neighborhood people together and get a good relationship between the Town Board and neighborhood. He continued by saying that it is not a one-way street and they are not coming to the Town telling them what to do and added that there are many grants out there, such as the Kellogg Grant that has been fantastic and went on by saying that there are all kinds of grants for things such as lighting, sidewalks, small towns, waterfront and paths.

Supervisor Hotaling interjected that there was information given to him a couple of weeks ago called Safe Access to Schools, which has a lot to do with constructing sidewalks and added that some of their effort in the past couple of years has been directed to the Church Street area improving the sidewalks. He continued by saying that this is an effort that they are going to take every year in conjunction with Highway Superintendent Deering's crew as well as the Community Beautification crew and added that they now have the expertise to build sidewalks and will use this expertise to the extent that they can on an annual basis with the funding that is available. He went on by saying that there is a grant that suggests that sidewalks can be created to provide safe access for the children to get to school with the presumption that the school is Pieter B. Coeymans. He concluded by saying that he had given it to the Board members asking for their comments and continued by saying that this might be something that they can explore in addition to possibly lighting and added that hopefully with the proper representatives being placed in the right places at the time they would be able to benefit from their assistance in making their colleagues aware of the beauty of the Hamlet and the investment in the money that can attract businesses and economy to this region.

Supervisor Hotaling asked if there were any additional comments.

Mr. Robert Rayow stated that he lives at 7 Westerlo Street in the Hamlet and added that he has one more comment about the littering and old cars left around and continued by saying that some of the biggest offenders are people that do not live there. He went on by saying that he wonders what can be done about the absentee landlords in letting the buildings deteriorate and added that nothing seems to be done.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that maybe nothing seems to be done and added that he knows of one example and there was weeks worth of trash left on the lower part of Westerlo Street and they had unsuccessfully sent letters to the landlord and with some assistance they did get some response. He went on by saying that they realize that there are pockets of resistance and they are going to do their best to take care of it.

Supervisor Hotaling asked if there were any additional comments.

Councilman Youmans interjected that he would like to commend the Association for banding together and putting so much time into this and added that everyone on the Town Board is willing to work with them and concluded by thanking them.

Supervisor Hotaling invited the audience to stay for the balance of the meeting and continued by moving to the next item on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Hotaling stated that there were two sets of minutes from previous meetings for Town Board approval, a Town Board Meeting on January 14, 2008 and a Town Board Workshop on January 22, 2008. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION

On motion of Councilwoman Rogers, seconded by Councilman Touchette, the Town Board Minutes were approved as presented.

VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

OLD BUSINESS

Community Development Block Grant

Supervisor Hotaling stated that one of the primary topics of the January 22nd Workshop was to discuss with their counsel the Small Cities Grant Agreement for the Port of Coeymans and added that there were some documents that were given to him for potential signature to move the dispensing along. He continued by saying that he has not been advised that Mr. Goldman has completed his efforts to have meetings and discussions with Mr. Kirk and Mr. Laraway and added that he believes that they are at a standstill with the signing.

Councilman Boehm stated that negotiations are going on with the Loan Agreement between Mr. Laraway's attorney and Mr. Goldman and added that they discussed at the Workshop what they should look for.

Supervisor Hotaling inquired as to if anyone has heard anything back.

Collectively the Town Board stated that they hadn't.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that it would be tabled until the next meeting on February 25th.

Councilman Boehm stated that he would call Mr. Goldman to see what has happened.

Supervisor Hotaling interjected that he did get an invoice for Mr. Goldman's efforts to be reviewed by the Board and then moved to the next item on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Set Speed Limit on Rowe Road

Supervisor Hotaling stated that he was in receipt of a letter from Highway Superintendent Deering dated January 22nd with a request for the Town Board to consider reducing the speed limit on Rowe Road. He continued by saying that the request is to make the speed limit 40 mph, which is what the Town of New Scotland is undertaking for their end. He then asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that this is the Town of Coeymans portion of the road and added that the Town of New Scotland is sending in the request to have their portion reduced to 40mph.

Supervisor Hotaling inquired as to if they have to undertake the same efforts as far as going to the County and State.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that they do and it is the same process.

Supervisor Hotaling asked members of the Board if they are familiar with the area and whether or not it would be appropriate to submit for 40 mph. He continued by saying that for Councilmen Touchette and Youmans benefit, that as a town of the second class they do not have the opportunity to establish speed limits and added that they have to send it to the County to undertake a study and in turn they send the results to the State Department of Transportation for the State officials to determine whether or not the request should be granted, modified or rejected. He went on by saying that it is an arduously slow process and they are still waiting for the last couple that were sent and added that his belief is that most often it is rejected. He concluded by saying that if the Board see fit by motion they can direct him to forward the request to Mr. Franchini, the Commissioner of Public Works for Albany County and ultimately from him to reach Mr. Johnson for review of the Department of Transportation.

