

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS**  
**September 8, 2022 – Town Board Meeting – 6:00pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday September 8, 2022 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

**PRESENT:** George D. McHugh, Supervisor  
Brandon L. LeFevre, Council Member  
Linda S. Bruno, Council Member  
Marisa Tutay, Council Member  
Stephen Schmitt, Council Member

**Absent:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Candace McHugh, Town Clerk  
James Peluso, Coeymans Town Attorney  
Daniel Baker, Superintendent of Highways  
Marc Tryon, Chief of Police

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

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**VFW POST 9594:** Helen Barber led the POW/MIA Ceremony with the help of other Post 9594 Ladies Auxiliary members.

-Rosemary McHugh, chairwoman of the Riverfest committee presented awards to the main sponsors for this year's festival.

**Old Business:**

**Coeymans Landing update**

Over the last month, a lot of updates have been made at Coeymans Landing.

- Installation of stormwater structures (catch basins) and piping occurred
- Overflow structures for bioretention areas installed as well as Bioswale underdrains, light pole bases, concrete curbing, and drop curbing
- Rough grading occurred
- Water service for future bathrooms tapped and stubbed
- Sidewalk subbase established
- Dock Street milled and subbase replaced
- Bioretention ponds at Westerlo and Second streets (5 days of work anticipated)

In the last few weeks of this project, we will be looking at completing

- Sidewalk concrete and pads
- Milling First and Westerlo Streets, with paving to follow
- Striping
- Electrical work

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- Install signage
- Landscaping
- Install site amenities

With the upcoming project installations, we are now looking at a completion date of October 7, 2022.

**Broadband Expansion Update:** Starr and Bushendorf Roads are expected to be complete by October 1, 2022.

**Open Development Area Application:** The Board will discuss this matter once again during executive session tonight.

**New Business:**

**SEQRA Analysis for WIIA Grant Application:** Supervisor McHugh asked the Town Attorney how to proceed, Mr. Peluso suggested accepting Part 2. Supervisor McHugh made a motion to accept Part 2 EAF, Seconded by Council member Tutay, all were in Favor.

**Report of Inspection and Airborne Mold Sampling:** Alpine Environmental submitted their assessment. High levels of airborne mold spores were found in the Police, Building and Assessor's Office. It is the recommendation of the company that workers should not be in this area 8 hours a day.

Supervisor McHugh made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to make legal notice of special meetings on October 1, 2022 for the Town Clerk to present the 2023 tentative budget to the board, a special workshop on October 8, 2022 at 10:30am to review the 2023 tentative budget with department heads, and a Public Hearing on November 10, 2022 at 6pm for public comment on the budget. The motion was seconded by Council member LeFevre. Council member Schmitt asked for a time change on the October 1, 2022 meeting to 8am. The motion was amended by Supervisor McHugh to reflect the time change which was also seconded by council member leFevre, all were in favor.

Supervisor McHugh made a motion to adjourned to executive session to discuss matters leading the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular employee as well as consult with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Council member Tutay and all were in favor.

Supervisor McHugh made a motion to call the regular meeting back to order which was seconded by Council member Bruno, all were in favor.

Executive Session was adjourned at 7:37pm by a motion by Supervisor McHugh and seconded by Council member Schmitt, and all were in favor. No decisions were made during executive session.

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Council member LeFevre stated that the majority of the town board are receptive to consider approval of the Open Area Development Project subject to the applicant providing additional details on the design and construction of proposed roadway and subject to condition to be imposed by the board as part of any improvement. Mr. Peluso stated this is not an approval, but that the board is willing to consider approval after looking at some more information.

**Resolutions**

**Resolution # 154-22 Adopt Negative Declaration – WIIA Grant**

|                    | <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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| Stephen J. Schmitt | <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>                            |                          |                          |

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans owns and operates a sanitary sewer system and two (2) sewage pumping stations within the project area. There are high levels of inflow and infiltration (I/I) in the system during storm events. To reduce I/I infrastructure improvements are needed. Improvements have been identified through the preparation of an engineering report that include removal and replacement of existing gravity sewer infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing gravity sewer via Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, and pump station replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has considered the aforementioned project; and

**WHEREAS**, the improvements to the sewer system appears to be an Unlisted Action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), 6 NYCRR 617, and

**WHEREAS**, coordinated review with involved agencies is optional for Unlisted Actions, however the Town Board initiated coordinated review on July 28, 2022 and declared intent to be Lead Agency for the purposes of SEQRA and no objections have been received regarding the Town serving as Lead Agency; and

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**WHEREAS**, pursuant to SEQRA, Town Board has prepared and completed Parts 1 and 2 of the full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF); and the Board has duly reviewed the EAF and has considered the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR §617.7(c) to determine whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby declare itself lead agency for the purposes of SEQRA; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that after careful consideration of the full EAF Parts 1 and 2 the Town Board, as lead agency, has determined the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

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

Mr. Peluso requested a motion be made authorizing the Supervisor to complete part 3 of the EAF identifying the project will not have any negative effects which is consistent with the declaration.

Council member Tutay made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to complete part 3 of the EAF, seconded by Council member LeFevre, all were in favor.

**Resolution # 155-22 Authorize Supervisor to Execute/Submit WIIA Grant Application**

|                    | <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"/> |
| Stephen J. Schmitt | <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"/> |
| Brandon L. LeFevre | <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>                            |                          |                          |

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A WIIA GRANT FOR  
SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

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**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans owns and operates a sanitary sewer system and two (2) sewage pumping stations within the project area. There are high levels of inflow and infiltration (I/I) in the system during storm events. To reduce I/I infrastructure improvements are needed. Improvements have been identified through the preparation of an engineering report that include removal and replacement of existing gravity sewer infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing gravity sewer via Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, and pump station replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has considered the aforementioned project; and

**WHEREAS**, the improvements to the sewer system appears to be an Unlisted Action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), 6 NYCRR 617, and coordinated review with involved agencies is optional for Unlisted Actions, however the Town Board initiated coordinated review on July 28, 2022 and after no objections were received declared itself as Lead Agency on September 8, 2022 and issued a Negative Declaration indicating the proposed project would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has directed MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, PC to prepare an engineering report for the improvements and pursuant to the direction of the Town, the Engineer has completed such engineering report for said improvements and has estimated the total cost thereof to be a maximum amount of \$2,510,000; said cost to be funded through Town funds and offset by any federal, state, county and/or local funds received; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) provides funding for eligible clean and drinking water infrastructure projects;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the submittal of an application through WIIA to protect public health and fund improvements including the removal and replacement of existing gravity sewer infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing gravity sewer via Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, and pump station replacement.

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

Discussion: Supervisor McHugh stated that this project will take several grants to complete, but is the start to plan on lining every sewer line in the Hamlet of Coeymans.

**Resolution # 156-22 Accept the Resignation of Police Officer**

|                    | <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"/> |
| Brandon L. LeFevre | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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"/> |
| Stephen J. Schmitt | <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>                            |                          |                          |

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

**WHEREAS**, a written letter of resignation was received by the Town of Coeymans on August 27, 2022 from Sergeant Timothy Hajec; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the resignation of Sergeant Timothy Hajec effective September 11, 2022.

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

**Resolution # 157-22 Appoint Full Time Sergeant**

|                    | <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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| Stephen J. Schmitt | <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>                            |                          |                          |

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

**WHEREAS**, Part-time Police Sergeant Timothy Hajec has submitted his resignation to the Town of Coeymans Police Department effective September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to devote all his energies to his full-time employer, the Village of Ballston Spa,

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Coeymans Police Department is in need of a Sergeant to provide Supervision, perform administrative functions, and direct patrol operations

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the appointment of full-time Officer Kelly Arnold to the provisional title of Sergeant for the Town of Coeymans Police Department at an hourly rate of \$34.60 per hour effective September 12th, 2022.

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

Supervisor McHugh made a motion for the Town Board to Authorize the Supervisor to execute the Albany Solar Decommissioning Agreement between the town and Hecate Albany Energy One, LLC after consultation and approval by legal counsel, which was seconded by council member Bruno, all were in favor.

**Public Comment:**

Cindy Rowzee, Village of Ravena Resident spoke on behalf of VFW Ladies Auxiliary member Mary Ellen Rosato. There will be a ceremony dedicating a memorial in honor of the 17 soldiers who lost their lives in action during the Vietnam War. The ceremony will be at 10am on September 17 at the Veterans Park in Greenville. Mrs. Rowzee read the names of the fallen soldiers.

Melissa Ashby lives at 1047 Old State Road: Ms. Ashby wanted to address some comments made on FB. Supervisor McHugh stopped her stating she was not following the meeting rules and explained to her that the rules were at the front door by the sign in.

Barbara Tanner, Ridge Road: She asked if we can't clean the mold and a new town hall is voted down what will be the plan. Supervisor McHugh stated we are looking at remediation and both short term and long-term fixes. Mrs. Tanner hopes people learn the facts before they vote.

Lazlo Polyak, Ravena resident: Due to his research of Town records he is familiar with the previous mold and water issues. He was wondering if past employees could bring forth action to the Town for the conditions. Town Council stated we could not comment on that. Mr. Polyak wanted to know if we could get a second opinion for a separate company. Supervisor McHugh said they could take it under advisement.

Council member Tutay: She stated the only concern should be for the children of this town and it saddens her tremendously that the children were brought into a political game between two entities. She does not feel what was said represented all who are in the conservative party. She emphasized the only thing that is important is the well-being of those children involved. Supervisor McHugh interjected to say this is violating our own rules and this conversation should be taken outside.

Council member Schmitt read from a prepared statement concerning some Facebook posts made by the Coeymans Conservative Committee and the Republican Committee pertaining to the horrific events that took place recently at the village pool. He expressed his wishes for the

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community to reach out to the board with their concerns and he stated he only wants the best for the town.

Lazlo Polyak asked if the construction would be done in two days to have Riverfest. Supervisor McHugh stated it will be cleaned up as best as possible. He also asked if the current Town hall was ever deeded over and Supervisor McHugh stated it was in fact turned over to the Town.

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**Motion to Adjourn** - On motion of Council member Tutay, seconded by Council member LeFevre, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:11p.m.  
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Candace McHugh, Town Clerk*