

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**

September 25, 2025 – Town Board Meeting – 6:00pm

A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday September 25, 2025 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Stephen Donnelly, Supervisor
Stephen J. Schmitt, Council Member
Michael J. Stott, Deputy Supervisor
Linda S. Bruno, Council Member
Ronald Hotaling, Council Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Candace McHugh, Town Clerk
Richard Reilly, Town Attorney
Jason Chmielewski, Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer
Marc Tryon, Chief of Police
Keith Geraldson, Chief Sewer Plant Operator
Dan Baker, Superintendent of Highways

Supervisor Donnelly called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Donnelly asked that the record reflect that all members were present.

Announcements:

- Evening on the Green Concerts 10/1/25 and 10/3/25 at Coeymans Landing

Approval of Minutes: The following minutes were approved:

- September 11, 2025 Town Board Meeting Minutes
- September 15, 2025 Special Town Board Meeting Minutes

Council member Donnelly made a motion to accept the minutes for September 11th & 15th, 2025 Town Board Meeting and Council member Stott seconded the motion.

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

Department Reports

Supervisor/NYCLASS Report – August 2025 report read by Supervisor Donnelly

Motion to Accept Report

Council member Donnelly made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Stott. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Discussion:

Town Clerk Report – August 2025 Report read by Town Clerk Candace McHugh

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Motion to Accept Report

Council member Stott made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Donnelly. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5– NAYS – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Police Department Report – August 2025 Report read by Police Chief Marc Tryon

Motion to Accept the Report

Council member Hotaling made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Stott. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Building Department – August 2025 Report read by Jason Chmielewski

Motion to Accept Reports

Council member Donnelly made a motion to accept the reports as read, seconded by Council member Bruno. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS – ABSENT - SO MOVED

Sewer Department Report –July & August 2025 Sewer Department Report was read by Keith Geraldson

Motion to Accept Report

Council member Stott made a motion to accept the reports as read, seconded by Council member Donnelly. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5– NAYS – ABSENT – SO MOVED

K. Geraldson: So here, I just wanted to go through. Like, from the head of the pump, starting at the first bar rack, the lower bar rack. It comes in off the street. It comes into a bar rack. They're just steel racks. They're about one inch wide. We used to take a, like a, not like a rake, but kind of like that, but a hole kind of just small, we'd rake that out and put a pot down there. So, five, seven years ago, they came in and put that fine screen in. We're in the Northeast. So they put this fine screen that's got water in it and everything like that. It's outside and exposed to the weather. First year, it froze up. So, we spent that whole summer trying to get, we got wood and we built a building around it. Put some tin on it. Put some two-inch foam boards, the foam boards that you're putting out. Put those in the walls and then put shower walls, screw shower, little vinyl shower walls on the inside. This was water, moisture. But we stole a lot of power from the outside of the building on the pole. So, in there, we have lights and an outlet. And there's no heat out there.

We have a, it has a heating tape on it, but, you know, that only works so good. So, and it's exposed to the weather. So that building needs to be upgraded. So that's one of the things. We should have ventilation, heat, and should have floor drainage. Because when you're there, that stuff leaks out of the 55-gallon drum, and it's not, that building wasn't designed for that. So, some of it seeps out on the ground. So that's that. So, we need a little, do a little work in there. And stuff like that.

Then we go into, like, metering pit. When we have high flows in meter pit, we don't use that metering pit. The DEC regulations, we use our effluent, because the flow is too high, and it

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floods the pit. So, it's inaccurate. So not that you can do anything about that, but that's just the way it works.

Then we go into the wet well. The wet well is where the water comes in, and it fills up, and then the pumps suck out of that. That's roughly 15 feet deep. The ladders on it are pretty much falling off the wall, so it's not very safe to go down in there. There's no ventilation system, no lights. They all fell off the walls. Everything just sort of froze in. And those are 50 years old. There's also a sensor in there that was hanging off a pole, but that fell off. So, we just got to wrap it around something, shine it under the water. I'm not sure what it goes to. I think it goes to the little flow meters coming into the plant.

I'm not quite positive because when I get to the next stage, is that we have the pump station where we just did all the pumps and all that stuff. Well, that's 20 feet down, fine space, but that has no ventilation system in it, so we need a ventilation system in there. Plus, it also has a flow meter control panel.

It's a Foxboro, and I don't even know if it works, but because in the past of every job they've done, they never remove stuff that they replace. So, this is in there. I don't know if it works or not or if it's hooked to anything. But it's there, and it leaks sometimes when we have high flows through the gasket. But that's 50 years old.

So, then we go into the ductor bar rack, which is the same as the lower one.

So, if there are rain events and we have wet leather and we bypass the frying screen, we have to pull stuff out of that bar rack or something. Then we have the grit screws to take any sediment that falls out. We get rid of it down in the pipe gallery.

Then we go to the aeration tanks. The water flows over to the aeration tanks. We have four of them. They have a distribution box in the middle. I'm not sure if that went in in 2006 or 7 or if it was 12, but there's six gates on those, and they're all rotted. There's stainless steel from the corrosion.

We just cleaned two of the aeration tanks. We have to take the grates out that we walk on and put in other gates in between, behind those, and put sandbags in to hold it so that we can go in and clean those. So those gates need to be replaced. So, I'm working on getting those gates. The price is for those gates. But they're mechanical.

They're screw gates. It takes about 20 minutes to turn those, and it takes a little longer once your arms get tired and burned out. But slide gates would probably work better for us.

But we'll see what they can do when we get to that phase. So, we have three aeration tanks. We go to our secondaries, which we rebuilt back in 2000 when Larry Conrad was here. So, I think it was around 2012, 2014. I was there, so we replaced everything in those. Those are fairly brand new.

They're only 10 years old, maybe, or so. So, all the mechanisms in there. We don't use those only in rain events.

Then we get to the round clarifier, the big round clarifier, 200,000 gallons. The center of that is bad. We've had it break. We had bearings break. We fixed it. But they're still kind of stuck in there. Sometimes they get jammed up, and they're going to go like that, leak the oil too. I go back a couple administrations to Phil Crandall when I went and told him when it would go bad. It was 60 grand to fix. He said, we don't have that money. Do the best you can. So, me and a mechanic, Jason, that was there at that time tore it apart. We were able to get the bearings and

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seals and get it up and running. But it still leaks a little oil and stuff. And there's still parts laying in the bottom of that that picks up every now and then. It gets jammed up in the gears. But right now, that's 80 grand to fix. And that's not counting the crane service, because we've got the higher crane service around here. So, we pick the catwalk off, pull the center out. They rebuild it, come back, send it all back in. You don't want to miss 80 grand. Then we go to the UV system. The UV system is, right now, we're going to repair it for 33 grand. That should get us through the next five years or so. They can do the upgrade. That's 140 grand. It's a completely new system. So that's that.

And now when we go to the roll-off building, our press building, where we dewater it, press it together, and it comes out as a cake. We hopefully more like coffee grounds and stuff like that. That press building was great. It's a little tricky to run. It's a one-man job all day long. You're constantly out there. So, our new guy, Jonathan, is there working on it, and he's got it running pretty good. It's a good all-day affair. That's another thing. We're in the northeast. That roll-off, that stuff can't get wet. It's got to go to the landfill. It's got to be as dry as possible. Here they put a conveyor belt outside of the building, and we have a roll-off that's right there. And that's where we get water in, smell in, and up. And here we are out there with a press that can't get no water in it. So, at that time, we built some board, took two-by-fours and built a top to it, two 8-foot boxes with that Styrofoam on it with tarp over it, and we just slid them side to side.

And we pushed the roll-off with the truck at the time so we could fill it because the hopper dropped straight down. But that wasn't feasible because of the weather. So, we ended up buying a carport, and a carport feels like this way, north and east, north and south. Really, it needs to be east and west so we can push the roll-off. Right now, we spend all day long, as the stuff comes out, we rate that stuff from the back of the roll-off to the front of the roll-off all day long.

Stott: Is that the sludge Keith?

Geraldson: Yes, that's in that roll-off and everything. So that building needs to go the other way so we don't have to spend man hours just doing that all day long because we can just let it fill up, then take the skid steer and just push it and fill it up. But right now, we just spend all day doing that. So those are some of the things that we need to address, and it's probably more than \$3.3 million.

So, I just wanted an emphasis that maybe I don't cry enough or yell enough about it, but it definitely needs to be addressed. So, I don't know where we are on it, but the money would be gratefully used here. So that's where I'm at.

Donnelly: Yeah, are you talking about the grants?

Geraldson: Yes, definitely, you know, and everything. But I would much rather have you guys come down and walk through and see it because even on top of that, I have a company come in and check each tank because the concrete's starting to break and everything. And, you know, they are a one-foot wall, one-foot wall thick, but, you know, they need to be addressed and everything. So, the two digesters were \$92,000. It's kind of like rhino coating. It's good for 100 years. The four aeration tanks, they were \$94,000 apiece. Or no, not the aeration tanks, sorry, secondaries. The two secondaries are \$94,000. The big round clarifier is \$97,000 per coat. So, this is where we're at with those, you know, but that's not, you know, like our effluence goes out of the building. On the end of the building, there's a 20-inch pipe going out. That's got cracks in it where that's all bolted onto the walls, stuff like that, you know, just in the pipe gap in the grit

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room. And just notice the big two-foot piece of concrete's going to fall off the ceiling in there. So, there's things that need to be addressed and everything. We've done some stuff like the roof, the heating, the windows, the doors, you know, and stuff like that. But now we need to concentrate on the process, making our jobs a little easier and more efficient for the taxpayers and stuff like that. But, you know, that's where we're at, you know. So, I just wanted to address that, you know, because I feel as though like we're not getting anywhere on it. And I just wanted to make sure that people knew that we really do need this, you know, it's not like, you know, but we do need the work to get done and stuff makes it easier. And then what happens if that stuff breaks? Well, I mean, DEC can fine us up to \$35,500 a day for our violations.

That's what they can do, but they don't. But they can fine us for it. Well,

Donnelly: you're essentially talking about Phase 2, which is going to be tens of millions of dollars. So, you know, you saw the issues that we had with the 3.3 to do Phase 1. And I did see Ty down there doing minor maintenance at Division. How was today's rain event?

Geraldson: We already got an inch of rain just from the 24-hour span. We got an inch of rain. The plant's doing good because, like I said, we just drained those two aeration tanks and everything, so we had some memorable fill from the back because the flows were up high. But we look good, nothing, you know, that way.

Stott: I know Mr. Donnelly's been down there several times, and I was down there over the summer with my kids. I dragged him along. But, you know, when you mention this, if you don't go down there and see it, it's hard to picture it. So, when you were saying that, I could picture in my head, oh, yeah, like this place and this place, and it does. You know, I'll say this, Keith, you do a great job with you and Tyler and the crew do a great job in keeping it clean and keeping it running, so I appreciate that. But it is a pretty neat setup. So, if you ever get time, you know, go down, and Keith will show you around.

But, you know, you can see when you actually see it in person, the things he's talking about. Just wear and tear over the years of something that's always wet, something that's always, you know, getting stuff thrown through it and chemicals put in it and this and that. So, it does need some work and some upkeep for sure.

Geraldson: Because in the roads, like, all that road grime and stuff like that (30:13) gets into the system even too, you know. So, you got, you know, grime, you know, the black top, anything like that. I mean, I've seen two-by-fours come through, you know, 18 inches long. Where did that come from? You know, it's in the bar rack, you know. But, you know, we get everything. If you can flush it down the toilet, we see it. You know, that's just basically how it is, you know, and everything. So, you know, it's not for that, but that's where people hide stuff, you know.

Donnelly: So, Keith, if the return pumps, impeller blades, are deteriorating to the point where 650 gallons per minute turns into 600 gallons per minute, do we, you know how you can't get the impeller blades for the lift stations? Can we get impeller blades for it?

Geraldson: That's what he's checking on today. I just talked to him today and everything like that and seen if he could get some because he was like, you know, because you'd have to do the loop, too, which is the base, you know, and everything because that has the wear because the motor sits on top of all that and then the impeller sits inside the loop, so there's wears on the bottom and everything like that. So, he said, like, you can't go in there replacing the bottoms and everything, get all new ones. He says, if the motors are good, he goes, and then that's just

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basically how your maintenance plan is, you know, and everything. And we certainly, we grease and stuff like that and change the mechanical seals on them when they start to leak and stuff like that, but that's all we can do, you know. But he said, like I said, the one out, so that was making noise. The other ones weren't making noise, but that one was making noise, so I sent it out to see if we could get it rebuilt.

Donnelly: So, he couldn't afford the \$60,000 years ago. So, this sounds very expensive, all these pieces that are breaking that we have to replace.

Geraldsen: Well, they just add up.

Donnelly: It doesn't seem feasible.

Geraldsen: You know, because everything's 20, you know, that whole return process, the pumps, everything, and the control panel were put in in 2004. So, they're 20, 21 years old.

Donnelly: So, it's a cursory look at your budget.

Geraldsen: So, when I talked to the manufacturer, the guy, he was like, you should be happy they get 20 years out of it, you know, he said. (32:25) But you're at the limit with them and everything, but to have three in the last 20 years, he says, that's good.

Donnelly: So how do we pay for it?

Geraldsen: That's what they, everybody says, when I say things are this old or that old, they're like, wow, you're really lucky that you got that long out of them. So, I mean, just the time, like I said, in 2000 they did a lot of this work, in the early 2000s and stuff like that, so it's just got to the phase where all that stuff is starting to wear off. Before that, everything was from 1970 pretty much, you know. Like I told you, you know, there was four big concrete with pumps on them. Now we got one concrete with three pumps on it, where we had four with just one pump on each one for the return pumps.

Audience: Didn't we just replace a pump for \$89,000?

Donnelly: We didn't replace it, we ordered it.

Geraldsen: No, that's just for the lift station. But we just did our main pumps at the plant. We just paid the, I think the base plates were \$27,000 apiece and the motors were like \$6,000, so that's what we paid for the bases. You know, the bases were \$27,000. It took us 18 months to get those. So, with your 18 years of experience, where has money ever gone into? What I see is, like, we've always tried to get grant money and that, but we've always been told that we could go after the tax. This is what I've been told by my supervisors. Not my supervisors, but my bosses at Larry Breedlove and stuff like that. They would always say when we applied for grant money, because the rents were lower than what the national average is, they said we can go back after the tax breaks. That's what I was told.

Donnelly: Did they say where they got that information from?

Geraldsen: No. You know, it was like, when I came in 2008, the bills paid 84.6% of our pay. And then it went to 60%. And then it was 75%, then it was 70%, then it was 65%. Between the bills and the tax, it jumped around.

And in those years where they were trying to get more money, we didn't get money. So, we fell. We ran out of money. I can remember, like, two years into this, Larry Greenwell told me that we were out of money for, like, the last two months because they lowered the rates and everything. They were going to get more money out of the building. So, over the years, it's just been like that.

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Election year comes around; they lower them by \$20. Just make it look good, but those \$20 hurts.

Schmitt: So, Keith, I really appreciate the information. You know, one of the things I'm going to say is, based upon my calculations, this is my 42nd monthly meeting that we've had that you've presented. There's probably a couple of meetings where you weren't here or something and a report didn't get mentioned. But I've been sitting here for 42 months. And at no point in time during those 42 months have you ever stood at the podium and said, here's a list of things that I think is wrong. And I've specifically asked you over those years and months, you know, where are we with the sewer? Are we in dire straits? I don't remember that, but you've still been on the board for four years and you've never stepped into the sewer plant once.

Geraldson: So where are you going with that? Because even if I stay, no, all I'm saying is,

Schmitt: I'm not coming after you. I'm just saying that you're my subject matter expert, right? You're down there and you're the chief operator. So, I have to, well, you've been the chief operator since I've been on the board for 42 months. So, I have to trust when you're standing at the podium and giving a monthly report that you're telling me if you are noticing things going wrong or if things have to be replaced that you're telling us that as a board, you know, and it doesn't have to be every month because everything, you know, something doesn't happen every month.

Maybe it does, but, you know, chances are it doesn't. But all I'm saying is for 42 months that I've sat here in this seat, I've never had you say to me, not privately at the podium to say...

Geraldson: No, I don't do that. I just show up and do my job.

Schmitt: No, no, no, but you also give a monthly report every month. So I certainly appreciate you standing there tonight and telling us a whole grand list of what you think needs to be done and to know that you're actively, you know, searching out and trying to figure out, can parts be replaced? What's it going to cost for parts to be replaced? Because up until now, I don't know.

Geraldson: No, and I don't do that. I just fix what we have. But I think you have to as the chief operator. Well, yeah, no, I just fix. Within my budget, I just fix what I can. But I've asked all summer long to fix the UV system, to fix those things. You can only save so much. I mean, just stop saying it, you know? But no one's ever put any money into the sewer plant. So, you know, you just get used to fixing and working with what you have. You know? No one comes down and looks around and just stops in periodically. The last person that did that as a board member was Kenny Burns. He would stop in monthly or call. Is there anything I can do to help?

Schmitt: I mean, I also, as a board member, I also have to trust that the liaison is checking in with you and reporting back during monthly liaison reports. I mean, I know ins and outs of the highway garage. Why? Because I'm the highway liaison. So, I check in with the highway superintendent daily, weekly, monthly. I know when trucks are breaking. When I come in and I see a bill for parts and stuff for a truck that has to be fixed, I already knew that that truck went down. You know what I mean? And I'm not sitting here trying.

I'm just saying I appreciate you standing here tonight and giving us this long laundry list of things that you are recognizing that are starting to fail and, you know, are in need of repair and that you're actively going out and finding out prices because if we don't have that, there's nothing we can do. I just have to sit here and say, okay, well, you know, things are getting old, you

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know, because now things are four years older than they were when I first got on the board. So, I do know that there's wear and tear.

I do know that parts get, you know, used and are older and everything else. But unless you're telling me this is what I need, you know, I don't know. So, thank you for, you know.

Donnelly: So, my experience, Keith, is 100% different. My experience by going down the first four days of being in office and taking a tour and seeing every single thing that you showed me and me coming back and telling the board is how I remember this. It's the reason why we hired LaBerge.

It's the reason why we were doing studies. It's the reason why we were reaching out for grants to do phase one and phase two. This project has been going on for months and months and months. We've been working unbelievably hard together as a board with you. That's how I'm remembering this. That's what we've been doing to solve these problems that have been here for decades. And I've walked through the plant with you four days into my administration and countless other times going down there just to see when we hired John Rice, to see how everybody was doing, how's everybody fitting in. And the information always came to the board. Always came to the board.

Schmitt: I don't have that list that he just presented. I don't have that list.

Donnelly: That's why Steve Adams was there doing a preliminary engineering report for the last, what, four or five months. And we would come back, and we've discussed this countless times. And we've all known, and you've said it, you've articulated this more times than I care to remember, actually, that the plant is falling apart. And we were told, why are you, you know, I'm not an alarmist. Why are you ringing these bells? It's not catastrophic. We're not going to have failure. Everything's fine and dandy. We went back and forth. If that was the case in 2020, why did they go out for the grant in the first place? This has been known. Nobody can say otherwise. And thank you for bringing it forward because it has to, at some point, and now that things are falling apart, in real time, the taxpayers are going to pay for it because we are not. We didn't apply for the grants because we didn't get a majority of the board.

Schmitt: No, that was a bond resolution.

Donnelly: The CDBG, we're reaching out for. The WIIA, that's going to be rejected, mostly.

Schmitt: But you still applied for the grant, correct?

Donnelly: Correct. So hopefully that project will move forward for phase one. So, phase two, everybody needs to realize that that's going to be even scarier. That's going to be \$10, \$14 million. We don't know. So, you know, let's all just start preparing for that because this project has got to be done. And the sewer system, I mean, we built the police department for the last two years, and the sewer needs to be built for the next two years. It's got to be the focus.

Geraldson: I just want the place to be in good shape when I leave. That's all.

And for the residents. That's all. I've got three more years left, probably. I'll be 65, so hopefully I can retire. Who knows? But I wanted to make sure that the plant is in good shape and we are ready for the next couple years.

Schmitt: Speaking of, do you have some sort of succession plan? Are you putting together a succession plan?

Geraldson: I'm hiring a fourth person just because it's going to take him three years to get his license so that if I decide to leave in three years, there will at least be three people there.

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Schmitt: Do you need a special license to be the chief operator?

Geraldson: Yes, you will have to take a test. If the state makes one up. That's what happened through COVID. They didn't do the testing, so they just were just like, you know.

Schmitt: So, was your license through New York State?

Geraldson: Yes. Good for New York State.

Reilly: A license over and above what the other folks down there will have?

Geraldson: Yes. He's just got management.

Schmitt: And you have that license?

Geraldson: Yes. Tom Farrell, the state.

Schmitt: Yeah, because I think that's important. Because I heard at the last meeting that you were looking at two or three years and I got thinking, do you have a succession plan?

Geraldson: I didn't want to say, okay, I'll leave in three years.

You've got to go out and look for somebody. To catch Jonathan Rice, the guy that we just picked up that has a license and not have to send him to school was key for us. I mean, just to eliminate those three years of experience and now we have a license and everything like that, that was good. And he's a good guy. He shows up every day. He's there early and everything. And he knows his stuff, so it's a good fit. Now it's just like I just picked him. I got it down to the last two guys that I'm going to choose from and I'm going to pick one of those here. Because Ty, his girlfriend has got a got a baby. He'll be out of work for a little while and everything throughout November and December, as long as he can.

Schmitt: So, I didn't realize you were looking for another position.

Geraldson: Well, I mentioned it only because of the time frame. I wasn't thinking about it. I was just going to get one person, but then I was like I said to Steve, I said, you know, I'm going to be leaving here in three years.

Would it be smart? These are yet so many applications if we not look for a fourth person.

Donnelly: And I believe we put it in the budget for your third.

Schmitt: I think it's in the budget for the third, but for a fourth?

Geraldson: Well, I was talking to Regina today because she's got a seasonal worker and a floating secretary. So, I said, well, what if we didn't do either one of those and we got a fourth person who would be able to do it? So, she thought it would be possible with what you have in the budget.

Schmitt: I haven't seen the finalized tentative budget.

Geraldson: Neither have I. I just asked you the questions today, that's all.

Just to kind of have some idea of whether or not it was feasible. You know, because it would be smart for it to get someone because it takes three years, you know, to start now, you know, and everything. And hopefully, you know, they laugh, you know, he wants a stack, you know. But you've got to get them in the door and start training them. It takes two years before they go to school. There will be another year after that to get his license.

Schmitt: So, has that position been approved? And are we actively talking about it?

Donnelly: No, I think it was just an informal question and conversation.

Geraldson: Yeah, like I said, I would go forward with it. But I have people that I'm interested in, but I was waiting to find out whether or not it's feasible for us in our budget to do it or

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not. Because I'm thinking three years down the road, it would be nice to have some, you know, and not leave the town, you know, looking for somebody then.

Audience: Who's the liaison, for sewer?

Donnelly: I am.

Audience: So, you're abreast of what he's talking about?

Donnelly: Absolutely, I talk to people all the time. That's why I said I missed you this morning because I was in a meeting. There's a lot of unscheduled meetings that happen.

Geraldsen: Oh, that's fine. If I had to, I'd stop and try another time. Like I told you the other day when the drive went and stuff like that.

Donnelly: Yeah, I know. That's why I like to keep in contact with you.

Geraldsen: But that's where I am. When I leave, I want the town to be in good shape at the plant and as far as employees. That's all I'm looking to do. We'll keep trying to fund the project as best we can. I just wanted to address some of the stuff if you didn't notice or anything like that about the plant. I mean, like I said, it's just you go to work and you do your thing and it's just things don't work. You found another way to get around that and you do it. My thing is to refix it if we can. That's why I said I'm still looking at drives. But in the meantime, I'm going to get that other one to work so that we have a backup.

Stott: Thanks, Keith. Appreciate it.

Highway Department Report- August 2025 Highway Department Report was by Dan Baker

Motion to Accept Report

Council member Schmitt made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Stott. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5– NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Baker: It was brought to my attention by Regina that the parks account was overdrawn. And I said, geez, that's odd. In September, I have a one-way checkbook. All I do is deduct every day, every month. I just deduct. So, I know exactly where I am. She said, you're overdrawn. I said, how can this be? I said, well, she said, well, you got to move money. Where do you got to move money from? And you guys passed a resolution to move money from personal services to parks contractual, if you remember. But anyway, the reason why I'm talking about this is because I sent you guys an email. And Mr. Hotaling responded by phone. Councilman Schmitt always responds. Didn't hear anything from Mike. Didn't hear anything from Linda. Certainly, didn't hear anything from the supervisor. So, I brought my email. Good afternoon, everyone. This is the attachment regarding the park's contractual parks equipment.

The funds for the park's mower was purchased in April, was taken from the contractual account 0.4, when it should have been taken from 0.2 equipment. This is why the parks account was shown overdrawn at \$10,700. Okay. Then we transferred \$2,500 from personal to, you know, kind of put some money back in that fund because it was so far overdrawn. Now, you're the CFO, correct?

Donnelly: I am a CFO, Dan.

Baker: Okay. Regina works for you?

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Donnelly: She doesn't work for me.

Baker: Sarah works for you.

Donnelly: For her department.

Baker: Sarah works for you. Sarah's an accountant. They work for you.

They answer for you.

Donnelly: That's incorrect. That's a mischaracterization.

Baker: Okay. Who do they answer to?

Donnelly: They run their departments like you run your department. Do you answer to me?

Baker: Yeah, I do.

Donnelly: Really?

Baker: Yeah.

Donnelly: Okay. So, have you filled out your capital assets yet?

Baker: I told you I sent you an email.

Donnelly: Okay. All right. Well, the deadline was August 14th. So, this isn't a disciplinary board. So, departments run their department the way that they do. So, continue. But continue.

Baker: So, I get reports every month. Do you guys get monthly reports?

No.

Baker: You should. Because the mower was purchased in April. The money was taken out in April. It's September. I went through my report, and I found out that equipment still says \$13,000. How can this be? We paid for the mower. We paid for the mower out of contractual, not out of equipment. Now, Regina's a lovely person, right? But who's checking Regina? You?

Donnelly: I am. We have conversations about that.

Baker: Okay. So, we had a meeting, and my name comes up, and it says, well, the parts is overdrawn. Consequently, that ends up in somebody's living room that says, the highway guy doesn't know what he's doing. How can that be? You see where I'm going? So, again, I send out emails to you guys. Nobody responds. Linda Geraldson sends out machine guns emails.

Mike Scott responded. I responded. Have you responded?

Donnelly: I spoke to her on the phone, yes.

Baker: Why don't you respond? I mean, does anybody respond? It's crazy, because when you were running, in one of your videos, you said, transparency and communication, it's foundational.

Donnelly: It is foundational.

Baker: Where is it? Where is it?

Donnelly: What are you talking about?

Baker: Where's the communication? Where's the response to the emails? So, this clerical error that you're talking about?

Baker: I sent you an email. I never got a single response.

Donnelly: What was your question in the email?

Baker: How did this happen? Okay, thanks, Dan. Good job. Thanks. We'll look at it. Zippo, nothing. Is that how we run?

Donnelly: Regina took care of it. The problem was solved. The clerical error was solved.

Baker: By me?

Donnelly: Was it by you?

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Baker: It was by me.

Donnelly: Well, just to respond to you, Dan, that clerical error left our office as a .2 on the voucher. Regina, It got here at the town clerk's office and was put into the MCSJ as a .4. Clerical error. People make them all the time, Dan.

Baker: I'm not saying that. I'm not saying that.

Donnelly: Okay, we're not going to crucify the town clerk's office for making a clerical error, Dan.

Baker: I'm not saying that.

Donnelly: That's where the transparency is. Regina's running her department, and she's running it damn fine. You're running your department, and you're running it damn fine. Clerk's offices run their department, and they're running it damn fine. There's tons of transparency, because we all talk, and that's how local government works.

Baker: Your tone is getting a little out of control.

Donnelly: Well, Dan, it feels like a political speech that you're making.

Baker: It's not a political speech. I send emails.

Donnelly: You sent to Regina. How come you didn't get the same documents that I got? You were in the office. You reached out to her and said, help me with this problem. And she did, because she's the business office manager.

Baker: Have you seen this email?

Donnelly: Dan, your point about the email is moot, okay?

Baker: That's all I'm asking.

Donnelly: The clerical error was solved by the appropriate department.

Baker: I'm talking about communication.

Donnelly: Well, we're communicating.

Baker: When I send an email, I expect a respectful response from the leader of our town. If that's too much to ask, I'm sorry.

Donnelly: Okay, I think you're mischaracterizing what a supervisor's office is. And I think that people in their departments need to know the boundaries of their department. A CFO, for example, is not an accountant and is not a business office manager. A CFO makes strategic decisions like, where are we going to put town hall? Where's the money going to come from? How are we going to do a project if we don't have money? We have to reach out for grants. These are strategic decisions that are made.

Baker: So, who checks Regina's bookkeeping? Nobody.

Donnelly: The accountants.

Well, who checks her? So, I think that there needs to be some sort of memo about how departments run. I'm just saying.

Because I think it feels like people are crossing swords. You, as the CFO, before any of this stuff gets out, you should be double checking it.

Donnelly: That's not what a CFO does, Danny. And if you go back and read this, I actually wrote the message for the budget. The distinctions between CFOs, accountants, and business office managers. Because people need to know how departments run.

When I first got into office, I saw a sticky note on somebody's computer and it said, stay in your lane. And I thought, great, everybody's on board. They know what their department does.

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They stay in their lane. And that's how it functions. When there's a project that comes to me, we do that project. You come to us all the time.

Baker: On to the second part. We bought a new building. Never once have I got communication from you, or you, or a key. Hey, do you want to go down and look at the building? Never once. No communication. I take care of this building. I look after your office. We plow the roads. Not a single thing. The heater goes bad in the police station. They call me, we replace the heater. You, want to have a service contract for down there. You don't talk to me one bit. You reached out to a company out of Texas for a service contract. Then Mr. Rarick came in and said, I thought you wanted to do local business. Then you backpedaled and said, okay, I'll get a service contract.

Donnelly: We never signed a contract.

Baker: Let me finish.

Donnelly: Well, you're mischaracterizing.

Baker: No, I'm not.

Donnelly: What happened?

Baker: Then we paid him \$825 in May for the service contract. I get a voucher two days ago from your office saying, Dan, sign this voucher for \$825 for the service contract. I said we paid it in May.

Donnelly: Yeah, what's your question?

Baker: Seriously?

Donnelly: They gave me a voucher for me to pay and sign for \$825 for the service contract on a new building, which it was paid in May.

Donnelly: Who's they?

Baker: Your office, Regina. It was paid in May. Now the guy says, where's the signed service contract? I said, I didn't execute it. Donnelly did. Where is it?

Donnelly: You're talking for C&M?

Baker: Yeah.

Donnelly: It's probably in the C&M file in my office.

Baker: I have no signed service contract from you.

Donnelly: They do have a signed service contract.

Baker: I just talked to him a day ago. He had nothing.

Donnelly: Well, we sent that to him.

Baker: I said to him, no disrespect, but I didn't handle this. Supervisor Donnelly did.

Stott: But Dan, not to interrupt you, but at the same time, you know, talk about communication. I mean, so would the best thing be to, instead of bringing this all out here, wouldn't it be to just have a conversation, either by phone, in person, with Regina, Mr. Donnelly, and just say, hey, why did I get this? I mean, we can come out here and talk.

Baker: What's wrong with doing it here, though?

Stott: Sure, you can, Dan.

Baker: What's wrong with this?

Stott: But, like, instead of holding onto things and bringing them out when it's convenient, I mean, just say it when it bothers you. Like, for example, you want a key to the 9W building? By all means, have a key. But, like, I didn't want to, you know, I didn't have Keith come and ask me,

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hey, I want you to come look at the sewer plant. Like I said, Keith, can I come look at the sewer plant? Do you have a time and a date? Sure. Like, just be proactive if you want. But these things, too, I mean, you're, again, you're bringing things up like the C&M contract. That's fine. And you might have some legitimacy there, but that was a while ago. And to ask somebody, what about this? What about this?

Schmitt: He got a voucher two days ago.

Stott: Yeah, but he hasn't had his filing come here. Like, let me look at it and see, oh, yeah, here it is.

Baker: I got a voucher two days ago. I asked him for me to sign it to come out of the account that I'm responsible for.

Stott: So, did you contact him two days ago?

Baker: No.

Stott: And say, hey, why not?

Baker: That's my business.

Stott: Why wait for it right now?

Baker: Because everybody's here.

Stott: Do you ask him, like, hey, Regina, hey, Mr. Donnelly, I found this. Can we talk about it? I don't think this is right. Or maybe can we check it?

Baker: What's wrong with this form?

Stott: It's fine, Dan. You can do it. But talk about transparency and efficiency.

Baker: This is transparency.

Stott: No, it's not. You're waiting two days, Dan, to break a problem in public. And you absolutely can do that.

Baker: You're right. But you could have done it. Now you want to do things on the file.

Stott: Oh, okay, Dan. Don't twist my words around, first of all. Okay? I didn't say that, Dan. What I'm saying is, if you found this out and you were that upset two days ago...

Baker: I wasn't upset.

Stott: You sound very... I'm impacted by it, Dan. I mean, you could have called somebody, wrote an email two days ago. And still bring it up today. That's fine. I don't care.

(1:02:02) But address it two days ago.

Baker: Why is it so difficult to talk about it here?

Stott: I am. We're talking about it.

Baker: But you're saying I should do it a different way.

Stott: I'm not. I'm saying, if you want to bring it up, Dan, that's fine. But if it bothered you two days ago, where was the email two days ago to Regina or Mr. Don?

Baker: Are you serious? I sent an email to you guys, and you don't respond.

Schmitt: September 17th at 244 p.m., to be exact.

Baker: Are you out of your mind?

Stott: So, would you like me to say, okay, thanks, Dan, for the email?

Baker: Yeah, that would be great.

Stott: Because sometimes, Dan, with Linda Geraldson, for example, sometimes I'll answer thanks in an email. Sometimes I'll call. Maybe I missed an email by you. I apologize. Now you responded to Linda Geraldson's emails. Dan, I was at the right place at the right time, I guess.

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I was at my computer when it came through.

Baker: We use emails as a way to communicate.

Stott: Absolutely, Dan. What I'm saying is, if it bothers you so much, you should have brought it up.

Baker: Now you're telling me I should call them on the phone.

Stott: I think you should. If you have an issue with the supervisor or with the business department, you should ask them when it bothers you, hey, if I phone or write an email, I have this issue, I have this problem. All right, I'll take that.

Baker: So, do you think he should respond to the email?

Stott: Sure.

Baker: There you go.

Donnelly: So when you have clerical errors from any department, check with the clerks. That's why we have clerks.

Baker: I did. Check with the department. I did check with Regina.

Donnelly: Then I still don't see your question.

Baker: Because you're the CFO, so I feel that you should be checking this stuff.

Donnelly: Once again, I'm the CFO.

Baker: You're supposed to do that. I get it. Well, thanks for being the CFO.

Donnelly: You're welcome. Because we actually, as CFO, and I'd like to take the opportunity to say that as CFO, your strategic plan was to invest in my class \$250,000. The administration before didn't invest in anything and lost \$400,000. So that's what a CFO does.

Baker: Oh, okay. Thank you.

Donnelly: Economic strategic plan. Not clerical work. I don't sharpen pencils for people.

When little things come across the desk, if it's the business office, the business office takes care of it. If it's the town clerk's business, she takes care of it. They communicate with each other. If Regina can't figure it out in the business office, and it's not that she can't figure it out, she checks with the accountant. These are separate positions for a reason. And how a town functions properly is that all the departments do the work that they need to do.

Baker: So, when there's a highway issue...

Donnelly: They don't reach out to other departments. They don't step into other departments. You want me to... I'm not an accountant. Okay. That's not how it works.

Baker: When there's a highway issue, you know who they reach out to? Me.

Donnelly: You. Right. Of course. Because I'm the CFO of the highway. Right. Thank you guys for another great meeting.

Audience: It was mentioned \$825 back in May. Was it paid back in May? Or is it just getting paid now?

Baker: It was paid back in May.

Town Clerk: But the money hasn't been moved to the proper account yet. And so the account is still overdrawn.

Baker: Correct. Right. Money hasn't been moved. Hey, whenever, I'll call Regina. (1:05:18)

Donnelly: Do that.

Baker: And ask her to move the money.

Donnelly: Well, we have to do that. That's what we do. We're a legislature.

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The CFO does that. We already moved... No, the CFO does not do that.

Attorney: We still need a motion to accept the report.

Donnelly: If that report is complete. I think you did top Keith on that one. I'll make a motion to accept the Highway Department report.

Stott: I'll second that.

Donnelly: Further discussion? All in favor?

Aye.

Liaison Reports: N/A

Old Business:

2026 Tentative Budget: The Town Clerk announced the 2026 Tentative Budget was received in her office and an electronic copy has been sent to the Town Board and the Department Heads. Hard copies were not provided for handout. Council member Stott asked if Mr. Fazio could bind hard copies for the board and leave them in the mailbox. She will be staying in her lane and not supplementing for other departments any longer. The public can request a copy of the tentative budget at the Town Clerk's Office. A discussion was had on the changes which have been made at this point.

Town Code: Council member Stott spoke about the town code and the need for updates. He spoke with the Town Attorney. The transportation terminal use in an R/A zone was the topic of discussion. The Define terms were added in 2020. He suggested to create a new defined term for an agricultural transportation terminal which would be more fitting for the R/A zone. The Attorney has drafted a local law for the board to review. Council member Schmitt asked why Mr. Stott picked that term. Council member Stott said it was a see something, say something situation. Council member Schmitt asked if this work would be billed separately. Mr. Reilly stated it would be billed under his .2 account which is outside the retainer agreement. Council member Schmitt questioned why the whole board wasn't aware of this additional work. A heated off topic discussion ensued.

New Business: N/A

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Resolution # 134-25 Authorize Rank of Sergeant (Veeder)

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Stephen Donnelly	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Linda S. Bruno	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Stephen J. Schmitt	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Ronald J. Hotaling	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Michael J. Stott	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
<i>Total</i>	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

WHEREAS, it is important to delineate the chain of command within the Town of Coeymans Police Department to ensure service to the public is delivered in a professional and expedient fashion; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans Police Department is currently in need of a supervisory presence during afternoon and evening hours, to assist in mentoring, training and in departmental oversight; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Michael Veeder currently is a full time Police Officer with the Coeymans Police Department and is qualified to fulfill this role; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans Police Chief is desirous of appointing a Sergeant to fulfill this role, and recommends Corporal Michael Veeder to be appointed to such rank.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the provisional appointment of Corporal Michael Veeder to the rank of Sergeant in full time status, effective October 6, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$39.76 per hour.

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

Discussion: Council member Schmitt asked if it was possible to hold off on this resolution until the 2026. Chief Tryon explained due to the current numbers of officers out or having resigned there is enough in the budget this year to do this now.

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Resolution: The following was read into the record but ultimately **TABLED**.

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Stephen Donnelly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Linda S. Bruno	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stephen J. Schmitt	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ronald J. Hotaling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Michael J. Stott	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
<i>Total</i>					

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board (the “Board”) of the Town of Coeymans recently purchased real property located at 2524 U.S. Route 9W, Ravena, New York (the “Property”), to allow for the relocation of Town Hall offices to a suitable location that provides adequate space and public access; and

WHEREAS, the Property requires necessary upgrades and improvements prior to the Property being used for Town Hall facilities (the “Project”), which upgrades and improvements are reflected in the plans for the Project that have been prepared by Laberge Group; and

WHEREAS, the estimated maximum cost for the Project is reflected in a bid received from AOW Construction, LLC in the amount of \$205,668.00 (the “Capital Project Cost”); and

WHEREAS, the Town maintains certain capital reserves that can be used for the upgrades and improvements to the Property to cover the Capital Project Cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** that:

1.1. The Town Board of Town of Coeymans hereby establishes the Route 9W Town Hall Retrofit Project and hereby establishes a “9W Renovation Capital Fund” for the Project.

1.2. The Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor Stephen Donnelly to transfer \$250,000.00 from the existing Town Hall Capital Reserve to a newly created 9W Renovation Capital Fund H-50.

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

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Discussion: Council member Schmitt asked what current balance was in the capitol reserve fund. Only an estimate of approximately \$700,000 could be given at this time. He also asked if the town accountant was aware of this resolution. It was confirmed that she is aware.

A Motion was made by Council member Stott to table the resolution newly for a created 9W Renovation Capital Fund H-50. which was seconded by Council member Hotaling-

All were in favor

Resolution # 135-25 September Abstract

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Stephen Donnelly	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Linda S. Bruno	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Stephen J. Schmitt	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Ronald J. Hotaling	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
Michael J. Stott	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
<i>Total</i>	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in the Abstract for September 2025, as follows:

PRE-PAID VOUCHERS – 25001368 to 25001423 from the following funds:

General	\$ 156,361.19
Part Town	\$ 22,944.98
Highway – Part Town (DB)	\$ 49,896.46
Sewer	\$ 24,139.15
Trust & Agency	\$ 48,325.65

VOUCHER NUMBERS – 25001424 to 25001493 from the following funds:

General	\$ 188,833.06
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Part Town	\$ 1,681.11
Highway (DA)	\$ 16,996.44
Highway-Part Town (DB)	\$ 8,719.41
Sewer	\$ 60,778.50
TA-Fund	\$ 1,800.00

TOTAL FOR ALL FUNDS – \$ 580,475.95

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

Discussion: Council member Schmitt discussed his dislike for the Supervisor using a rubber stamp as a signature. Supervisor Donnelly stated he uses the stamp to save time.

Council member Hotaling read a letter into the record from George D. McHugh

Dear Coeymans Town Board members,

I'm writing you out of concern that the Town of Coeymans social media policy, which was adopted by the Town Board on January 14th, 2021 and immediately incorporated into the Town of Coeymans employee handbook has been and continues to be violated by Supervisor Stephen Donnelly and his confidential assistant Stephen Fazio. The purpose of this letter is to bring these acts to your attention and ask that the practice of linking the Town's Supervisor's personal political Facebook page to the Town of Coeymans Facebook page be prohibited and stopped immediately.

I further request that one or all of you seek an advisory opinion from the Town Ethics Committee, which is your right and duty to request on whether or not these acts constitute a violation of the subject's social media policy and relevant sections of the handbook. On Monday, September 15th, 2025 at 2.34pm, which I assume is during scheduled work hours at the Town, Mr. Fazio linked the personal political Facebook page blog of Stephen Donnelly, Supervisor for the Town of Coeymans to the Town official Facebook page. Again, on Friday, September 19th, 2025 at 8.50am, which again I assume is during scheduled work hours at the Town, Mr. Fazio linked the personal political Facebook page blog of Stephen Donnelly, Supervisor for the Town of Coeymans to the official Town of Coeymans Facebook page.

On this particular post, Mr. Donnelly attacks Councilman Schmitt and Councilman Hotaling for voting against a bond resolution at a prior meeting. In closing, for your convenience, a copy of the Town of Coeymans social media policy, the adopting resolution, and records reflecting the date and time Mr. Fazio linked the Supervisor's personal political page to the official Town of Coeymans Facebook page. The Town's social media policy, which was moved for adoption on January 14th, 2021 by Councilmember Linda Bruno and passed unanimously by the Town Board, state that this policy applies to all employees of the Town of Coeymans

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I assume this means appointed employees as well as elected officials that may be instructing their employees to act on their behalf. The policy goes on to state do not create a link from your blog, website, or other social networking site to the Town of Coeymans website. In the two instances above, it is clear that Supervisor Donnelly's personal political Facebook page was personally linked to the official Town of Coeymans Facebook page by Town employee Stephen Fazio during normal work hours and most likely at the direction of, or at least with the knowledge of, his immediate supervisor during normal work hours. his immediate supervisor, Mr. Donnelly, in direct violation of the Town's policy and handbook. The subject policy goes on to state, quote, if you publish a blog or post online related to work, you do, or subjects associated with the Town of Coeymans, you make it clear you are not speaking on behalf of the Town of Coeymans. It is best to include a disclaimer such as, the posting on the site are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Town of Coeymans, end quote.

Nor are any of the above reference posts on the personal political page of Stephen Donnelly, Supervisor for the Town of Coeymans have I noticed such a disclaimer. The subject social media policy also states that employees should, quote, refrain from using social media while on work time or equipment we, open parenthesis Town, close parenthesis, provide unless it is work related and authorized by your supervisor, end quote. Linking Mr. Donnelly's personal political Facebook page to the official Town of Coeymans Facebook page, in my opinion, is in and of itself violative in the Town's social media policy but even more egregious assuming it is being done at the direction of the Town's supervisor by employees under his direct supervision while on Town payroll and using Town-owned equipment. I respectfully request that the Town Board take the steps to ensure that this type of activity of using the official Town of Coeymans Facebook page for personal and political purposes ends immediately. I further request that at least one member of the Board or all the members of the Town Board submit the entire matter to the Town of Coeymans Ethics Board and request an Ethics Advisory Opinion. As stated clearly in the Town of Coeymans, end quote, section 16-8, Advisory Opinions, the Board of Ethics established here under shall render advisory opinions to Town employees on written requests and upon request of the Town Board make recommendations to such Town Board as to any amendments of this chapter the opinions of the Board of Ethics shall be advisory and confidential and in no event shall the identity of the Town employee be disclosed except to authorized persons and agencies such opinion shall be on the advice of Council employed by the Board of Ethics or if none, of the Town Attorney, end quote.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

While I'm also on that topic, a couple meetings ago I had some concerns regarding the meeting. We're all paid Town Board members, but we all have lives outside of this meeting room. Some of us have day jobs, some have caring responsibilities, some commit to volunteering, but we all have families and we all take time for vacation.

I made this Board aware of an upcoming travel that I had and I would not be here for a particular meeting, but we all try to make time to accommodate, you know, to be accommodated and considerate. So, from time-to-time meetings are changed, we schedule agendas or rearrange and to make sure that there's a quorum for conducting business. My

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absence at the September 3rd meeting did not prevent a quorum when Mr. Donnelly publicly attempted to shame me the next meeting for enjoying my fishing trip when I should have been here for doing town business. He was frustrated as he did not receive the minimum number of Board members within that quorum to agree to his resolution. A resolution that is not without serious concern and needed serious discussion in front of the community with all possible decisions remaining on the table for consideration. Has he ever, you know, publicly said anything to you, Mr. Stott or Ms. Bruno about you guys taking time off for vacation after you guys took time off About anything getting done, business getting done? I just, I didn't know that. So, but whatever. After returning from my trip and prior to the public hearing where I was chastised along with, again, Council Member Schmitt about his decision during that meeting when I was absent, Mr. Donnelly didn't even reach out to me to discuss that he wanted to have me consider the matter at the next meeting that I was at and offered me no chance to review or prepare to have this discussion. So as in many instances over the last several months, the Supervisor's Office waits to the last possible minute, sometimes at the meeting with no notice, and expects decisions to be made of vital financial importance without any opportunity to get any reasonable background or factual data. I felt there was no other responsible option for me to vote no at the time based upon that information. This is just a continued example of our supervisor's ineffective and often misguided communication style where he withholds and cherry-picks how information he releases and disseminates to us and then attempts to ridicule us publicly when he does not get the, you know, to ridicule those who do not see his vision. And it seems to be continuing even tonight to Mr. Schmitt and even Ms. Bruno about her decision to pass that grant. So, what I'm asking is that, since I can't make the complaint to Mr. Donnelly, is that Deputy Supervisor Stott put this complaint in front of the Ethics Review Board. And to be honest with you, I really would like to look at the workplace violence policy because his bullying behavior to the board members, to the community, to us in the back room, really should be looked at. And if I have to make a motion to, I mean, it only takes one employee to ask for an Ethics Board review, but I'll make a motion if the board wants to make a decision as a board to put this in front of an Ethics Review if that's what you want to do.

I Council member Hotaling, make a motion that this board ask for an advisory opinion of this Town Ethics Board regarding the information received in Mr. McHugh's letter regarding the information about Supervisor Donnelly's misuse of the Town's social media policy and the Facebook page.

Schmitt: I'll second it.

Stott: For discussion, I would like to, you just read a lot, I would like to review the Town's policy, the Ethics Committee, and just get more information before I bring something like this to the Ethics Board. I'm not saying no, I'm just saying I want to review it more and look into the Ethics Committee and see exactly what sort of things are brought to it.

Hotaling: For discussion further, you guys can all say no and vote against it. It just takes one person to make the point, and it can go forward. We have a second, let's have a vote and see who's willing to go forward with this.

Schmitt: Is there any other discussion before we proceed with the vote?

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Bruno: Yes, I would like to say something because Mr. Hotaling, after that meeting that you voted down the resolution, I was upset with you. You even stood right there and you said to me that if he hadn't said to you, how was your fishing trip, you would have voted for that resolution.

Hotaling: I said I would consider

Bruno: You said you would have voted for it. I heard you. I'm telling you, Ron

Hotaling: I said he would have had some consideration if he didn't jam that down.

Bruno: Ron, that's vindictive. That's what that is. That was just a vengeance towards Steven that you voted down that resolution, and that should be known.

Hotaling: Okay.

Bruno: Thank you.

Donnelly: I'd like to clarify that it's not my resolution. If you think that you're attacking me or not, you're attacking the town. Keith just stood there and told you what's going on with the wastewater treatment plant for the last 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 months, and you're going to vote a resolution down because your feelings are hurt once again?

Hotaling: Actually, the motion that we're talking about is whether or not that your misuse of the town's Facebook page with your town supervisor political candidate page should be considered for an ethics review. And your violation of the policy and you using Steven Fazio to post your stuff on the town's page during working hours. That's what the motion is for right now.

Donnelly: I just wanted to clarify that that resolution was characterized by you as mine and it's the towns. This is the town's work that we should be doing. And if you want to attack personally, that's your prerogative. If your feelings are hurt.

Hotaling: My feelings aren't hurt.

Donnelly: Okay.

Schmitt: Any further discussion? There's a motion and a second.
All in favor?

Hotaling/Schmitt: Aye.

Stott/Bruno: Nay. Abstain.

Donnelly: I'm not sure I can vote on this.

Hotaling: All right. So, then I'll just... In a legal manner? So, then I'll just submit a written request as an employee for the review for the ethics review to you to have it done. So, it's reviewed either by the ethics board, whoever's on our ethics board now. Because it only just takes one person to have an ethics review appointed by all that. But now we know where everybody stands, whether or not we think that our supervisor's misusing our Facebook page.

Stott: Where everybody stands? I just said can I look at more information?

Schmitt: For record keeping purposes, is Mr. Donnelly voting?

Attorney: I think you had two in favor, two against, and one abstention.

Is... You're in abstention? You're abstaining? Isn't that what you just did? He said he's asking you. He was asking council. Yeah, okay. So, Candace floated this to me at about 4 o'clock. I appreciate that. I really haven't looked into it. I mean, if you're willing to abstain, I guess that's what I probably would do. So, you've got...

Donnelly: Personally, I would absolutely talk to the ethics board. I think that's what they're there for.

Schmitt: So, are you in favor?

Donnelly: Once again, Mr. Hotaling said one person could just bring it forward, so I don't understand what we're voting on.

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Schmitt: Because there's a motion on the table, there's a second, so for just record keeping purposes, I need to know,

Donnelly: what's the motion for?

Schmitt: To have Mr. Stott as the deputy supervisor bring this application to the board of ethics.

Donnelly: For record, I vote no.

Hotaling: With that being said, **my second motion will be** to make a motion that until the town of ethics board can make this review, whether with ethics board or with the town attorney, that Mr. Fazio be removed from the town of Coeymans Facebook page and that all posts go through the town clerk's office pending the review of the ethics board and the decision of the ethics board, and that all personal posts at this time be removed.

Schmitt: I'll second that motion. For discussion, so my question is, supervisor, who has administrative access rights to that Town of Coeymans Facebook page?

Donnelly: I believe the clerk and the confidential secretary. Is there the town clerk's office?

Town Clerk: No, I do personally.

Schmitt: So, it's Mr. Fazio and Ms. McHugh. So there's a motion and a second. Anybody have any other discussion?

Stott: No. For discussion, I just want to review the facts more and before I make any decision to remove Mr. Fazio and whatever else Ron said.

Audience: Who is this Mr. Fazio?

Stott: The confidential secretary to the supervisor.

Audience: He shouldn't be on there.

Town Clerk: Typically, they are. There should be two people. I need to post notices and usually the secretary has that ability as well. Doesn't have to be, though.

Stott: Again, obviously this was planned and I didn't know about it.

Linda didn't know about it. Steve didn't know about it. So, when we talk about transparency...

Schmitt: How was it planned? He read a letter that we were all... And he had typed a personal one too. It was put in our mailbox. I got my copy.

Bruno: I didn't get a copy.

Schmitt: It was put in our mailbox. I got my copy.

Bruno: Tonight?

Schmitt: Off the cuff. And it's stamped into the clerk's office September 25th, 2025. So, we all have access to it. I just got it. So, nothing was pre-planned. In this motion practice, there's no... It's just a verbal motion. So how can you say it's pre-planned?

Bruno: Maybe it's not.

Stott: Well, that's my discussion. No, there's a motion and a second.

Attorney: Similar to what you did earlier, there's a motion pending, so you could act on it. If the majority wanted to table it, I suppose, similar to what you did earlier today, you could have a motion and a second to table it.

Stott: I make a motion to table the first motion.

Schmitt: You can't make a motion on... We already voted on it, and it's already voted no.

Stott: So, I'm making a motion to table one. Sorry.

Attorney: I think the most recent motion had to do with Mr. Fazio's access to certain websites pending a possible referral to the ethics committee and some potential determination by that committee.

Schmitt: That's my understanding of the motion that was made.

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Stott: And what could we possibly table that?

Schmitt: Yeah, just like we've done before. If there's a motion and a second and a favorable voting.

Audience: Why would you not vote on that? I mean, you're just saying this man shouldn't be putting stuff on or shouldn't be allowed to be on that?

Stott: I would personally like to talk to people and see... look into the matter before I vote on taking people's privileges away.

Attorney: It would be helpful to actually look at the ethics. To see what, if any, action should be taken when an allegation has been made but not yet substantiated in terms of how you affect the operation of an office in the interim. I don't know what the answer to that question is, but it strikes me you should look at that before you take an action.

Stott: That's what I said in the beginning, yes.

Donnelly: So, I second your motion to table.

Schmitt: So, Stott made a motion to table. Donnelly second. Any other discussion about the tabling of the event?

All in favor?

Stott/Bruno: Aye.

Donnelly: Against?

Schmitt/Hotaling: Nay. Nay.

Donnelly: Alright, so the second motion is tabled. Any further public comment?

Public Comment:

Barbara Tanner asked if “time is of the essence” has been relayed to the contractors. Supervisor Donnelly Stated it has and there are financial consequences if it goes past 12/15/25. She also asked if the Supervisor wanted the Seniors to go to the church. The Supervisor said he had a meeting with the Grace Methodist Church. It is in the very beginning stages.

Bob Jones asked about a gas leak on Mountain Rd ext. Supervisor Donnelly said Mr. Nolan alerted them of a valve leak on a tank which has been repaired. Mr. Jones asked if an investigation was being done. Supervisor Donnelly suggested following up with the Fire Dept. Mr. Jones asked if anyone on the board could follow up with the fire department. Council member Stott stated he would follow up. Mr. Jones asked if there has ben any progress with the trucks on mountain road ext. He is requesting a contact at Heidelberg. The Town Attorney has a meeting scheduled with Amrize and Heidelberg next week. The Village Mayor is participating as well.

April Springer has been a resident since 2009. She explained she has been coming on a regular basis to be more informed. She referenced that all the board members have noticed approached her but the Supervisor has not. She expressed concern about his ability to communicate. She stated that many times she feels the blame is placed elsewhere and asked what the supervisor’s role in the checks and balances of the town is. The Supervisor asked for clarification. She stated she finds his conduct unprofessional in regards to the board and she finds it disrespectful as a community member.

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Dan Baker informed the board that he is not the enforcement of the sweeper on mountain road Extension. He has tried many times but he feels it's the boards responsibility to follow up. Mr. Geraldson stated he and his wife feel the sweeper is creating the dust on purpose.

Motion to Enter into Executive Session was made by Council member Donnelly in order to discuss legal issues, the board may return to give a decision on a FOIL Matter and Seconded by Council member Stott- APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0 – SO MOVED

The motion was amended by Council member Schmitt to invite the Town Clerk into Executive Session, all were in favor.

Motion to Adjourn Executive Session was made by Council member Donnelly and Seconded by Council member Stott- APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0 – SO MOVED
8:57pm

Motion to Adjourn was made by Council member Donnelly and Seconded by Council member Stott- APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0 – SO MOVED 9:01pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Candace McHugh, Town Clerk