Councilman Youmans inquired as to what the speed limit is currently.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that it is 55 mph.

Councilman Youmans stated that it seems fast for that road and continued by asking if Highway Superintendent Deering feels as though 40 mph is appropriate and if this is what it will be when you cross over into the Town of New Scotland.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that it is appropriate and will be the speed when you cross over into the Town of New Scotland.

Supervisor Hotaling inquired as to whether the Town or County is responsible for the road.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that the Town is responsible for their portion.

Supervisor Hotaling inquired as to if it is a Town road.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that it is for the Town's portion and added that the other portion is a town road in New Scotland.

Councilman Boehm stated that Stanton Road is 40 mph and added that Bushendorf Road is 35 mph, which is a 5 mph difference and continued by saying that for consistency sake and ease of enforcement, given the rural nature of the roads, could Highway Superintendent Deering look at a consistent speed limit.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that he would like to see that and added that the Department of Transportation makes the judgment for the speed limit. He added that in some cases they have agreed with the Town and have even made it lower than the recommendation. He concluded by saying that they are still waiting on their requests for Bushendorf Road and Jarvis Road North

Councilman Boehm inquired as to if there is a consistent difference between Bushendorf, Jarvis and Stanton Road and added that 35 mph seems reasonable for most of the roads.

Tape change – some dialect lost

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that he thought they could put signs up to lower the speed on the curves and was advised that he cannot count the curves.

Councilman Boehm stated that on Stanton Road there is a curve by the farm and there is not a sign reducing the speed or warning about the curve and continued by saying that on Bushendorf there is a limited sight distance and went on by asking if there are plans for putting up additional signs.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that it will be yellow signs and added that Bushendorf Road is in the works. He continued by saying that they replaced the 40 mph signs and added that if the speed is reduced to 35 mph as requested they will do all of the signs at once.

Supervisor Hotaling inquired as to if there is a consensus that they should move the request to the next level.

Collectively it was agreed that there is.

Supervisor Hotaling asked for a motion.

MOTION

On motion of Councilwoman Rogers, seconded by Councilman Youmans, authorizing the Supervisor, at the Superintendent of Highways request, to forward to the County the request for a reduction of speed on Rowe Road to 40 mph.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Supervisor Hotaling asked if there was any further discussion.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that in the past he has said that if it were up to him he would like to see all of the roads 30 mph.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that they tried this in the past and it was denied and continued by saying that when he was a Councilman they requested for any roads not otherwise posted to be 30 mph, which was reasonable and added that as the government of the Town they are not authorized to make the decision. He concluded by saying that he will forward the request to Mr. Franchini to make the entire length of Rowe Road in the Town of Coeymans 40 mph.

Highway Superintendent Deering interjected that it is the Town of Coeymans portion of Rowe Road and added that he can get him the actual footage.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that was not necessary and added that the request will be the entire length of Rowe Road in the Town of Coeymans to the Town of New Scotland line.

Exchange of Services Contract – Senior Projects of Ravena

Supervisor Hotaling stated that the Exchange of Services Contract for the Senior Projects of Ravena is similar to those that were approved for Alcove Preservation Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. He added that the Senior Projects of

Ravena is a place that provides emergency shelter, meals, training room facilities and income tax services for residents and in return for that supplemental funding in their effort to provide recreation, congregate dining, Meals on Wheels, social activities and transportation for seniors, the Town is providing \$6,000.00 in funding, which is consistent with the last several years. He continued by saying that by approval of the Board by motion it will authorize him to sign the contract and present it to Ms. Albano for her signature and in turn pay them \$6,000.00 for their services.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilman Touchette, authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Contract for Exchange of Services with the Senior Projects in the Town of Coeymans in the amount of \$6,000.00

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS – SO MOVED

NYS Building Officials Conference Membership Renewal

Supervisor Hotaling stated that he had received a request from the Building Department to renew the membership of the New York State Building Officials Conference Inc. (NYSBOC) for membership for Code Enforcement Officers Cashin, Weidman and Conrad and added that Code Enforcement Officer DeBacco obtains his membership through the Village of Ravena. He continued by saying that with a motion they can approve \$40.00 per person for the membership renewal for each CEO.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Touchette, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, authorizing payment for the annual membership in the amount of \$40.00 per person for CEO's Cashin, Weidman and Conrad to the New York State Building Officials Conference.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Request for Training for Code Enforcement Officers

