

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
January 13, 2022 – Town Board Meeting – 6:00pm**

A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday January 13, 2022 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: George D. McHugh, Supervisor
Daniel D. Baker, Council Member
Linda S. Bruno, Council Member
Brandon L. LeFevre, Council Member
Marisa Tutay, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Candace McHugh, Town Clerk

Supervisor McHugh called the meeting order and led the audience in the Pledge. Council Member Bruno led the audience in prayer. The Supervisor asked to let the record reflect that all members are present.

Announcements:

Supervisor McHugh reminded the public that Town Hall is open by appointment only and hopes to reopen in the near future. He gave the phone #number to make an appointment.

Albany COVID Numbers are as follows:

*986 New positive cases within the County since yesterday

*Seven day average for new daily positives is 1,068.8

*There were 25 new hospitalizations since yesterday and currently a total of 125 admitted, 19 of those patients are in the ICU.

We now have the highest number of county residents hospitalized with the virus since February 4 and we are now tied for the number of individuals in ICU's reported on January 7 of last year.

Recently the Town received test kits from Albany County and dispersed them to the Coeymans Hollow and Coeymans Firehouses for Distribution to the public as did the Village.

According to the School COVID report card the RCS Central School District has a total of 275 positive cases. This total includes, teachers, staff, and students.

Councilmember Baker added that the school is also handing out test kits. Council member Tutay said to enter the school lobby and the office will take your name.

Town Hall will be closed on January 17, 2022 for Martin Luther King Day.

There were no minutes to approve

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Old Business:

Supervisor McHugh started with Sewer/Water expansion feasibility Study done by Barton & Loguidice. This is step one in the potential expansion for the north Coeymans Route 144 expansion which would include the industrial area up to the Lafarge conveyor belt. A lot of these areas already have water and sewer but this would encompass all of it. The next Step is to start moving forward with the actual expansion of the district and putting it out to bid. The Supervisor is working with the Village Attorney, Michael Biscone, Jason Ballard from Barton & Loguidice and the 3 primary property owners, Mr. Biers, Mr. Laraway and Mr. Alegretta on moving this forward. The hope here is to get the construction documents finished and ready to be put out to bid. Supervisor McHugh asked for any questions- there were none. The Supervisor stated the good news is that we have plenty of water and sewer capacity so it is only a matter of infrastructure.

Coeymans Landing Park Upgrades: the Supervisor had a conference call with MJ Engineering and the plans are at 100%. There have been some changes since the last time and they look great. They are on par to put this out to bid in mid-February with an award and construction starting in March/April with a potential end date of Late July. He also talked about the lavatory facilities. The Town is looking to put in permanent lavatory facilities at both parks and hopes to start with Joralemon so we do not get in the way with the GIGP work at Coeymans Landing. By late summer the lavatory can be started once the GIGP related work is done. Supervisor McHugh is meeting with Mr. Laraway and Lafarge in regards to the lavatories. Mr. Laraway and Carver Companies have graciously offered to do the site work at both facilities with no cost to the town. Lafarge had offered to provide the concrete for the structures. Supervisor McHugh is meeting with them on January 14th 2022 to get this settled and in writing. Council member Bruno asked about the high activity at the landing, how we will handle it along with the summer concert series. Supervisor Mchugh explained that we are making the boating load/unload area larger and trying to work around Striper season. This shouldn't be too disruptive for regular activity. There will be some inconvenience at the Landing but the board doesn't think it will create too much of an issue. Council member Bruno expressed concern for the kids who use the recreation area quite regularly. The soccer field and basketball courts will not be impacted and the playground area shouldn't be disturbed too much with the exception of some potential tree removal. The board is considering moving the concert series out to Joralemon Park which may have bathrooms constructed by the start of the season. Council member LeFevre expressed concerns with lighting at Joralemon which may have to be considered towards the end of the season.

Supervisor McHugh made a motion to have an informational public hearing for the public to take a look at the current plans for the landing on January 27th, 2022, Seconded by Mr. LeFevre. No opposition. Supervisor McHugh explained that this is not a legal public hearing but he would like to post it for the public on Facebook, web and board.

