

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
February 23, 2015 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

A Town Board Meeting was held Monday, February 23, 2015, at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Peter E. Masti, Deputy Supervisor
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman
George E. Langdon, IV, Councilman
Kenneth A. Burns, Sr., Councilman

ABSENT: Stephen D. Flach, Supervisor

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
David Wukitsch, Attorney for the Town
Peter McKenna, Chief of Police
Scott Searles, Highway Superintendent

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

OPENING COMMENT

Deputy Supervisor Masti stated that the record should reflect that there was a full Town Board with the exception of Supervisor Flach.

AGENDA

- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
 - Joint Village/Town Meeting, December 17, 2014
 - Town Board Meeting, December 22, 2014
 - Public Hearing, December 29, 2014
- Department Reports
 - Town Clerk, January 2015
 - Sewer Department, January 2015
 - Building Department, January 2015
- Resolutions
 - Authorize Employee to Attend Seminar
 - Accept Deputy Superintendent of Highways Resignation
 - Appoint Deputy Superintendent of Highways
 - Authorize Superintendent of Highways to Offer Training
 - Accept Resignation of Police Officer
 - Approve Abstract, February 2015
 - Approve Abstract January 2015 Prepays
 - Approve Abstract, February 2015
- Upcoming Workshops/Meetings
 - ZBA Meeting, February 25, 2015, 7:00pm
 - Planning Board Meeting, March 2, 2015, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, March 9, 2015, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Workshop, March 17, 2015, 6:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, March 23, 2015, 7:00pm
 - ZBA Meeting, March 25, 2015, 7:00pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deputy Supervisor Masti invited the public to comment at this time, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Supervisor Masti stated that there were three sets of minutes for Town Board approval, a Joint Village/Town Meeting on December 17th, a Town Board Meeting on December 22nd and a Public Hearing on December 29th and then asked for a motion to approve them.

Councilman Dolan questioned whether there was a Joint Meeting on December 17th.

Town Clerk Millious confirmed that there was.

Councilman Dolan stated that he had minutes for the 18th and then asked that they table the December 17th Meeting for now.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Langdon, seconded by Councilman Burns, the minutes for the 17th and 22nd were approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Clerk – January 2015

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked that Town Clerk Millious give the Town Clerk Monthly Report.

Town Clerk Millious continued by giving the report.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked for a motion to approve the report.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Langdon, seconded by Councilman Burns, the report was approved as presented and read.

APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

Town Clerk Millious stated that the deadline for filing for exemptions is March 1st and continued by reading the Notice on the back of the Property Tax Bill.

Senior Tax Exemption – You may be eligible for a Senior Tax Exemption. For information call 756-8927 or write to the Assessor's Office.

Town Clerk Millious stated that in addition to calling the Assessor's Office, you can call the Building Department at 756-2850 and speak with Cathy, the Assessor's assistant.

Town Clerk Millious continued by reading the Third Party Notification, which is also on the back of the Property Tax Bill.

Third Party Notification – If you are either 65 years of age or more, or disabled, and you occupy a 1, 2, or 3 family residence, you may designate a third party consenting adult to receive copies of your tax bills. Applications may be obtained in person from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, NY 12143, or by mail if you include with your request a self-addressed stamped envelope. Applications for Third Party Notifications must be filed with the Tax Collector no later than November 15, 2015 for January 1, 2016.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked what the final day is to pay taxes.

Town Clerk Millious stated that the final day to pay without penalty was February 2nd and now you have until March 2nd to pay with penalty and the last day to collect is March 31st, which falls on a normal business day. She added that anyone with questions can call her at (518) 756-2100.

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Sewer Department – January 2015

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked that Councilman Dolan give the Sewer Department Monthly Report.

Councilman Dolan continued by giving the report.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked for a motion to approve the report.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Langdon, the report was approved as presented and read.

APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

Building Department - 2015

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked that Councilman Burns give the Building Department Monthly Report.

Councilman Burns continued by giving the report.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked for a motion to approve the report.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Masti, the report was approved as presented and read.

APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #41-15 AUTHORIZE EMPLOYEE TO ATTEND SEMINAR

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) will be holding a training session entitled Laboratory, and

WHEREAS, John Kerr, Chief Sewer Treatment Plant Operator is desirous of attending this training session, which will provide contact hours toward recertification as required by NYS DEC to maintain licensing, and

WHEREAS, a prepaid \$100.00 registration fee for class is required. Travel to and from training will be reimbursed upon submission of a voucher should Mr. Kerr use his personal vehicle. The current mileage rate is 57.5 cents per mile.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that John Kerr is hereby authorized to attend this conference in Oneonta, New York, March 8, 2015.

RES. #42-15 ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

On motion of Councilman Langdon, seconded by, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, Guy Weidman has submitted his letter of resignation as Deputy Highway Superintendent in the Town of Coeymans Highway Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the resignation of Guy Weidman as Deputy Highway Superintendent of Highways be accepted effective March 1, 2015.

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Deputy Supervisor Masti continued by reading the letter of resignation as follows:

Dear Supervisor and Members of the Board,

I am submitting my letter of resignation as Deputy Superintendent of Highways. My resignation will be effective as of February 27, 2015.

I have enjoyed my time with the Town and believe that I have put forth my best effort for the Department.

Sincerely,

Guy Weidman

Councilman Burns stated that Mr. Weidman is going to be missed he was a very talented man and he is sorry that he is leaving the Town and added that he hopes he knows that they appreciated him.

Councilman Masti wished him the best.

RES. #43-15 APPOINT DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, Deputy Superintendent of Highways Weidman resigned and a vacancy now exists, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent is desirous of filling this position, and

WHEREAS, Section 65 of the Civil Service Law authorizes provisional appointments when there are no eligible list available,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint provisionally, Nelson Perry, to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Highways subject to approval of Albany County Department of Civil Service, at a rate of \$23.20 per hour effective March 1, 2015.

Councilman Dolan asked if there is a reason that he is appointed provisionally.

Councilman Langdon stated that you have to do it provisionally.

Councilman Dolan asked if Mr. Weidman was appointed provisionally.

Councilman Langdon stated that he was.

Collectively the Town Board congratulated Mr. Perry.

RES. #44-15 AUTHORIZE TRAINING FOR ONE-MAN PLOWING

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Langdon, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans Highway Department personnel attends one person operation of snow plowing each year, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent has many years of knowledge with regard to one-person operation of a snow plow, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans recognizes this knowledge and certifies that the Highway Superintendent is qualified to offer training to the department personnel each year as necessary.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Coeymans Town Board certifies the Highway Superintendent to offer training as necessary in one person operation of snow plow.

RES. #45-15 ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICER

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, Kristopher Cuddeback has submitted his letter of resignation as Police Officer in the Town of Coeymans Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the resignation of Kristopher Cuddeback as Police Officer be accepted effective February 6, 2015.

Chief McKenna,

I am writing this letter to inform you of my resignation from the Town of Coeymans Police Department, effective two weeks from tomorrow (January 23, 2015). My last day will be the 6th of February 2015.

Working for this Department has provided me with many opportunities and lessons learned. I enjoyed working with you and for you in the time that I have been employed there.

If there is anything that I can do personally or professionally do to ease the transition, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Kristopher Cuddeback

Chief McKenna stated that Officer Cuddeback was a fine Officer, he has moved back to his home town and he wished him the best and added that he will do well in all endeavors.

Deputy Supervisor Masti stated that he wishes him the best as well.

RES. #46-16 APPROVE FEBRUARY ABSTRACT FOR 2014 VOUCHERS

On motion of Councilman Langdon, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, does hereby approve and allow the following claims of vouchers for the February Abstract for 2014 vouchers.

	VOUCHER #	AMOUNT
GENERAL (A)		
General Pre-Pay	162-182, 210	\$ 9,083.22
General	199-204	\$ 405.27
	General Total	\$ 9,488.49
PART-TOWN (B)		
Part-Town Pre-Pay	183-189	\$ 49,158.56
	Part Town Total	\$ 49,158.56
HIGHWAY (D)		
Highway Pre-Pay	190-192	\$ 833.69
Highway	205-206, 208-209	\$ 6,700.37
	Highway Total	\$ 7,534.06
SEWER (SS)		
Sewer Pre-Pay	193-198	\$ 1,210.41
Sewer	207	\$ 15.29
	Sewer Total	\$ 1,225.70

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TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 67,406.81
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RES. #47-15 APPROVE JANUARY 2015 PREPAIDS

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in the Abstract for January 2015 prepaids as follows:

Voucher Numbers 169347-169350, 169534,169547, in the amount of \$393,953.30.

RES. #49-15 APPROVE 2015 ABSTRACT

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Langdon, the following resolution was APPROVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in the Abstract for February 2015, as follows:

Voucher Numbers 169363-169455

Prepaid Amount	\$1,388,116.25
Unpaid Vouchers	\$ 42,110.41
Total for all Funds	\$1,430,226.66

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

- ZBA Meeting, February 25, 2015, 7:00pm
- Planning Board Meeting, March 2, 2015, 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, March 9, 2015, 7:00pm
- Town Board Workshop, March 17, 2015, 6:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, March 23, 2015, 7:00pm
- ZBA Meeting, March 25, 2015, 7:00pm

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked if there were any additional comments.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that he wished Guy the best and thanked him for his service and continued by congratulating Nelson for his newly appointed position of Deputy Highway Superintendent. He continued by saying that he would like to be placed on the Workshop agenda to discuss hiring additional help.

Councilman Burns asked if it would be full-time.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that it would be because they lost Jeff Hoose and Nelson Perry was moved to a new position.

Deputy Supervisor Masti stated that he wanted to thank the Highway Department for doing a good job considering all the snow that they have had. He then asked if there were any other comments.

Chief McKenna read the following:

On February 13, 2015 at 10:08pm, Coeymans Dispatcher DeBacco toned out a call for a structure fire at 100 Main Street in the Hamlet of Coeymans. Less than 1 minute later, (44 seconds between transmissions) Police Officer Brian Rinaldi, operating Unit 924, arrived on the scene and confirmed the fully involved structure fire. Upon being informed that there were reports that people may possibly be inside the burning residence, Officer Rinaldi, shunning

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concern for his own personal safety, grabbed a portable fire extinguisher and entered the blaze in an effort to locate and assist any persons pinned inside. Once in the dwelling, the kitchen was impassable due to the heat and flames and the fire suppression was unsuccessful. The people inside the apartment found refuge on a roof outside the building, and Officer Rinaldi, now aided by Officer John Favata, as well as arriving members of Coeymans Rescue Unit 540 and Engine 524, collectively cleared a path through deep snow and debris outside the burning building so a ladder could be placed up to the roof where the people were trapped. Firefighter Rob Domanico ascended the ladder and handed the children down to Officers Rinaldi and Favata as well as members of Coeymans Fire, then assisted the adults to safety, one of whom sustained severe burns to his back.

As a result of the quick and selfless acts of bravery on behalf of all personnel involved in the events of February 13th, lives were saved that day. I would like to publicly commend Officer Brian Rinaldi and Officer John Favata, and extend my sincere appreciation to Firefighter Robert Domanico and all the members of Coeymans Fire for their heroism, putting the needs of the community before their own personal well-being. I would also like to acknowledge Dispatchers David DeBacco and Sue Leonardo for their calm, professional demeanor in communicating between agencies and vehicles, in order to insure that all pertinent information was relayed and assuring the safety of the first responders during this event. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of such a dedicated professional organization.

Respectfully,

P.J. McKenna
Chief of Police

Deputy Supervisor Masti thanked Chief McKenna for publicly acknowledging them.