Supervisor Hotaling stated that he was in receipt of a request on behalf of the Building Department to begin to collect some of the required 24 credit hours on an annual basis in order to maintain their certification. He continued by saying that CEO Conrad has requested that CEO's Cashin and Weidman be authorized to attend a training seminar at the Italian American Community Center sponsored by New York State Building Officials Conference (NYSBOC) and added that by attending they will receive 3 credit hours with the cost being \$30.00 per person. He then asked for a motion to authorize the attendance.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Touchette, seconded by Councilman Boehm, authorizing CEO's Cashin and Weidman to attend the training seminar sponsored by the New York Building Officials Conference at the Italian American Community Center at a cost of \$30.00 per person

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Supervisor Hotaling interjected that they will be taking a Town vehicle, which will eliminate a cost associated for mileage.

Authorize Forwarding POTW Design, Planning & Flow Management Annual Certification Form to C.T. Male & Return for Signature & Forwarding to DEC Approval for Sewage Treatment Plant Operator to Attend Training Course and Associated Charges

Supervisor Hotaling stated that he had requested that this topic be added to the agenda and continued by saying that there was a letter dated January 29th to the Coeymans Sewer District from Koon S. Tang, P.E. with the Bureau of Water Compliance at the Department of Environmental Conservation. He continued by saying that as Chief Fiscal Officer he is required to certify in writing to ENCON that the Town of Coeymans is

complying with the provisions of 6 NYCRR Part 750-2.9(c) and added that the certification requirement must be met by the permittee on an annual basis with a deadline for submission of March 28, 2008. He went on by saying that last year they forwarded it to Ed Vopelak at C.T. Male who has intimate knowledge of the sewer operations and has helped with the design and upgrades and added that it is his suggestion that they authorize him to ask Mr. Vopelak to fill out the required form, which has to be right and timely. He then asked for a motion to engage Mr. Vopelak to fill out the report by the deadline of March 28, 2008.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, authorizing the Supervisor to send the form to Mr. Vopelak for completion.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Approval for Sewage Treatment Plant Operator to Attend Training Course and Associated Charges

Supervisor Hotaling stated that Mr. Lennon has been at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for approximately a year and added that he has taken and passed the Civil Service test as a trainee and in turn was appointed from the Civil Service list. He continued by saying that Mr. Lennon has to undergo the certification to be a Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator and added that there is now a 60 hour course, which is the initial phase of the certification process that is being offered at SUNY Morrisville for a fee of \$900.00 as well as lodging and meal fees. He went on by saying that a prerequisite of the course is six-months experience in plant operation, which Mr. Lennon has an Operator Trainee. He concluded by saying that it is worthy of a motion to allow him to take the course because it is necessary that he get the certification.

Councilman Youmans interjected that as it stands all the Town has is Larry Breedlove who is certified to run the plant and continued by offering a motion.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Boehm, authorizing Operator Trainee Lennon to attend the training at a cost of \$900.00 plus costs associated with meals and lodging.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Supervisor Hotaling stated that they will codify what the meals and lodging means boils down to in terms of transmitting the information to Chief Operator Breedlove.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #040-07 APPOINT PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, the following resolution was APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has conducted a search for available part-time police officers to supplement the monthly schedule and provide the coverage desired,

WHEREAS, the recommended candidate has been forwarded to Albany County Civil Service for qualification review,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Ryan F. Johnson as a part-time Police Officer effective immediately, but contingent upon availability from his current position and pending Civil Service review. This appointment will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Council 82 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that this appointment is a result of a recommendation made by Chief of Police Darlington.

Councilman Boehm stated that Chief Darlington had brought this up at a previous meeting and continued by reading the following submitted by him:

“At a previous Town Board Meeting I presented five names for consideration in which we hired four. Since then full-time Officer VanEps has resigned and I am asking that the Town Board hire the 5th name presented. Ryan Johnson is currently certified and works full-time provisionally with the Town of Cairo Police Department. He is due to be hired as permanent full-time and is interested in transferring to our Department. I have spoken to Albany County Civil Service and he is eligible for a lateral once his probation is completed.”

Councilman Boehm stated that the Chief of Police asked that they consider the appointment and added that everyone had gotten a copy of his resume and cover letter.