Broadband expansion: Supervisor McHugh stated he has met with Mark Evans from State telephone. The plan would be to take the fiber at the end of Starr road & 143 taking it all the way down Starr rd, down Bushendorf, then to the end of North Jarvis. The project is so expensive

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because the stretches of uninhabited road are quite expansive. Also, there are high tension lines on Bushendorf and we need to go underground in that area which is more difficult because it is rock. Council member LeFevre asked if we were given a quote for the digging or can we put out a bid. Supervisor McHugh said State Telephone does it all because we would have to use a higher rate of pay being a municipality than they would. State Tel is willing to negotiate the percentage of the bill that we pay as compared to them. There is no charge to bring the fiber to the homes regardless of the driveway length. Supervisor McHugh passed the plans and numbers along to the council members. McHugh doesn't foresee another company coming in to extend the fiber because it is not cost effective. If we at the Town don't initiate and pay this may never get done. Baker asked about the time lines, McHugh stated it can happen quickly. Council member Tutay asked if there are other areas of the town that do not have broadband. Mid Hudson, State Tel, Spectrum covers different areas in our town. Lindskoog is being looked at by Mid Hudson and plans are in motion. Council member Tutay said it would be nice to eliminate huge gaps for instances such as the pandemic, many people get the mifi portables from the school. Council member LeFevre added that the mifi portables work off cell towers which makes those ineffective as well in certain areas. Supervisor McHugh will reach out to State Tel to set up negotiations.

Playground equipment is ordered and ready. Once the weather breaks it should be installed along with the final coatings on the basketball courts.

New Business:

Supervisor's Term: Councilmen Baker announced we will be proposing a local law to change the supervisor's term from 2 years to 4 years. Some research he has done states all of Albany County Government is a 4 year terms and so is the Village. The only term that is not a 4 year term is the Supervisor term in our Town. The Town of Westerlo is also a 4 year term. This will apply for permissive referendum so the people of the town can vote on it. Council person Tutay said she believes this makes sense. Once you run you only have a year to really delve into the job and then you have to prep for another election. It would benefit the town to have someone in office for 4 years. The 2 year term takes away from the duties of the Supervisor since they only have a year before the election process begins. Council member Baker believes there would be more continuity within the town if the term was longer to match other terms within the Town. Council member Bruno stated it keeps the continuity for projects as well. Supervisor McHugh said he can see both sides. He asked that people keep in mind it does not have anything to do with this current term; it has to do with future terms which he may not be a part of. It is more possible to see things to completions in 4 years. For example we are working on a 2.2 million dollar grant for the past 2 years and we are just getting to the construction part, if the term was longer the same administration could see the project through to completion. Also the way the political calendar falls it makes it hard to progress as effectively as Supervisor

350 year Celebration: in 2023 the Town of Coeymans will be 350 years old. Supervisor McHugh made a motion to appoint Council Members Tutay and Lefevre as co-chairs to the 350 year celebration. Council member Baker 2nd the motion. Council member Tutay let us know the

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official day the Town of Coeymans was incorporated was April 7, 1673. Council member Tutay said they will reach out to all of the community for input. They will start to establish a committee and discuss potential budgetary needs for next year.

Resolutions

Resolution #47-22 Authorize Public hearing of LL1 of 2022 (now to be considered LL2)

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
George D. McHugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel D. Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandon L. LeFevre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda S. Bruno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marisa J. Tutay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

I, Council member Tutay offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans has introduced proposed Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2022 to change the term of office of the Town Supervisor from two years to four years commencing January 1, 2024 pursuant to the Section 10(1)(ii)(a) and Section 23(2)(e) of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of this local law is a Type II action pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6, N.Y.C.R.R. 617.5 as it involves agency administration, management and legislative decision making that does not affect the environment or commit the Town to a future decision on a project, and therefore is exempt from environmental review; and

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2022, if adopted, is subject to a mandatory referendum pursuant to New York Municipal Home Rule Law § 23(2)(e) and that a proposition in the following form shall be included on the ballot at such town election, and the four year term of office shall not take effect unless such proposition is approved by a majority vote of the qualified voters voting thereon: “Shall Town of Coeymans Local Law No. 1, 2022 entitled ‘A Local Law Changing the Term of Office of Town Supervisor from Two to Four Years, For the Term Commencing January 1, 2024,’ be approved?”;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby schedule a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2022 to be held on February 10, 2022 at 6:00p.m. at the Coeymans Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Clerk to publicly notice said Public Hearing in accordance with all applicable laws.

Seconded by Council member Baker, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

Discussion: Supervisor McHugh stated this is subject to a mandatory referendum if it is even passed, this is only to schedule a PH, and this does not make it a law. This law does not take effect unless it is voted upon and passed at this year’s election and wouldn’t take effect until the next Supervisor’s election.

Resolution #48-22 Authorization of Lease Agreement

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
George D. McHugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel D. Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandon L. LeFevre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda S. Bruno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marisa J. Tutay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

I, Council member Baker offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, the 2022 Budget provides for the lease of a photocopier in the Town Justice Court;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor George D. McHugh to execute a lease agreement with De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. (copy attached) for the lease of a photocopier machine in the Town Justice Court for a term not to exceed 48 months.

Seconded by Council member McHugh, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

Discussion: GM amended the heading to reflect the correct date. The copier agreement is attached and has already been accounted for in the Court budget for 2022.

Resolution # 49-22 Star Exemptions executive Order

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	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
George D. McHugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel D. Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandon L. LeFevre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda S. Bruno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marisa J. Tutay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

I, Council member McHugh offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this State disaster emergency has resulted in limited hours in municipal offices in the Town of **Coeymans** and rendered senior citizens and individuals with disabilities residing in **the Town of Coeymans** homebound. These factors combined have made it difficult, if not impossible, for many in these populations to file their real property tax exemption applications in person and many, further, lack the ability to file such applications online; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the above problems caused by the pandemic, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11.1 on December 26, 2021, thereby extending Executive Order No. 11. This extension of the Governor’s Executive Order modifies subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, the effect of which permits the governing body of an assessing unit (i.e., the Town Board of the Town of **Coeymans**) to adopt a Resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received such exemptions on the 2021 assessment roll (i.e., senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income), thereby dispensing with the need for such persons to file renewal applications to request such exemptions, and further dispensing with the requirement that assessors mail renewal applications to such persons; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 11.1 further allows the governing body of said assessing unit, in any such Resolution, at its option, to include procedures by which its Town Assessor may require a renewal application to be filed if he or she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner or died; and

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WHEREAS, pursuant to said Executive Order, the Town Board of the Town of **Coeymans** wishes to adopt such Resolution directing the Town Assessor of the Town of **Coeymans** to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all eligible senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income, and granting the Town Assessor of the Town of **Coeymans** the authority to require renewal applications for due cause, as discussed above, utilizing procedures outlined below;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 11.1, issued by the Governor of the State of New York, that the Town Board of the Town of **Coeymans** hereby directs the Town Assessor of the Town of **Coeymans** to:

1. Grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all individuals who received the senior exemption on the 2021 assessment roll and all individuals who received the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll because they were recognized as a person with disabilities and limited income, thereby dispensing with the need for any such individuals to file renewal applications for such exemptions, except that;

2. The Town Assessor may, in his or her sole discretion, require a renewal application to be timely filed with his or her office if they has reason to believe that any such individual, who qualified for the aforementioned exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed for the relevant property, transferred such property to a new owner or died. If the Town Assessor requires such renewal application be filed, he or she shall notify the owner of the subject property of such requirement by regular mail, with such notice shall containing instructions on how to file the renewal application. Said renewal application may be returned by mail or by making an appointment to drop same off at the Town Assessor’s office, 18 Russell Avenue Ravena, N.Y. 12143

Seconded by Council member Bruno, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

Discussion: This is the same as last year. The assessor can move forward without jeopardizing anyone’s health and safety.

Resolution # 50-22 Appoint Deputy Clerk

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
George D. McHugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Daniel D. Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandon L. LeFevre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda S. Bruno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marisa J. Tutay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

I, Council member LeFevre offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, Town Clerk Candace McHugh, pursuant to Chapter 280 of the Laws of 2007, which became effective on July 18, 2007, is desirous of appointing an individual to the 1st Deputy Town Clerk position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans hereby acknowledges the Town Clerk’s appointment of Sherle Slingerland as 1st Deputy Town Clerk. This appointment is for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Seconded by Council member Baker, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

Discussion: Mrs. Slingerland was appointed as of January 1st but the Board wanted to make sure we re-affirmed this appointment as every Town Clerk has the right to appoint their Deputy.

Public Comment: Supervisor McHugh invited the Public to call in with any comment. No calls were received.

Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session- to discuss the details of the employment History of a particular employee.

On motion of Council member Baker, seconded by Council member Tutay, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Motion to Adjourn from executive Session was made by member McHugh and seconded by Baker

Time 7:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace McHugh, Town Clerk