Councilman Dolan stated that he was at the scene of the fire, which is not that far from his house and his wife saw the fire and it looked much closer than it was. He continued by saying that he wanted to mention the work that the Highway Department did keeping the roads safe because there was water and ice everywhere. He added that he wanted to thank the Dispatchers for answering the call so quickly and they probably did save some lives as well as thanking the Police Officers and Starr Ross who lived right next door and had warm things to wrap the kids in because it was freezing cold that night. He concluded by saying that if Dispatch wasn't so quick, if the Fire Department wasn't that quick, Ms. Ross house could have been easily engulfed and when he got to the scene there were fire fighters in the building making sure that the fire was out and it was obvious that it could have been that whole block of houses and it was amazing work by everyone.

Deputy Supervisor Masti stated that having it go from Dispatch to having someone on the scene in 44 seconds was a miracle and this is what they need to hear about our community and how they work well together.

Councilman Dolan stated that he wanted to mention that there is a fund for Joey Fisk and his family at the National Bank of Coxsackie if anyone would like to contribute because they lost everything.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked if there were any other comments.

Attorney for the Town Wukitsch stated that anyone risking their life for the safety of others has his highest commendation.

Councilman Dolan stated that he wanted to commend Joey Fisk for being able to get the children and others in the house on to the back porch and rescued from there with all the snow and ice.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked if there were any other comments.

Town Clerk Millious stated that it is nice to know that the community and all the emergency departments come together like they do. She added that she wanted to wish Mr. Weidman well as well as congratulating Nelson Perry who she has worked a long time with, he's a good worker

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and helps her out with the cemeteries. She concluded by saying that she also wished Officer Cuddebeck well and thanked him for his services.

Deputy Supervisor Masti stated that he wanted to mention the Town Clerk who went to houses during the storm so people could pay their taxes on time and again it is what he like about this community. He added that there was a need and she took it upon herself to meet that need and he thanks her and he is sure that the people that she picked up their checks so they wouldn't be late, thank her as well.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she tries and tries her best.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Dolan stated that he congratulates Nelson and added that there is not a better person for the job, he is probably the most conscientious worker that he has seen in this Town and he makes sure every I is dotted and T is crossed.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Burns stated that he is glad that Nelson got the position and will do a great job. He added that all of the Departments are great, the Police are incredible and the Firemen get paid nothing and to come out on a freezing cold night is incredible and to put the time in that they do to risk their lives, they don't do it for the paycheck, they do it because there is a need. He added that there is no greater gift than when someone lays down their own life for someone else and it is so nice to hear great things about the community.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Langdon stated that he wanted to express his personal best wished to Guy Weidman and Office Cuddeback as well as congratulating Nelson Perry who he hasn't known that long but is obviously committed to this Town and it is great to have someone like him to offer a promotion to. He added that the Police Officers, Firemen and Dispatchers should be proud of who they are and what they have inside because a family's life was changed because of a disaster they went through but it is nothing compared to what it could have been and what they all did is extremely commendable and he appreciates it very much.

Deputy Supervisor Masti stated that what they do is an awesome role model for the youth of this community about self-sacrifice, being part of the community by going out of your way to help other people. He added that he works in a hospital but he gets paid for it, they don't have to be out there doing it and this community is blessed to have the Fire Departments and he loves the way that the Police Department is stepping up to the plate, he feels this town is turning around for the good and he prays that it continues.

Deputy Supervisor Masti asked if there were any other comments, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

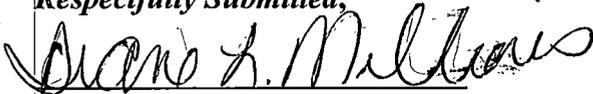
MOTION

On motion of Councilman Langdon, seconded by Councilman Masti, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Flach) – SO MOVED

Time – 7:46pm

Respectfully Submitted,


Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk

APPROVED – As Read March 23, 2015