CORRESPONDENCE

New York State Department of Transportation

Supervisor Hotaling stated that he was in receipt of a document dated February 7, 2008 from James Boni, Project Manager with the Department of Transportation and continued by saying that he is the Project Manager for the Rte. 143 to Nolan Road redesign. He added that it is a complete set of contract documents that are set to be released March 6, 2008 and construction of the project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2008 and currently scheduled to be completed in November 2009. He continued by saying that the documents will be in his office for public inspection and review by the Town Board. He went on by saying that Mr. Boni has tried to give some timelines as to the other projects that they have going and added that within the project documents plans are included for a Gray Water Sewer System for Martins Hill in which the Town has placed in the State's hand a betterment amount of \$21,600.00. He continued by saying that the only thing remaining is the water system up Martins Hill to those people who do not currently have palatable water and added that their negotiations with the Village of Ravenna have been ongoing for a long duration and went on by saying that he can report that approximately 15 days ago in a conversation with the lawyer representing the Village of Ravenna, that after a meeting attended by himself, Councilman Youmans and representatives from the Village and the counsel for each side, it was reported that there was an agreement and he will be receiving a letter for the supply of water by the Village of Ravenna to this Water District, which he has not received to date. He went on by saying that Mr. Boni had indicated earlier in the day that it is a very critical stage and they are reaching a point where if the water system is not in place by March 31st the reconstruction of the road will prevent it and added that even if he received the letter now he does not believe that it can be done now because the document has to be prepared, the State Comptroller has to review the cost associated with the build and deem it to be palpable under the State's guidelines, which is currently \$570.00 a year and will probably not be under that threshold. He reiterated that the water system has to be in place by March 31st and if it isn't, the reconstruction of the road will prevent it from happening and concluded by saying that he does not see how it can be done in spite of their best efforts.

Councilman Boehm stated that prior to becoming a Board member he recalls watching a meeting where residents of Martins Hill brought in pots of black water and filters and continued by saying that they can put in the Gray Water Sewer System but they still won't have water that they can drink. He continued by saying that it is unfortunate that the Village cannot see the urgency of the matter.

Councilman Youmans interjected that it seems like a simple matter but as they found out it is not.

Supervisor Hotaling asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

Assembly Standing Committee on Local Government

Supervisor Hotaling stated that he was in receipt of a correspondence from the Standing Committee on Local Government and continued by saying that it is a notice to the public that he will hang on the bulletin board. He continued by saying that on Wednesday, February 27th at 10:30am in the Roosevelt Hearing Room in the Legislative Office Building in Albany there will be a Public Hearing on Municipal Participation in the New York's Communities Initiative, which is funding that may play into some of the Hamlet issues. He continued by reading the following excerpt:

“Restore NY was established in the 2006-2007 New York State Budget to provide eligible municipalities with financial assistance to encourage economic development and neighborhood revitalization. A total of \$300 million was dedicated to this program in the New York State Budget with \$50 million appropriated for State Fiscal Year 2006-2007, \$100 million appropriated for 2007-2008 and 150 million appropriated for 2008-2009. The program goals of Restore NY are to improve housing stock, encourage commercial investment and revitalize urban centers.”

He continued by saying that the testimony with regard to this will be to convince the Committee members of the need in various areas and the importance of the funding to be placed in the final budget and added that any member of the Board, if they wish, can attend. He went on by saying that as they move into the State's budget fiscal year of April 1st to March 31st they might want to be cognizant of the Restore NY funds that are available for grants such as projects that they saw earlier in the meeting.

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOPS / MEETING

- No February Workshop, Association of Towns Conference
- Town Board Meeting, February 25, 2008, 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, March 10, 2008, 7:00pm
- Town Board Workshop, March 18, 2008, 6:00pm

Supervisor Hotaling stated that on March 21, 2008 at 6:00pm the Historic Coeymans Landing Association will hold a meeting at the Coeymans Municipal building on South Main Street and added that the website that they have established is www.historic-coeymans.org.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Hotaling stated that earlier in the day he had received a call from a resident and in turn spoke to Deputy Highway Superintendent Searls about Blodgett Hill and continued by asking Highway Superintendent Deering if he made any contact with Mr. Franchini.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that he had made contact with Mr. Franchini and added that he will be checking into it.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that there have been several car/deer incidents in the straight-of-way and the person had suggested that signs to warn motorists of the prevalence of deer would be helpful. He added that he would suggest a sign at one end of the straight-of-way and at the intersection of Tracey Road.

Highway Superintendent Deering reiterated that Mr. Franchini is going to check into it.

Supervisor Hotaling stated that the person had also suggested no passing and added that there is a passing opportunity, which from her perspective is very dangerous and continued by saying the he does not know if there is a study that Mr. Franchini could entertain. He went on by saying that Highway Superintendent Deering should raise this with him as well.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that he did raise that with him and he will also be looking into that and added that Mr. Franchini was going to personally call this person.

Supervisor Hotaling asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time: 8:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED:

Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk