

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS  
December 14, 2017 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

**PRESENT:** Philip Crandall, Supervisor  
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman  
Kenneth A. Burns, Councilman  
George E. Langdon, Councilman  
James C. Youmans, Councilman

**ALSO PRESENT:** Diane Millious, Town Clerk  
Scott Searles, Highway Superintendent  
Peter McKenna, Chief of Police  
Daniel Contento, Police Sergeant

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Supervisor Crandall opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Burns offered a prayer.

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**OPENING COMMENT**

Supervisor Crandall stated that the record should reflect the presence of a full Town Board, in addition to Town Clerk Millious.

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**AGENDA**

- Public Announcements
  - Town Hall Closed for Christmas Day – December 25, 2017
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
  - Town Board Meeting, November 30, 2017
- Presentations
  - Albany County Legislator Rick Touchette
  - NRG, Steve Smith – Solar Energy
  - Michael McGuire, Cold War Veteran Exemption
- Resolutions
  - Reappoint Board of Assessment Review Member
  - Establish 2018 Sewer Rates
  - Appoint Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor
  - Authorize Supervisor to Sign Contract with Ravena Rescue Squad
  - Authorize Supervisor to Sign SRO Agreement
  - Appoint Two Police Officers to Competitive Statue
  - Appoint Part Time Police Officer
  - Sponsor Three Police Recruits
- Upcoming Workshops/Meetings
  - Town Board Workshop – December 21, 2017 - 6pm
  - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – December 27, 2017 - 7:00pm
  - Town Board Meeting - December 28, 2017- 7:00pm

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**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Crandall stated that Town Hall will be closed on December 25, 2017 for Christmas Day.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Crandall invited the public to comment at this time then moved on to the next item on the agenda when no one wished to comment.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Supervisor Crandall stated that there is one set of minutes for Town Board approval, a Town Board Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> and then asked for a motion to approve them.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Burns, the minutes were approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 –SO MOVED

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**PRESENTATIONS**

**Rick Touchette, Albany County Legislator.** Mr. Touchette stated he had a couple of things he would like to mention tonight. The first is that last week the Legislature approved a structurally sound six hundred seventy eight million dollar budget. The budget has no use of reserves, no tax increase or layoffs and a two percent raise for most County employees. He is most impressed with how Albany County continues to take care of seniors, youth and families with this budget. The entire budget is available online at the Albany County website where you can download a pdf copy of the budget. If anyone has any questions regarding the budget, he will be happy to try and answer them. The second thing is that Albany County has approximately fifty committees, boards and commissions that are mostly staffed by volunteers. They range from the Ethics Commission, Airport Authority, Land Bank to Soil & Water Conservation. If anyone has any interest in getting involved in County government let him know and he would be happy to help them. The last thing he would like to mention is that next Monday the Legislature will pass a resolution to authorize the distribution of mortgage tax for the period of April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Coeymans' distribution is \$66,917.63 and the Village of Ravena's distribution is \$12,799.61.

Mr. Touchette concluded by thanking Town Clerk Millious for her years of service to the Town of Coeymans and wished her the best in her retirement.

Councilman Dolan asked if there is a list of the committees, boards and commissions.

Mr. Touchette responded there is not a list in any one place, but he would be happy to help anyone looking for more information.

Councilman Dolan asked what he attributes Albany County's ability to have a zero tax increase, a two percent raise and no cuts to current positions to.

Mr. Touchette responded that part of the possibility is due to the increase in the tax levy and the tax base. There is very little fat in the budget, as well as a carefully crafted partnership between the executive branch and the legislature that also helped to make this budget possible. Mr. Touchette stated it is a very open and transparent process.

**Craig Hightower, NRG Community Solar Energy.** Mr. Hightower stated he would be filling in for Steve Smith, who is home sick. They would like to officially introduce the use of community solar energy to the Town and will be working in the area. When most people hear solar energy, they think it means having solar panels on their roof. That has been the case for many years as there were no other options available. Community solar allows people to go solar, reducing their carbon footprint and having the benefits of solar energy without putting solar

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panels on their roofs. This is in the form of a community solar garden or farm, essentially it is a one to three acre parcel of land with solar panels. This allows rate payers to Central Hudson to get the credits that come with the solar production from the farm. It comes in the form of a net metered credit, which is the same concept as having the panels on your roof. The average subscriber to the farm is off setting the amount of carbon in the environment equal to a car driving 14,000 miles a year or planting 153 trees. NRG has over 14,000 current subscribers in Minnesota, Massachusetts, Colorado and now New York. This is a new concept, they will be in the area and wanted to provide some insights in to some of the benefits available, the chance to go green, reduce the carbon footprint on the environment and save some money as well.

Councilman Youmans asked if they had plans to build a garden here.

Mr. Hightower responded yes they do, the specifics locations are not available at this time as the locations could change, but permits have been obtained to build approximately fifteen gardens on the Central Hudson grid that covers from Albany to Poughkeepsie on both sides of the river.

Barbara Heinzen asked about the placement of the panels on land used for agricultural purposes and the impact on being able to plant on the land. She asked if their company had looked into raising the panels off the ground so crops could be planted on the same piece of land, allowing for a higher return through both solar energy and agricultural products from the land.

Mr. Hightower responded that they currently do not build on land being utilized for agricultural purposes and they do place the solar panels above the ground.

Councilman Langdon asked about the benefits, is this something you sign up for.

Mr. Hightower responded that there are no upfront costs; it is a 20 year subscription with flexible terms. There are options and solutions available if you move away. People can schedule an appointment with them and they will go over all the terms, details and break down your current bill to show the savings potential. There is information also available on their website.

**Michael McGuire, assessor for the Town of Sand Lake and assistant assessor for the Town of Fort Ann.** Mr. McGuire stated there were recent changes to NYS Legislation for the Cold War Veterans exemption. In September of this year the Governor signed a bill to remove the Sunset clause governing the Cold War Veterans exemption. The Town of Coeymans currently does follow the exemption. He would like to propose the Town adopts a law to remove the sunset clause from the Town's legislation for government exemptions. The way it was established in 2009, the law was written that the exemption would expire in 10 years, so the individuals currently receiving this exemption would lose it in 2019. If the Town adopts this law the individuals who receive this exemption would be able to continue to receive it. Mr. McGuire stated it is a fairly simple local law and he has printed out a copy for the Town Board. This exemption is a little different from other veteran's exemptions, it focuses on veterans who served during the Cold War period. The Cold War period is defined as the period after WWII, September 1945 through December 1991, through the Persian Gulf conflict. It does exclude the periods of conflict that include Korea and Vietnam, these periods are covered by an alternative exemption. Both exemptions are pretty much the same, they just cover different time periods.

Councilman Dolan asked, so veterans would be eligible for one or the other.

Mr. McGuire responded yes, they could receive on or the other; but not both.

Supervisor Crandall stated the exemption is something that is very well deserved and needed by our veterans.

The Town Board collectively thanked Mr. McGuire.

Councilman Youmans read proposed Local Law #1 for 2017 aloud.

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2017**

**A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF COEYMANS, COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2009 TO ELIMINATE THE TEN YEAR LIMITATION ON TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR COLD WAR ERA VETERANS**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans as follows:

Section 1. Purpose: Local Law 1 for 2009 provided for certain tax exemptions for Cold War Veterans with a ten year limitation on the receipt of the exemption. The purpose of this Local Law is to adopt a provision removing the ten year limitation on the receipt of the exemption as permitted by Chapter 290 of the 2017 Laws of the State of New York which authorized a town to remove the ten year limitation on receipt of the exemption by qualified owners of qualifying real property as long as they remain qualifying owners.

Section 2. Section 4 of Local Law 1 for 2009 is amended to read as follows:

A. If the Cold War Veteran receives the exemption under any other section of Real Property Tax Law that provides for veteran exemptions, the Cold War Veteran shall not be eligible to receive the exemption under this Local Law.

B. Application for exemption shall be made by the owner, or all of the owners of the property on a form prescribed by the State Board. The owner or owners shall file the completed form in the Assessor's Office on or before the first appropriate taxable status date. Applicant shall file on or before the appropriate taxable status date. Any applicant convicted of willfully making any false statements in the application for such exemption shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in the New York State Penal Code.

Section 3. Effective Date: This Local Law shall take effect immediately and shall apply to Assessment Rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status occurring on or after such date.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Dolan to authorize the Town Clerk to publish a Notice of Public Hearing on January 11, 2018 at 6:30pm.

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

Councilman Langdon sked if Mr. McGuire knew what the value of the exemption would be to veterans.

Mr. McGuire responded that he did not off the top of his head, but it is usually a percentage of the taxable value of the property, with a cap.

Mr. McGuire stated that the RCS School District has not adopted this yet and it is something that can be extended to school districts as well. He suggested that the Town might want to draft a letter to the school district regarding this matter.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RES. # 125-17 REAPPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER**

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

**WHEREAS**, the term of Thomas Boehm as a member of the Town of Coeymans Board of Assessment Review expired on September 30, 2017; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined his service to be of value to the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Boehm has expressed an interest in retaining his position as a member of the Board of Assessment Review;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby reappoint Thomas Boehm to a five-year term to expire September 30, 2022.

**RES. # 126-17 ESTABLISH 2018 SEWER RATES**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans is required to establish Sewer Rates for 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Town of Coeymans and held on December 14, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall; and

**WHEREAS**, all parties in attendance were granted an opportunity to speak on behalf and/or opposition to the proposed 2018 Sewer Rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans determines the number of units to calculate the billing for operation/maintenance/capital projects; and

**WHEREAS**, each use is hereby charged the following:

Per unit, per year – Five hundred nine dollars and thirty cents (\$509.30)

January–June Payment – Two hundred fifty-four dollars and sixty-five cents (\$254.65)

July-December Payment – Two hundred fifty-four dollars and sixty-five cents (\$254.65)

Commercial - one (1) unit per use

Apartments – one (1) unit per apartment

Out of district users – per unit, per year

Vacant parcels – flat rate of One hundred dollars (\$100.00) per year

Village of Ravena – Thirty-five thousand, one hundred thirty-eight dollars and seventy-six cents (\$35,138.76) per month

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans has established a late payment of ten percent (10%) to be imposed on all balances thirty (30) days from the due date of the billing.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the Town Clerk to collect sewer rents for 2018, pursuant to the above established rates.

Councilman Dolan stated that the rate last year was \$506.83 so this is an increase of \$2.47 which is less than a half one percent.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Dolan to authorize the Town Clerk to publish a Notice for the Organizational Meeting to be held on January 1, 2018 at 10:00am.

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

**RES. # 127-17 APPOINT CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE SUPERVISOR**

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

**WHEREAS**, Cindy Rowzee, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, is resigning her position effective December 31, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor is desirous of filling this vacancy;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor Philip A. Crandall to appoint a Confidential Secretary pursuant to Town Law, Section 29, Subdivision (15);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Coeymans Supervisor Philip A. Crandall does hereby appoint Darleen Domanico as Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, for up to 9 days of training at the hourly rate of \$18.60, as of December 18, 2017 and at the hourly rate to be set at the 2018 Organizational Meeting on January 1, 2017 as a full-time employee.

**RES. # 128-17 AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH RAVENA RESCUE SQUAD**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town is permitted by virtue of section 122-b of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York to provide emergency ambulance service for the purpose of treating and transporting sick and injured persons found within its boundaries to an acute care hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is desirous of entering into an agreement providing such ambulance service to the Town of Coeymans pursuant to said provisions of law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ravena Rescue Squad has trained and experienced personnel and is certified by the NYS Department of Health as an ambulance service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ravena Rescue Squad is desirous of furnishing emergency medical services to said Town under the terms and conditions set forth in the Emergency Medical Services Agreement 2018;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans hereby authorizes Supervisor Philip A. Crandall to execute said Emergency Medical Services Agreement 2018 this date December 14, 2017.

**RES. # 129-17 AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN SRO AGREEMENT**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans and the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Central School District have facilities, activities and undertakings which may be available for the other's use when they are not needed for Town or School District purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 5G of the General Municipal Law specifically authorizes and encourages municipal corporations to enter into agreements with each other in order to provide cooperatively, jointly or by contract any facility, service, activity or undertaking which each participating municipal corporation has the power to provide separately; and

**WHEREAS**, the respective governing boards of the Town of Coeymans and the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Central School District have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into an

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agreement for the placement of one or more School Resource Officers (SRO) in the School Districts High/Middle School;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor Philip A. Crandall to execute an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Central School District for SRO (Agreement Attached).

**RES. # 130-17 APPOINT POLICE OFFICERS TO COMPETITIVE STATUS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans' Chief of Police has a need to increase hours worked by two part time Police Officers in the Police Department in order to meet staffing needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Rinaldi and Officer Schwebke have recently completed all steps necessary to be appointed from the Competitive Police Officer Exam from Albany County Civil Service;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Officers Brian Rinaldi and Kevin Schwebke to the position of Competitive, Part-Time Police Officer effective December 18, 2017, contingent upon approval by Albany County Civil Service. These Officers will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Supervisor Crandall asked Chief of Police McKenna if he wanted to comment on this.

Chief of Police McKenna thanked the Town Board for approving this request. Officer Schwebke has been with the department for four years and Officer Rinaldi eight years and he appreciates the opportunity for them to work more than the one thousand forty hours they are restricted to under civil service law. Officer Schwebke is currently the SRO, so this will allow him to work a full slate in his SRO position.

**RES. # 131-17 APPOINT PART TIME POLICE OFFICER**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans' Chief of Police has a need to fill several part time positions as Police Officer in the Police Department;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Officer Jeffery Iovinelli to the position of Probationary Part-Time Police Officer effective December 18th, 2017. Appointment is contingent upon said candidate signing a Personal Services Contract with the Town of Coeymans and paperwork being filed with the Human Resource Clerk. The Officer will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**RES. # 132-17 SPONSOR THREE RECRUITS TO ZONE 5 REGIONAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY**

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

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**WHEREAS**, the Chief of Police would like to sponsor three recruits to the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy; and

**WHEREAS**, Kelly Arnold, Marawan Bakir and Michael Case are desirous of attending said academy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, based on the recommendation of the Chief of Police, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby sponsor Kelly Arnold, Marawan Bakir and Michael Case to attend Session 64 of the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy beginning January 16, 2017 at their own expense.

Supervisor Crandall read a request from Town Clerk Elect Rowzee.

14 December 2017

To the Town Board:

I respectfully request authorization from the Town Board to advertise for a possible vacancy in the part-time Clerk I position. This request is to help ensure that the Town Clerk’s Office will be fully staffed (Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and one part-time position) during the very busy tax season. Therefore, I request that you please authorize the Town Clerk to publish this position in the newspaper for two weeks beginning with the 12/21/17 edition.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cindy Rowzee

Town Clerk - Elect

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Youmans to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise the Clerk I Position at the same hours and rate of pay currently set.

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

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**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS**

- Town Board Workshop – December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – 6pm
- Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 7pm
- Town Board Meeting – December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 7:00pm

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Supervisor Crandall stated that they will be discussing insurance and a way to save the Town \$40,000 at the Workshop Meeting.

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Langdon wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

Councilman Youmans stated he would like to take this opportunity to welcome Councilman Elect Baker to Town Government, he has known Mr. Baker since elementary school and he thinks they will work well together.

Councilman Burns thanked all the Town Departments for their hard work.

Town Clerk Millious wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Highway Superintendent Searles would like to remind everyone that once there is three inches of snow, no parking is allowed on Town roads. He would also like everyone to understand that the plow routes take approximately three and a half hours to complete and start again. He has been getting a lot of calls that people have not seen a plow truck for an hour.

Councilman Dolan asked how many miles of road the Town Highway Department is responsible for.

Highway Superintendent Searles responded fifty five one way, which includes Town, County and State roads.

Councilman Youmans stated he would like to add that this used to be a two man job and it is now a one man job and they are doing an excellent job. He cannot imagine the physical exhaustion after a day of doing this job.

Chief of Police McKenna thanked the Town Board for approving the necessary hours and Sergeant Contento for doing the vetting process.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Youmans, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

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

**Time – 7:36**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**APPROVED – As Read December 28, 2017**

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**Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk**