

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
September 22, 2014 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

A Town Board Meeting was held Monday September 22, 2014, at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

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

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Scott Searles, Highway Superintendent
Gregory Darlington, Chief of Police
John Kerr, Sewer Chief Operator

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

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that the record should reflect the presence of a full Town Board.

AGENDA

- Public Announcements
 - Village of Ravena Centennial Celebration
 - Town Offices Closed October 13, 2014
- Public Comment Period
- Approval of Minutes of Meetings
 - Bid Opening – September 11, 2014
 - Bid Opening – September 18, 2014
- Supervisors Report – August 2014
- Department Report Review
 - Town Clerk, August 2014
 - Sewer, August 2014
- Old Business and Discussion
 - Establish Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law “Landfill”
 - Establish Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law “Special Facilities Law”
- New Business Topics for Discussion and/or Action
 - Westerlo Street Parking
- Resolutions
 - Authorize WWTP Chief Operator to Attend Seminar
 - Approve September Abstract
- Town Board Workshops/Meetings
 - ZBA Meeting, September 24, 2014 – 7:00 PM
 - Planning Board Meeting, October 6, 2014 – 7:00 PM
 - Town Board Meeting, October 14, 2014 – 7:00 PM
 - Town Board Workshop, October 21, 2014 – 6:00 PM
 - ZBA Meeting, October 22, 2014 – 7:00 PM
 - Town Board Meeting, October 27, 2014 – 7:00 PM
- Executive Session
 - Personnel Matters

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SUPERVISOR'S COMMENT

Supervisor Flach read the following:

Let me dispel some rumors that have surfaced. We are not looking to get rid of the Police Department but we are discussing transferring Dispatch responsibilities. A couple of the Town Board Members went to talk to the Sheriff's Dept. in lieu of the pending cost of some of the 911 equipment. We discussed transferring Dispatch along with some other municipalities that have already done this. We are one of the only Secondary Dispatch Centers left in the County. The County receives all the 911 calls already. The Sheriff did not come to us, we went asking questions. I sought out the Sheriff asking how other municipalities were doing and some general transition questions.

Our Dispatch Center costs approximately \$250,000.00 each year and we have pending expenses of \$60,000.00 over the next 2 years. Currently we are over-lapping the job function with the County and it appears that much of the work is being duplicated. The reason for revisiting the County assuming the responsibility of dispatching is for safety and monetary reasons.

Albany County answered 1,066 911 calls for the Town of Coeymans in 2013, year to date total for 2014 they have answered 763 calls. A resident dials 911 and the call center in Voorheesville answers. They ascertain the nature of the call, where the emergency is, the caller's name, etc. The call is then transferred to the Town of Coeymans Police Dept. This is approximately 15 seconds. The call is then answered by Town of Coeymans Communications. The Dispatcher ascertains the nature of the call, where the emergency is, the caller's name etc. The call is then "toned" or dispatched out. The entire 911 call can take upwards of 2 minutes. You can see where this can be duplication of service in answering these very important calls.

If Albany County were to become the primary party responsible for answering our 911 calls, the resident is looking at saving upwards of 2 minutes for their emergency call. While it seems like a short amount of time, it is a life time when you are on the phone and need someone there immediately. Menands 911 calls are answered by Colonie. The only primaries or towns that answer their own calls are Guilderland, Bethlehem, City of Albany, Colonie and State Police Capitol.

I understand Dispatchers, full and part-time being here tonight, it makes sense to rally the troops, when a question arises about your jobs, I understand. I had a Dispatcher come and talk to me today, which was awesome, about his passion for his job, and to present why he loved his job why he wanted to keep his job and to give him information, which I thought was great, and I want to thank him for speaking to me directly instead of spreading rumors and condemning.

I spoke with Sr. Telecommunicator Dawne LaMountain and Chief Darlington and I told Dawne that we were looking to do this but I wanted to tell her before the rumors started flying. I would propose to the Town Board to keep Mrs. LaMountain and the Sheriff would take a full timer, if we paid for them. The Sheriff's Department can now hire part-timers and would also look at applications, at my request.

I have spoken to some Emergency Management people in the Town and let me assure you that we will have an Emergency Management Meeting to talk about the pros and cons of this proposal. We are also meeting with the Union. We are not trying to make a hasty decision, but please remember we are here for the whole Town and community. Of course we want our Town to be safe, to say we don't care is another lie.

The Town Board has been called liars by some for talking about this: Every year we look at the budget and make decisions based on our people. Last year I would not have looked at Dispatch, but along with information, shared and duplicated services, I feel like this should be looked at. In the past, I have talked about our own Police Department and sharing services with the Sheriff, and at this time, we believe that it is in the Town's best interest to keep that department. But, we do pay for our Sheriff and State Police through our taxes and I believe we need to use their services to enhance and supplement our own.

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I have fought for jobs for this community since I was elected, and the first thought that comes to me is losing jobs. But please remember, as the Chief Fiscal Officer, I have a responsibility to look at the cost to all of the taxpayers.

Supervisor Flach reiterated that he is looking to schedule a meeting with Emergency Management Personnel and as far as the Union; they are just in the talking phase right now. He added that at some point there will be a meeting to discuss the pros and cons and he knows that questions will arise.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Village of Ravenna Centennial Celebration

Supervisor Flach stated that the Village of Ravenna's Centennial Celebration will be October 11th at Village Hall at 6:00pm and anyone needing information can contact the Village.

Town Offices Closed October 13, 2014

Supervisor Flach stated that the Town Offices will be closed October 13, 2014 for observance of Columbus Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Flach invited the public to comment at this time.

Mr. Bill Bailey stated that he is a Village Trustee, a member of the Emergency Management Committee and a member of the Ravenna Fire Department and he has a lot of concerns about the proposal. He continued by saying that what was not presented is that there is 756-2033, 756-2059, and he believes a couple other numbers where emergency calls come into the Dispatch Center and he believes a significant amount of emergency calls come in on a number that are not 911 and he does not believe that the County will handle that. He added that he believes issues such as the alarms at the Ravenna Water Plant, Sewer Plant, call-outs for Code Enforcement all go through Dispatch and then asked how they would do that without Dispatch as well as questioning the County wanting the Town to pay a full-time person. He went on by saying that he believes and he does not propose going to the County and that the Village of Ravenna and Town of Coeymans should not be paying anything to the County because he does not believe that Towns like New Scotland, Rensselaer, and Westerlo pay for dispatching service that they receive. He continued by saying that he worries about the timing of this, it is the end of September and Supervisor Flach has to present his budget within the next week or so to the Town Board and tax rates have to be developed and it will less than a month that this issue can be fully discussed in every aspect and he believes that something that is going to effect the Town as a whole it is too little time. He added that he heard about this rumor wise earlier in the day and he is a Village Elected Official that is going to be impacted, all the pagers and radios will need to be changed and a cost has to be borne and this isn't the way for them to hear about the proposals and they can't even give them a list of how it is going to affect them at this time with less than a month that the Town has to adopt a budget that reflects whether it is going to be in or out. He went on by saying that when they go to operational, in running the ambulance for 30 years and being a member of the Fire Company for 45, he has seen big snow storms and flooding and the County gets overwhelmed and the only way that the Town can function is that they have their own Dispatch Center that handles local calls, they don't even bother with the County and the County tells them not to bother them because they are too busy, they get hours behind on calls at times when a disaster hits and the Town is able to function because the Town of Coeymans is a self-contained unit. He continued by saying that the Rescue Squad services half the Town of New Baltimore, this will affect that operation if there isn't a Dispatcher here and it is too short of time to deal with this, there are a lot of aspects and reiterated that he just heard about it earlier in the day. He added that as they sit down and discuss it, there are going to be a lot more issues that are going to pop-up and he does not believe that they should do this quickly, it would be a big mistake and personally he does not think that it is a good idea and they should take the time to

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plan it out because if they do it in the budget for January, it goes into effect and there is no turning it around. He went on by saying that he thinks they should slow down, really think it out, get input from all the players and as they get further into it the Police Chief and other Emergency Services in Town will talk to them more about the impact of it because there will be a lot of issues and when the trucks are out plowing they talk to the Dispatchers, when the Village plows and want to tow someone or give a warning, they call Dispatch to run the plate and get the address and this will be gone or when the Code Enforcers are looking at an abandoned car and want to find out about it, they call Dispatch and they are not going to be able to do this with the County. He concluded by asking them to please slow down and think it through.

Supervisor Flach asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Ms. Dawn Rogers stated that she agrees with what Bill Bailey said, they have to slow this down and there are many reasons why, #1. they are going to put the Town in jeopardy, #2. she does not think that they have all the facts ironed out and what she is trying to tell them is that turning the Dispatch Center over could take between 12-18 months and then asked where it puts the Town in that time period and what will happen. She continued by saying that her next question is what happens to volunteer Fire Companies and EMT's and if the County will let them use the lines free of charge or if they are going to charge for it and then her next question would be, he said the Town of Coeymans, he is going to turn the Town of Coeymans over to the County but the Village of Ravenna is its own entity and then asked if they are going to be charged to be put on with the County. She concluded by saying that these are all things that they have to think about, they have to slow down and like he said they are the last Town to stand on its own two feet and she thinks they should keep it that way.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Travis Whitbeck stated that he is the Chief of the Ravenna Fire Department and he thinks that there is a certain amount of irony to the whole situation that they are dealing with a Communication Center when there seems to be an absolute lack of communication. He continued by saying that he wrote an e-mail Friday night when he first started hearing about this and he has heard back from one Board Member but sent an e-mail to each and every one of them and he is taking issue with this because Supervisor Flach said that he already talked to some Emergency Management Personnel.

Supervisor Flach stated that he had spoken to two people that he knows and happened to see.

Mr. Whitbeck stated that he is not a hard man to get in touch with, he is not local much but he has a cell phone and when he is not either at his full-time or part-time jobs you will likely see his truck parked in front of the Ravenna Fire Company and reiterated that he is not a hard person to get ahold of. He continued by saying that he understands that it is a Town Agency, however the Village is part of the Town and in talking about communications and issues they face, any change in that requires a change in his procedures and any change in his procedures will ultimately have an effect on the safety of the people under his command and they are arbitrarily going out there finding information about this. He then asked if they are looking to do it by January and is it how it is written now.

Supervisor Flach stated that they haven't written anything.

Mr. Whitbeck asked if it is what the intentions are.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is not the intention yet and they don't know because they just got the dispatch information from the Sheriff's at the end of last week.

Mr. Whitbeck stated that a number of weeks ago he attended a Communications Meeting and he was told that the Town was going to be backing the Dispatchers and Communication Center and then asked if it is true that they are going to stand up and support the Communication Center.

Councilman Burns stated that they are just taking in information right now.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not recall that at all.

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Mr. Whitbeck stated that he understands that they are gathering information but there is a right way and a wrong way to do this and the lack of communication regarding this is the wrong way and he is not going to stand up there and say what they should and shouldn't do it right now because he doesn't have the facts and no one has all the facts. He continued by saying that they absolutely need to slow down the process and they need to start including people in the conversations, himself included and the Officials at the Village of Ravena and they should not be standing at a Board Meeting trying to figure out what is going on, fact finding should not happen like this. He concluded by saying that he put forth the effort and reached out and only heard from one Board Member and his phone number, cell number, station number and fax line was in his e-mail.

Councilman Burns stated that he apologizes for not getting back to him because he does not have the equipment to get back to people but if he gets a call, he will respond within two minutes. He continued by saying that his understanding is that they are taking in information and looking out for the welfare of the whole community and not just part of it and he has not made up his mind on anything, he is trying to soak it all in and sort it out and then make a decision and concluded by saying that they are honestly looking for the best interest for everyone.

Mr. Whitbeck stated that he has a healthy respect for that, it is a part of their job but when they start pondering these sort of things that will ultimately affect the life and safety of members of his department and other departments, there has to be a lot more communication regarding it, there is a whole process that they should be going by at this point that they are not going by, they need to figure out themselves what is going to be best for them and the number one thing that he keeps on hearing is that fiscally it seems like it is going to be a responsible idea and secondary to that is going to be the public safety aspect, which he thinks they got backwards and the number one thing that should be on all their minds is the public safety aspect. He continued by saying that the cost of doing business is the cost of doing business and that's just the way it is, it is the nature of the beast and something that he has to adapt to himself. He added that secondary to that and a little more personal to him, he attended a Communications Meeting and basically he was told that the Town Board was absolutely going to figure out what they had to do to keep their own Dispatchers and he heard it from a couple of different sources and within the last few weeks that has changed and unfortunately there was a Town representative standing at a meeting who was absolutely by all accounts from what he is looking at right now, misled, which was not fair to her and a very disrespectful thing to do to a Town employee who works for them. He went on by saying that luckily for them as a group, those who attended the Meeting, can take a step back and try to evaluate the whole situation and that is what he had to do but there is a lot of pie in that person's face and he thinks that the person is absolutely owed an apology because now she has to go back and backtrack, which is not fair to her. He continued by saying that he very much understands that this is not going to be an issue that he gets to dictate how they go or which way they go, it is not his job, it is going to be their decision but from here on out they need to start including those who are going to be affected by this, himself and the other Chiefs who he is not speaking on their behalf. He concluded by saying that when they start affecting the public safety and potential safety of those under his command, he is going to take up issue with that and he also has been told by multiple sources that it was assumed that for whatever reason, he was on completely on board with this.

Supervisor Flach stated that it was not from them and it is part of the rumors and they only started talking about this last Tuesday so as far as the timeframe goes, whomever has been feeding him lies, which is par for the course and the nature of the beast.

Councilman Langdon stated that he is a little confused because everyone at the meeting feels as though it is something that has been in the works and less than a month ago, which he was not here for, the Sheriff came down to explain that they are going to have an increased cost carrying their Dispatch, which was about \$60,000.00 a year.

Councilman Dolan interjected that he was not entirely correct and it was the possible maximum cost to maintain the exact same equipment, service and licenses that they have up to that date and they were looking at getting one of those licenses so that number would be cut in half and that was the discussion.

Councilman Langdon stated that the information that he got from the Sheriff was that they were willing to cut that in half for the first year but after that it was going to be \$60,000.00 a year.

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Councilman Dolan stated that it is not what Kerry Thompson and the other people at the meeting said.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he was not there because he was out of town at the time.

Councilman Dolan stated that he was at the meeting.

Councilman Langdon stated that it is what brought this to a concern and it is a 30% increase in the cost of having Dispatch.

Councilman Dolan stated that it would be \$30,000.00, which is 10% of \$300,000.00.

Councilman Langdon reiterated that he is being told \$60,000.00 after the second year, this is what the Sheriff told him and as far as he knows he is in charge. He added that getting the facts is what started this and reiterated that it just came out last week that they may need to look at this and no one is talking to anybody, the ball just got rolling a week ago. He continued by saying that no one is trying to hide anything, they did a little fact finding themselves because they understand how rumors spread fast and they found that it is something that they need to look at less than a week ago.

Mr. Whitbeck stated that he is not trying to intervene in internal conflicts, he understands where they are coming from and like he said he has a very healthy respect for what their jobs entail and reiterated that he understands where they are coming from. He continued by saying that he believes that they are going about this the wrong way and Communications needs to serve locally and they need to start evaluating their needs internally as agency heads to make a determination of what is going to be best for them.

Councilman Langdon stated that the bottom line is that the problem started when the Sheriff came down and threw a number at them and he wanted a clarification on the number so he met with him to find out what was the deal, it all just started and that is why the conversation started there. He added that he is very interested in the input and some of the points that were made already, he really wants to look into it and he is not invalidating anything but it is certainly something that they have to consider when they are thrown with a shift like that because it is a pretty significant shift, they have to evaluate if it is the smartest way to go and if there is duplication and they have to ask themselves why they are paying extra for so much duplication and if there is some kind of compromise in the middle, which he is open to.

Chief Darlington asked to speak and continued by saying that the Sheriff came down and discussed \$60,000.00 for next year and potentially the following year and after that there would be no additional cost because they would no longer have the equipment, even if they are desirous of keeping it. He added that the equipment that they want them to pay \$60,000.00 for, the Town's Communication Center does not need and it is part of the secondary PCAP and when Albany County 911 came in, it is a fancy computer that pops-up the street address so they can see exactly where it is, it is high-tech equipment that they don't need in their Dispatch Center and it was provided prior to him being there at no cost because the 911 surcharge on phone bills pays for it all. He continued by saying that supposedly, as a result of cellular phones, landline 911 numbers went down and the Sheriff is out of money and his question was what about the cellular 911's because of him having one landline, he has 5 cell phones for his family and every one of them pay and their answer was that the money goes to the State but when he pulled out his cell phone bill, it says Albany County 911. He went on by saying that he said that he doesn't need the equipment and they should take it out, they are licensed for one and it was \$30,000.00 if they choose to keep the second and when the meeting concluded, they had a discussion and he was told that they cannot trust the County and that he should do what he needed to do to maintain the Town's Communication Center and this is what his Senior Telecommunicator presented to the Fire Chiefs at a Communications Meeting. He added that Thursday morning his Senior Telecommunicator was advised that they are in negotiations with the Sheriff's Department and he happened to be walking through and was then invited to the meeting and this is how he found out about it so he does not know what happened in 2-3 weeks that they go from they can't trust the Sheriff's Department and what he is going to charge us, to we are going to give him everything. He reiterated that he does not need any of their equipment, he has his own equipment and they answered 911 10-15 years before the County even thought about answering 911, they don't have the enhanced 911's or Emergency Medical Dispatch, the County does that

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and if they took everything out, the system would still be the same, they would push it down on a seven digit number and they would still answer. He continued by saying that he would caution them with the numbers that the Sheriff gave them for response time and would be interested in encountering them, especially the number of calls and when they talk about 1,066 calls for 2013 and 763 for 2014 alone, in the last three months there has been over 3,000 calls answered in the Town's Dispatch Center and of those apparently very few of them have been 911 calls and many people are telling him that they are not dialing 911 because it's too cumbersome. He went on by saying that when someone is hurt in your house, you have to sit there when a Dispatcher wants to keep you on the line and you have to try and have to find a babysitter for your kids and if you hang up, they continue to call you back and reiterated that they don't need the fancy computer, they know where the big rock is on Starr Road or where Starr Road is, they don't need a map on a computer to tell them. He continued by saying that this is the bottom line, in his budget the only thing that has to change for Communications for next year is whatever percentage rate that they negotiated with the Union, staffing is staying the same, he has not asked for anymore or any less and the equipment that they want, they can take it out, he has his own records management system, phone systems and 911 will be pushed to 2059 and they are set up so if the line is busy it rolls to the next number and continues to roll over, which was discussed at that meeting. He concluded by saying that they were surprised Thursday morning when they were told that they were even looking at it and they need talk to their own people before they start looking outside and finding out what the Town's needs are, advantages and disadvantage, they are supposed to be a team for the people of the Town and he does everything he can to keep cost down but one of the things complained about at the Communications Meeting is the service, meaning the radios and he can't get \$10,000.00 to replace a console so he can't ask for a million dollars to provide the Fire Companies with the repeater system that they want and he advised them that they needed to talk to the Town Board.

Mr. Whitbeck stated that in closing he wants them to reevaluate what they are looking to do and if they are looking at timeframes, at the very least January is not a reasonable timeframe because they have to do evaluations of individual agencies and figure out what they are going to need to do. He added that he is very open to communication and he wants to hear from them and if they want his input, they know where to find him and he thinks that they can somewhat recover from this at this point but it may take a little bit of work and they need to work on their communication skills.

Councilman Masti interjected that he has problems with his Town e-mail and in not having a computer in Town Hall he has to do it remotely and sometimes his computer works with that and sometimes it doesn't and if he needs to contact him, he should send him a text message and he will always get back to him.

Mr. Whitbeck stated that he will stop by later in the week to work on better ways of communicating with each other and he understands that these things come up but it is very frustrating to him that five days after the fact he didn't hear from anyone.

Councilman Dolan interjected that it was anyone except one.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Nancy Warner stated that she is a Village of Ravenna resident and Village Trustee and she would be speaking first as Village Trustee, which is that the 5 on the Town Board and the 5 on the Village Board are very well aware of how rumors fly and how inaccurate they are and her concern, considering that the Village is a very large piece of the Town of Coeymans and this is a very monumental undertaking even if it is just in the discussion phases, that quite possibly they may have been asked to join in even in the beginning stages because it affects them just as much as it affects the Town of Coeymans. She continued by saying this is a perfect time where everyone says we're supposed to cooperate and play nice and she thinks as a Village Trustee, when people come to them and ask them what the story is and for them to say they don't have any idea what you're talking about does not fare well and this goes along with what Travis and a few other people said, the communication part of this as they look back hopefully they will learn something from that and if it is going to include the entire Town, which includes the Village, she thinks they need to be made aware of what is going on and whether it is the thought process, they would have to be a part of it. She added that as a Village resident her question is why is it that every time there is a fiscal crisis or they want to save money, they always hit the Police

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Department and Dispatch and it is the first line-item that they look at to get rid of or to cut and they can't tell her that there are no other places in the Town's Budget where they could find \$60,000.00 because emergency services is not the first place to look. She continued by saying that from where she speaks, she thinks that the Village people carelessly voted away the Village Police Department and nothing against the Town Police Department, they have no say over what happens anymore and if they give away Dispatch, none of them are going to have any say anymore and the Village learned first-hand that the Town Board that sat there at the time, promised them the sky, two cars per shift and all kinds of coverage, which was very short-lived and not in existence today so as soon as they give away another piece of the pie, they will have one less thing to offer when people come here. She continued by saying that they already voted away the Police Department, which was the biggest mistake that they ever made in her opinion and now they want to give away something else and concluded by saying that she thinks that they need to think about it, they should be talking about things that they are going to offer people and not about what they are going to take away from them and asked them not to look to Emergency Services to do that.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Joe Dunn stated that he is the local President for Council 82 and he is not happy and what is most disturbing out of all of this is he is a little disturbed that this all started and the Chief hadn't even been spoken to about what is going on. He added that the research that they mentioned, they said that there was one employee that would be brought over to County that they would be covering but technically there's two, Mike VonSchenk and Nicki McMullen and possibly four because Brian Dunigan and Randy Hotaling technically had Civil Service status before. He continued by saying that they also mentioned the 911 times and it taking a couple of minutes for the call to go through and the people need to know that when 911 gets the call, Albany County is dispatching a paramedic from up there and they start dispatching the call here as soon as they get the information and Albany County will stay on the line with the person. He went on by saying that the Chief had mentioned the number of calls and the 700 for this year so far and they are averaging 1,000 calls that are handled by the Dispatchers so there may be an overlap but not much overlap if they are handling 1,000 calls to dispatch and with 700 to date they are talking averaging 100 so it's 1/10th of the calls.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. John Vadney stated that he was present for the parking issue on Westerlo Street and continued by reading the following:

Good evening, thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here with a few individuals from Westerlo Street in Coeymans. I have been in contact with Mr. Flach for several months pertaining to parking for myself and my tenants in front of 26 Westerlo Street in Coeymans. It is very hard to speak to our busy Supervisor or even get a call back on my cell phone in regard to why myself and my tenants are being ticketed for parking in front of 26 Westerlo Street here in the Town of Coeymans. I would like to thank Mr. Dolan for his quick response and concern on this matter. I was shocked to hear that the right-of-way for highway, gas, electric, phone and cable, it is illegal to park according to certain Coeymans Police. I would like to say that not all Coeymans Police agree with this. When we park within the telephone poles there is over 5 feet from the road and they are certainly not impeding traffic in any way. I was told that the right-of-way was also considered a street by Chief Darlington, he explained that it was the wishes of the Town Board at the time the law was passed. For months just unloading groceries, building materials, loading a car for a student's first day of college and even unloading a baby has been clouded by police presence with ticket book in hand or his handicapped tenant whose rides are told to move, the man has a device hooked to his leg to help him walk. Just the other day his helper was unloading supplies, the tenant was unloading her baby, again an Officer with badge 102 pulled up, impeded traffic with his vehicle by parking on the street and the only way to describe his behavior is rude, which was in front of several witnesses. When asked why he was issuing tickets, he said that the Chief wanted anyone parking at 26 Westerlo to receive a citation, which was also witnessed by several individuals. The Officer did not ask them to move, he said he was just unloading supplies, he had tickets already written and I asked in looking up the street why at least 5 vehicles had never received tickets, the Officer said nothing. I watched as he drove past other so called illegally parked cars, with no citations, just 26 Westerlo. I invested here to help with a positive movement, not only big business but the staple of small ownership of our

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community. I am here to ask that the petty actions of certain individuals stop for law abiding citizens so they can grow with their families to make a strong community. I ask that the Board make a statement tonight to stop what some say is harassment of minorities and hardworking citizens trying to survive raising their families. We have many obstacles here in the Town of Coeymans as he heard tonight, this issue that I have spoken out should not be on that list. I would like to hear from all of you tonight with your thoughts and hopefully common sense will prevail.

Councilman Dolan interjected that they are going to discuss this later in the meeting and he had discussed it with Mr. Vadney and he does not know the legal underpinning but he knows that there is no parking on that street but there seems to be four properties west of 26 Westerlo Street where people have cut-outs on the road and they are allowed to park there and it seemed to be equal distance off the road as in front of 26 Westerlo Street and they will discuss it later.

Mr. Vadney stated that all the cars parked on the street in front of Town Hall are illegal if it is the same at 26 Westerlo because and there is no parking on the street.

Supervisor Flach stated that he didn't know and he would have to ask the Chief of Police.

Mr. Vadney stated that if you go to the end of Church Street, at the apartment building there is a sign that says "No Parking" but everyone is parked there and he asked those individuals and they never got a ticket.

Supervisor Flach stated that if the Board recalls, he did bring it up to them after he spoke with Mr. Vadney a couple of times, he came to his office once and they spoke on the phone once or twice, he also discussed it with Chief Darlington and Highway Superintendent Searles and it is what they currently have for a law and this is where it was left.

Mr. Vadney stated that Section 156 of Vehicle and Traffic Law says a street, not off-street parking and if you are on the street it agrees 100% that they should be ticketed in that area but if they are off the street they should not be ticketed.

Chief Darlington asked if they were going to discuss it later in the meeting.

Supervisor Flach stated that they were and then asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Mr. Thomas Boehm stated that he lives at 53 Coons Road in Coeymans Hollow and added that the thing that concerns him the most is as it has been said, lack of communication but also lack of expressions of your opinion to the public. He continued by saying that some of them have seen the Sheriff, they have talked amongst themselves but they have to talk amongst themselves in front of the public and then asked the Town Board what their thoughts are right now. He went on by saying that this is the problem and it is where they get bushwhacked on a Friday afternoon when no one knows about these things and then asked Supervisor Flach if it is in his Budget because he has heard rumors that he has taken it completely out of the Tentative Budget.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not have his Tentative Budget completed.

Mr. Boehm stated that it is a big thing and he should remember if he took Communications out.

Supervisor Flach reiterated that he didn't finish his Tentative Budget and he will know next Friday what his Budget is.

Mr. Boehm stated that this is the thing and they don't want to be surprised.

Supervisor Flach stated that the fact of the matter is that the communication that everyone is talking about, they have not done; they just talked about it Tuesday and have not had a public meeting.

Mr. Boehm stated that they have talked about it before behind the scenes in the back room and this is the problem because they don't communicate, people don't know what's going on and then they get a room full of people because they are frustrated.

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Supervisor Flach reiterated that it was the beginning of the week on Tuesday when they talked about it and they have not had a meeting since.

Mr. Boehm reiterated that they talked long before now about getting rid of Communications.

Supervisor Flach stated that they actually hadn't and they just went to see the Sheriff.

Mr. Boehm asked if they are racing to get it done for the Budget.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he didn't even know there was a possibility until the Sheriff came to the meeting and he didn't realize that there was a possibility of separating the two.

Mr. Boehm stated that they are talking about Westerlo Street but they are not talking about Communications and then asked why.

Supervisor Flach stated they were not at that point yet.

Mr. Boehm stated that he thinks they are at that point now and should talk about it.

Supervisor Flach agreed that they are at that point now and he said that they were going to have an Emergency Management Meeting but they are not doing it now.

Mr. Boehm asked that he let the people know how he feels now.

Supervisor Flach said he will let the public know how he feels.

Councilman Burns interjected that he personally does not know how he feels yet because they talked to the Sheriff's Department and later they find out that there are discrepancies in what they said so they don't know who to trust then they listen to the Chief and he makes a lot of sense in explaining it to them but when you go back to the Sheriff's Department they contradict all of it. He reiterated that he does not know where he stands right now, he is taking in information and will not make a decision until he is really comfortable in knowing what is going on and people will know about it before they make a decision. He concluded by saying that he is new at this and trying to take it all in, he is not a Dispatcher, he is not a Police Officer and he is trying to take in the pros and cons from both sides.

Mr. Boehm stated that he is not criticizing him for that, he is criticizing them for not sharing their thoughts with the people.

Councilman Burns reiterated that he does not know how he feels because he does not have enough information to make a decision himself let alone discuss it with anyone.

Mr. Boehm asked Supervisor Flach how he feels about putting it in the Budget or taking it out.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not have an answer right now because he does not have enough information.

Mr. Boehm interjected that it is a big part of the problem and he hopes that they discuss later in the meeting so he can let people know.

Supervisor Flach stated that it doesn't make sense.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he looks at the Budget and asks what they can do because in the process of campaigning he found out that a lot of people are not happy with the taxes they are paying and what they are getting for them so when he looks at things, he is constantly looking at what they are getting for their investment. He added that when he finds out that Communications is running somewhere around \$250,000.00 and it's likely going to be bumped over \$300,000.00 a year so he has to look at it and ask if it truly a duplication of services and if they are paying for it for nothing.

Mr. Boehm asked what the flip side is and what it is going to cost to go with the County.

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Councilman Langdon stated that this is the part that he doesn't know yet and from what he is hearing as he is getting input from people, is the idea that maybe they need to keep local numbers with the people downstairs but the 911 definitely seems to be very much a duplication of services and if it has to go to the County first and then come here with some life threatening situations going back there because of some of training in the Dispatch there, he does not know if he is missing something and it is what he is open to hear about. He continued by saying that when they talk about non 911 calls, which they asked to get a number on for several days to find out how many calls came totally came in and earlier in the meeting, it was the first time that they heard the number.

Chief Darlington interjected that it was only asked of him earlier in the day.

Councilman Langdon stated that he thought it was asked the other day.

Chief Darlington stated that it was asked of him in the morning from Lisa and his Dispatchers started working on it frantically.

Mr. Boehm interjected that his fear is that they are trying to shove it into Budget time and that it is not going to appear in the Budget, they will make some mistakes and unfortunately it could cause people their lives.

Chief Darlington stated that to clarify the request from Lisa, she stated that it was to help justify Dispatch and she wanted to help them, it was not the Supervisor who wanted it, she wanted it.

Mr. Boehm stated from his own personal experience in living in Coeymans Hollow is that he called 911 a couple years ago and he got Dutchess County so he had to call the local number to get the Dispatch Center, during the hurricanes the Dispatch Center helped them man the shelters because the County would have been overwhelmed with what they had down here so there is a strong need for it and he hopes that they consider that. He added that he understands that people want to keep the taxes low but there are certain things that they can't skimp on and one is protecting the people of our community.

Councilman Dolan stated that it was explained to them by the Sheriff that when you call 911 you can sometimes get the wrong County, particularly if you use a cell phone because when you use a cell phone it does not necessarily bounce off this tower, it could bounce off a tower and you could get Rensselaer County, Columbia County, etc.

Chief Darlington stated that last week there was a home invasion where it went to Columbia County first and then Rensselaer County, on to Albany County to finally here.

Mr. Boehm stated that it is a big issue, he knows they have a lot on their plate and it is not the only issue and then asked that they as much as possible bring it out here and share their concerns with the other Board Members and allow the public to hear it and be able to comment because there are a lot of smart people who have been doing it for years and know their stuff.

Councilman Langdon stated that the first thing he did when he saw Councilman Dolan, because he hadn't seen him since they started talking about it, was that he asked him how he felt about it.

Councilman Dolan stated that except from the call from the Supervisor telling him that they were getting rid of it and it was out of his Budget, that was the first conversation that he had with a Town Board Member about it.

Mr. Boehm asked if thought it was out of the Budget and added that it is what he was trying to clarify.

Councilman Dolan stated that it is what he said and when he spoke with Sheriff Apple about it because he spoke to him at an event, he told him that all four Board Members had been up to see him and they told him it was out of the Budget and they wanted to know what services would be provided to the Town of Coeymans if they no longer had Dispatch and added that maybe the Sheriff was shading what he had to say but this is what he told him.

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Councilman Burns stated that he was shading because he had no idea that it was out of the Budget.

Councilman Dolan stated that two years ago when the Sheriff was here, and Mr. Boehm may remember it, he told them that for him to take over Dispatch it would cost the Town of Coeymans \$296,832.00 a year and that the savings would go down each year for the Town and they would roughly be paying \$375,000.00 at the end of five years. He reiterated that this is what was said two years ago on September 24, 2012.

Councilman Boehm stated that it was a big number.

Councilman Langdon interjected that if it is the number they are looking at, they would be saving money keeping it.

Councilman Dolan stated that it is what he said.

Councilman Langdon stated that he didn't see that because he was not here.

Councilwoman Rogers suggested that they go back in the minutes, which Diane can get them a copy of and they can see the amounts.

Councilman Dolan interjected that he has them.

Councilman Langdon stated that none of those numbers were given to him when he sat down in his office.

Mr. Boehm stated that they need to get to the bottom of it and get some accurate figures and numbers.

Councilman Dolan stated that Mr. Boehm's point is well taken because if they are going to discuss something as big as this, they should do it in public and it might not be comfortable.

Mr. Boehm stated that it isn't comfortable but it has to be transparent.

Councilman Dolan stated that it does have to be transparent and they are talking about things that affect everyone in Town and maybe everyone doesn't want a Dispatch Center or want to pay taxes on it but they have a responsibility and a legal responsibility to discuss these things in public and not find out by a phone call after everyone has discussed it and been to the Sheriff and to find out in a phone call after Dispatch heard about it.

Mr. Boehm stated that he hopes that they continue to discuss it and asked that they be kept in the loop.

Supervisor Flach interjected that for everyone's information they are only allowed to have two Board Members meet at a time and that is what they did when they went to the Sheriff, he and Councilman Langdon went and spoke with him and then Councilmen Burns and Masti went to listen to what he had to say and this is why Councilman Dolan didn't go so he called him to tell him to call the Sheriff.

Councilman Dolan stated that they could have told him in advance that they were going and added that he has his phone number.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not have to tell anyone where he is going and he can talk to people.

Ms. Jolene Hopkins stated that she was there for something completely unrelated and in sitting there and listening, she thought she ought to share her story with them. She continued by saying that she had her son on June 21st of this year and it was an emergency situation, she had placenta-previa and was hemorrhaging and her husband called the local Dispatch and they were at their house within 10 minutes and she was at St. Peters Hospital within 30 minutes, which is incredible and if he had called 911, she does not know if they would have been at her house in that short of time and she does not know what that situation would have been. She added that if

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they are considering getting rid of the local Dispatch she would suggest that they do a longer study and not make any hasty decisions because it is a life and death situation because she never expected to have to be picked up at 2:00am and have an ambulance ride to the hospital and they need to take their time and think it through and that no one likes paying taxes but when it comes to a difference of life and death, she would choose life. She continued by saying that she was actually there because of the proposals on the agenda for the landfill and recycling and she is completely appalled by the comments that she read from the Supervisor in the paper. She went on to say that to call residents, his constituents, selfish, completely blows her mind because they are the people that he was elected to serve and he is not living down there, she is not one of the individuals on the lawsuit but he does not live there, he is not living this and having untold number of trucks driving by his house on a daily basis where there aren't any sidewalks and if she wants to walk with her child to the post office she has to push the stroller or carry him off on the side of the road with no sidewalks and there are dump trucks filled with material, which she does not know what it is and trucks are flying down the road not doing 35 mph talking on their cell phones. She went on by saying that the traffic has increased tenfold or better and the infrastructure is not able to support it, Rte. 144 is not made for that kind of traffic, it is unsafe and she invites them to come and sit at her house or someone's porch and watch the traffic and then tell her that they feel safe giving their kid a key to the post office to go walk down there in the winter when you have piles of snow and there aren't any options other than walking in the middle of the street. She concluded by saying that nobody is against development, everyone wants there to be jobs but they have to follow the proper procedures and protocol and can't just force something through.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Mary Driscoll stated that she comes to Town Board Meetings all the time and as long as they are doing their Budget she would like to see them do something about the acoustics in the room so everyone can hear them in the back, especially when they talked amongst themselves and at home it is the same way. She continued by saying that she believes that she is the oldest person in the room, her family came over on the Mayflower, they have been here a long time and fought for good government in every war and over the years she has kept an interest in politics and the topic about the County taking over has been raised several times and it will come eventually, she knows that it won't be in her lifetime. She added that it is up to the young people in the room to fight for small government because the politicians want the County to take over the Towns and Villages, then they are going to go into zones and then to states and that is how Hitler got into power, they did away with small government and the United States was created with small government. She went on by saying that as far as the EMS are concerned, if it wasn't for them she would not be here and more than once she has called Dispatch and they were there within 2-3 minutes and that is the kind of service that we get from them, which is a big point for the Town of Coeymans, to have their own Dispatch Office and to have the great EMS services that they have there now. She continued by saying that she was around when they started talking about centralizing the schools and they gave them a song and dance about how it would be cheaper, they would save money and the kids would be better off and in looking at the central schools now, they are not saving money and we are fortunate that we have smaller classes than some of the other central schools. She added that she thinks that our school is doing a good job but they have had to put layer upon layer of management because of the State and she does not think that they are really saving money, at least not on her tax bill. She went on by saying that since he became Supervisor he has made great strides and leaps of faith in promoting the Town of Coeymans and she would hate to see him take five steps back in going with the County for anything and she knows that he has to consider everything and she is sure that he didn't call the Sheriff first, she is sure that the Sheriff and County Executive Dan McCoy came down with their ideas at first. She concluded by saying that as far as she is concerned a lot of it is political and a lot of politics and he is doing a great job and should keep it up and then asked that he not do anything with Dispatch and the EMS.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments, hearing none he asked if the Board had any comments.

Councilman Burns stated that he agrees with Mary and he doesn't like big government either and it is one of the biggest things when they talked about the Police Department a while ago, he likes the Town being independent from everything else. He continued by saying that he had the privilege of working for the Village of Ravena and he built a lot of stuff in the old Dispatch

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Center in the school and he saw firsthand by watching the Dispatchers work and Highway Superintendent Searles was a Dispatcher at that time along with Judy Tucker and Mike VonSchenk and they were busy all the time. He reiterated that he likes having our own Dispatch but when they start talking about numbers, and he is not putting safety on the back burner, but then you see what it is costing them to run it, you to listen to all sides, what the Sheriff has to offer, you listen to Greg and Dawne who know about our Dispatch and as far as he is concerned, they are just taking in knowledge to make a good decision on what is best for everyone. He concluded by saying that the small government issue is big with him and he does not like the County taking over something because like Trustee Warner said, when they gave away the Village Police Department they lost control over controlling their people and if there are people acting in an improper manner you can do something about it but if it is in the County, you can call them all you want but from what he has seen with getting roads repaired and other things that they need done by the County, they say they will do their best and things still aren't done and as far as he is concerned they are taking this all into consideration.

Councilman Dolan stated that he spent \$75,000.00 to build a salt shed because they said they could not trust the County and there was a meeting with the County where some people stormed out yet they are willing to save a few dollars and cast this out to the County and added that he thinks that it is a double standard.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he didn't count \$250,000.00 as a few dollars.

Councilman Dolan stated that it is not what he said.

Councilman Langdon stated that he didn't have that because he wasn't here.

Councilman Dolan stated that Councilman Langdon should have done his homework.

Councilman Langdon stated that it is what he is trying to do.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would want to find out the facts before he met with the Sheriff so he can meet with him and have something to back it up with.

Councilman Langdon stated that it was a starting point.

Supervisor Flach interjected that he was not going to apologize for a starting point.

Councilman Langdon stated that he wasn't going to either and he is trying to gather information where he can find it and he is trying to do it in a way that isn't going to ruffle feathers as much as possible and they knew at some point when they started talking about it a week ago, that at some point they would let it out and they would begin to get feedback, which is where they are at and they act like it has been going on for a year that they have been planning it in secret and that is not true.

Councilman Dolan stated that as Mr. Boehm pointed out, decisions like this need to be discussed in public, in front of the public and not behind closed doors where four of the Town Board Members are discussing it and not telling the other Board Member that they are discussing it and it is hardly open government in addition to arranging to skirt the Open Meeting Law by going two by two to see the Sheriff is hardly the spirit of the law.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not see a problem with talking about it.

Councilman Dolan stated that the problem is that he doesn't see a problem and obviously a lot of people see a problem with it.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Flach stated that here were two sets of minutes for Town Board approval, a Bid Opening on September 11th and a Bid Opening on September 18th, and then asked for a motion to approve them.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Masti, the minutes of the September 11th Bid Opening for the Sludge Hauling was approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Burns the minutes of the September 18th Meeting for the Highway Garage Roof were approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0

Supervisor Flach stated that the motions were to approve the minutes and then asked the Board if they needed time to look at them or if they wanted to proceed with awarding the bids.

Collectively the Town Board agreed to award the bids.

Supervisor Flach offered a motion to accept the bid for the Sludge Hauling.

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Langdon, accepting the bid from Blue Diamond for the Sludge Hauling.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Burns, accepting the bid from G.B. General Construction in the amount of \$28,000.00 for replacing the Highway Garage Roof.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0

Supervisor Flach stated that there was only one bid for replacing the roof and they had \$25,000.00 budgeted for that but they actually have \$32,000.00 in the fund, which was not budgeted fully out of there and they will have to do a budget amendment for that.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

August 2014

FUND	BAL. FWD.	RECEIPTS	DISBURSE.	BALANCE
GENERAL	\$125,944.08	\$321,477.98	\$332,191.24	\$115,230.82
PART-TOWN	\$724,520.25	\$ 1,345.02	\$426,455.61	\$299,409.66
HIGHWAY	\$ 41,841.23	\$157,982.00	\$ 54,133.26	\$145,689.97
BRIDGE CONST.	\$ 29,079.17	\$ 3.97	\$	\$ 29,083.14
SEWER	\$133,541.35	\$ 84,972.82	\$ 30,972.75	\$187,541.42
SPECIAL WATER	\$ 36,533.66	\$ 544.95	-0-	\$ 37,078.61
POLICE FORF.	\$ 20,252.90	\$ 19,840.31	\$ 4,415.88	\$ 35,677.33

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TRUST & AGCY	\$ 19,062.86	\$221,922.49	\$224,843.38	\$ 16,141.97
H-FUND CAP. PROJ.	\$492,551.29	\$ 75,096.32	\$	\$567,647.61
SECTION 8 FUND 76 UNITS	\$ 8,183.37	\$ 47,916.84	\$ 42,083.73	\$ 14,016.48
			Total Rec. Bal.	\$1,447,517.01

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Unemployment	\$ 703.37
Grove Cem.	\$40,941.30
C.H. Cem.	\$13,430.46
Sewer Ded.	\$ 0.24
Total	\$55,075.37

**COLLATERAL FDIC COV. COLLATERALIZED
COVERAGE**

Greene County	\$250,000.00	\$2,340,686.45
National Bank	\$250,000.00	\$1,105,267.00

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Langdon the Supervisor's Report was accepted as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES – 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Clerk – August 2014

Supervisor Flach asked Town Clerk Millious to give the Town Clerk Monthly Report.

Town Clerk Millious continued by giving the report.

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to approve the report.

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Sewer Department – August 2014

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

Councilman Dolan continued by giving the report.

Supervisor Flach asked for motion to approve the report.

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Councilman Dolan stated that since Mr. Kerr was present, he wanted to thank him for the work that he did with the summer youth.

Mr. Kerr stated that he enjoyed working with them.

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Councilman Dolan stated that he did a really good job with them and usually working at the Sewer Plant is not every boy's dream but they all really liked working there and he loved how he treated them.

OLD BUSINESS

Establish Public Hearing for Proposed Local Landfill Law & Special Facilities Law

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Dolan, establishing Public Hearings for Proposed Local Landfill & Proposed Local Special Facilities law.

VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 1 – SO MOVED

Councilman Dolan asked if they were still going under the theory that the Building Inspector had said in that people will be violating the law by recycling their oil at for example Mueller's or returning their tires that they didn't buy in Town.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is part of the problem that they have because if you let one do it, you have to let everyone do it and if it is good for one, it has to be good for all.

Councilman Dolan stated that the law has been on the books for 20-40 years and then asked how many tickets were written for someone bringing their oil back that they purchased in Glenmont.

Supervisor Flach stated that he didn't know.

Councilman Dolan stated that it is zero and added that the reason for changing the law is bogus and it is hard for anyone to draw any conclusion other than it's changing the law so something that some businessman has in mind will be able to do what he is doing that he is not currently allowed to do by law. He added that they would not put such a fine point on it by saying that you can bring garbage into Town but you just can't bury it, you could have hundreds of tons of it piled up and as long as you don't bury it, it is okay. He continued by saying that it is ludicrous that they are expected to believe it especially when they are told when people returning cans and bottles that were bought in Glenmont are in violation of the law and if that is the case he is sure that there is a crowd of people who are willing to confess to the crime and the Building Inspector can issue tickets and they can litigate it because it is the most ridiculous thing that he has ever heard. He concluded by saying that this is his thought on that.

Supervisor Flach stated that this is the reason that they are having a Public Hearing so they can hear everyone's take on it.

Councilman Langdon asked the date of the Public Hearing.

Ms. Lawler asked where they will be able to take a look at the Proposed Local Landfill and Special Facilities Law well enough in advance of the Public Hearing so they can form an opinion.

Supervisor Flach stated that it will be well in advance and available in the Town Clerk's Office.

A member of the audience asked if they will need to do a SEQRA for this.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would think so.

A member of the audience asked if the SEQRA would be before or after the Public Hearing.

Councilman Dolan stated that he was not sure.

Discussion ensued regarding the date for the Public Hearings, collectively the Board agreed to October 14th at 6:00 and 6:30pm.

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Ms. Lawler stated that it is only a couple of weeks away and added that it is not going to give the public enough time to read through two new laws and schedule time to come to a Public Hearing.

Supervisor Flach stated that they are actually two pages long and they had already been discussed a year and a half ago when some of the Board Members didn't want to look at it.

Councilman Langdon interjected that it is actually three weeks.

A member of the audience interjected that a lot has changed since then.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is only a Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Westerlo Street Parking

Supervisor Flach asked that Chief Darlington talk about Westerlo Street parking.

Chief Darlington stated that he asked to be on the agenda because Mr. Vadney had come in and talked to him and added that he first wanted to explain that his Officers are informed to enforce all parking throughout the Town and Village of Ravena by both Boards' request. He added that he has minutes that go back to February 2004 where issues were raised under Chief Giroux and then himself asking why they are not enforcing parking on Westerlo Street and more importantly why not in the area of Main Street to Colvin Avenue. He continued by saying that he was summoned to the prior Supervisor's Office and asked why he was protecting Rose Gladney and her family by not writing tickets for parking in front of their home as well as being asked by previous Board Members and all of the complaints were made from residents on Westerlo Street. He went on by saying that he has had video camera downloaded and handed to him of his Officers asking people to please move and not park there because people were complaining and the Board was getting complaints, which is the kind of Police Department that he thought they wanted but apparently over the years they were advised that warning was not working and it should be enforced. He added that then the question came up as to if they move over far enough, are they out of the roadway and it talks about there being a sidewalk there and the Vehicle and Traffic Law prohibits parking on a sidewalk. He reiterated that Supervisor Hotaling called him in when the accusations were made that he was protecting residents down there and not enforcing the law and he has asked the Boards what they are expecting and he was told that the residents in that area want enforcement and ever since then, enforcement has been happening. He continued by saying that people have cut-outs into their walls, which constitute drive-ways and parking tickets have been a huge issue as to whether they are actually court enforceable and it has been an issue that they have tried to get clarified and if it is a true public safety issue, his Officers have no problem enforcing it but to write tickets for facing the wrong direction, parking on the wrong side and things like that, his Officers have no desire to sit and write tickets that sit in the Court Room unanswered and a previous Judge will tell them that they are not enforceable. He went on by saying that his Officers are told, if they see a violation, write a ticket and added that it is interesting when you are in a Law Enforcement position, especially in a small town, because Boards tend to go on what the voters want and this is where it is hard for his Officers because if you start writing certain individuals or family members of individuals or companies they are accused of being a Police State and they are in a no win situation and as he has said for years, he didn't take the job for a popularity contest, it is a matter of doing what is right and if the Board does not want Westerlo Street to be enforced, they need to change the law to make it where they can park there and the roadway is considered any part of it that is 25 feet from the center. He concluded by saying that they have measured and he has had meetings with Highway Superintendent Deering and now Superintendent Searles and Westerlo Street in that area is a tough spot and if they are far off the street, it is okay but as soon as they move over it is a question as to where the limit is.

Councilman Dolan stated that he spoke with Mr. Vadney about it and it is on his way home and from work so he stopped down there and looked and he noticed that there have been people parking around there as well as knowing the history of the area and if you look up further west, up Westerlo Street, there are a couple of cut-outs where people have made a parking spot as well

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as places that are blacktopped where people park off the road and no one has ever said anything about that. He continued by saying that if the answer is the sidewalk and they need to change something, he would be in favor of talking to the Attorney for the Town to see what they have to do to change the parking there. He added that the parking where Mr. Vadney's rental unit is, if they are parked the way that he has seen the last few months, they are off the street and certainly more off the street and further from the center of the road than the south-side of Westerlo Street after you cross Blaisdell and there are parts where cars can park that are really tight and it seems to be a truism that if you are going up the hill, right when you get to the narrowest part, there is a car coming down.

Chief Darlington stated that he agrees with the way that they are parking, they are far enough off the street.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that technically from Gladney's house down on that side there is a sidewalk, which is supposed to be 4 feet so they would have to do something.

Councilman Dolan interjected that technically it might be a sidewalk but it does not operate as one or is used as one in general and there is a home that is directly west of Fifth Street, there is a house or two in there that is identically paved blacktop on what might be considered a sidewalk and people are parking off the road and saying the exact thing. He added that his point is well taken on what he said about complaints but he is not doing it based on an affinity for Mr. Vadney, it is because he called him up to say what he had to say and it made sense and he went and looked at the situation. He continued by saying that if the law allows him now to park there, it should be their policy and if it requires a change, he thinks that they need the work to make it change.

Chief Darlington stated that he will agree, as many of his Officer's agree, that when the cars are over, they don't have an issue with it, it was residents in the area that were very specific who brought up the whole right-of-way and it got to the point where parking on Westerlo Street was perceived to be as bad as any crime the Town had and they actually got criticized because they were busy with a call in Coeymans Hollow and it took ten minutes to get to the parking complaint and by the time that they got there, they moved because they have scanners. He added that his answer to that was that if they moved, the problem was resolved and it does not take writing tickets to resolve a problem and all it took was a call to Rose Gladney to stop parking there but then there were other people parking where they shouldn't so they started parking there again so the calls started up again, which may have been a neighbor dispute that they were put in the middle of. He continued by saying that Mr. Vadney has no off-street parking and he gives him credit for parking that close to the house because they can't even sit on their front stoop if there is a car parked there. He concluded by saying that he has no issue not issuing a ticket but his question is what the Board is going to do, because there is a resident who raised the concern and in turn he asked what they are going to do.

Supervisor Flach asked if there was a sidewalk on the opposite side of the street.

Councilman Dolan stated that there is and it is actually a sidewalk that is not blacktopped.

Supervisor Flach stated that the sidewalk from Rte. 144 past the Gladney's right up to Fifth Street there is no sidewalk other than where there is blacktop over what was a sidewalk.

Highway Superintendent Searles interjected that it used to be concrete but then was blacktopped because it was in such disrepair.

Supervisor Flach stated that where Mr. Vadney's was is now blacktopped.

Chief Darlington stated that it goes all the way to Main Street on that side.

Supervisor Flach asked if they could abandon it as a sidewalk.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that they could.

Mr. Vadney stated that if a car is parked on the street, the Police give a ticket if it is outside of the telephone pole because it is breaking the law but if you look at the sidewalk in front of 24

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and 26 where one family owns both buildings and where the blacktop is, it is where the sidewalk belongs but they covered it over with blacktop and inside the telephone pole there is ample room to park.

Supervisor Flach stated that he agrees but in talking to Highway Superintendent Searles, if it is officially a sidewalk, they would have to change something.

Councilman Dolan reiterated that they should ask the Attorney for the Town about what they can do.

Mr. Vadney stated that on the other side, the sidewalk with the curb is 4'6" and if there is sidewalk line, he measured the road earlier in the day in different areas from the top up by the Fire Department all the way down to the end of the road where the parking lot is and they have room to park there if they hug the porch area. He added that they are not looking for anyone to not uphold the law, they are looking at it as if they are parked inside there and they are not impeding traffic, they should have the right to park there.

Supervisor Flach questioned that if they park inside the telephone poles like the people from Colvin up do, whether or not from the telephone pole there is a 4 foot sidewalk section in between where they are parking.

Mr. Vadney stated that there isn't.

Councilman Langdon stated that there is a sidewalk across the street.

Mr. Vadney interjected that it is actually very dangerous for someone to walk up that side of the street.

Chief Darlington stated that approximately 4 years ago they took out the sidewalk that was between Gladney's to Fifth that used to sit up higher and it used to go around and on the edge of the wall there was a sidewalk by Gladney's but he thinks that their hedges have expanded out.

Councilman Dolan stated that he thinks the problem with that as a sidewalk is as you come down Main Street and people are legally parked perpendicular there, it is really hard to see around that corner and you have to commit to stepping out in the road to see what is coming.

Mr. Vadney stated that as Chief Darlington had said earlier, there was a dispute with a couple of neighbors across from him and he mediated a lot of that by speaking to the people and asking that they not call the Police when it can be taken care of by telling the people that if they are parked outside of the area they are going to get a ticket and if you are inside the area you should be fine and reiterated that he asked that they not call the Police on ridiculous issues with each other when it is personal. He added that all he is asking is, if he or his tenants are parked within the pole and not impeding traffic or causing a dangerous situation for the public, they should have the right to park there and Chapter 156 has nothing in the law pertaining to right-of-way and states that if you are parking on the street it is illegal and it does not matter if it is upper or lower, it's illegal and they should be ticketed but like all the other residents that are in the vicinity of where they are parked on their property, they are not being ticketed and he knows it because he asked and if they were he would be honest enough to tell them which ones they were. He continued by saying that they are trying to bring people into Town and these are very small issues that are on the agenda but they are citizens also and they have a right to be on the agenda and the Chief has a right to uphold the law but as long as they follow the law and are not impeding traffic or on the street, his tenants and himself should be allowed to park in that area. He went on by saying that earlier in the day someone parked in front of his place the wrong way and he told him to get out of there and it is the same about peeling out on the roads, which has ceased, they decided that they are not going to take it because they are a community and they need to all work together to stop the nonsense or else it is not going to work. He went on by saying that it is trivial with the parking and they are trying to build their neighborhood and Town and there are good people coming and paying rent so he can support his building, which was ready to fall down when he bought it and he put a lot of money into it and he wants to buy more buildings down there and get rid of some of the people that don't care such as the out-of-towners who buy the buildings, take the rent and run and don't care what their buildings look like but they are going to change that. He concluded by saying it's a small change but as the law says, if

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they are on the street and parked the wrong way they should get a ticket and they are reaching people who were fighting before and are now talking, which is a big step and this won't change the whole outlook on everything but it is going to help and as they know, it takes small steps, which is what they are doing.

Highway Superintendent Searles interjected that the only thing that he would request is that from the telephone pole where Burton's live and down that they put a No Parking sign from here to the corner with the rest being fine with him.

Chief Darlington stated that Mr. Vadney is being a responsible landlord in saying that they are going to be off the street but his only concern is that if they change it to allowing parking and they start encroaching into the roadway, on the corner they are going to create an issue so the question is in presenting to the Attorney for the Town, if they paint a line which designates the Town road and they are parked beyond the line and no longer on the roadway, they cannot enforce it. He added that he believes that they have to legally abandon the sidewalk because Mrs. Burton likes her sidewalk, cleans her sidewalk and takes care of it and for her to cross the street and walk down and then come back up, they would have to make an exception.

Councilman Dolan interjected that they could make "no parking" from there down.

Chief Darlington stated that they could still designate it the Town's sidewalk and make the exception because they don't have off-street parking but do have room that they can and it allows for two reasons, they can park there and if anyone other than them parks there, they can tell them to leave but the Police can't enforce it because it is no longer in the roadway.

Mr. Vadney stated that he believes that he does not have any right to tell anyone in the public because he believes that anyone has a right to park within the telephone pole.

Chief Darlington stated that it would not be if they are saying that it is their roadway and not their sidewalk and it would be like someone parking on his front lawn off the roadway out of the right-of-way he could have the car removed and added that Mr. Vadney does not have a front yard because it is blacktop.

Mr. Vadney stated that the sidewalk was built for those houses and their personal use and the street sidewalk has been covered over by blacktop and that is why they were not parking on that area because people do have a right to walk there. He continued by saying that Mrs. Burton was one of the individuals with the parking there and now when her son visits, he parks outside the fence so she does not have to tell him to move his car.

Chief Darlington stated that his concern is if it is a sidewalk, it's a sidewalk and they need to pick where they are going to abandon the sidewalks and allowing off-street parking by a line and if you are over the line, you are subject to ticketing, which will probably only happen if there is a complaint because there is an enforcement question on them.

Mr. Vadney stated that he wants to make everyone whole on that street, meaning that if you are parked illegal you get a ticket but if you parked legally you don't, all the way up the street, and whole is a legal term where everyone is equal.

Chief Darlington reiterated that they could mark the street and anyone over it would get a ticket.

Mr. Vadney stated that he is looking to get the community together so they don't have these dispute, they will continue to have disagreements because it is human nature when you live so close together but to work together and start acting as a community down there, it is a rebuilding process and from what happened years ago, he can understand the miscommunications and arguments back and forth with the police in the middle. He added that in Albany where he owns building they had a Weed and Seed Program, which was acknowledged in Washington and it brought everyone together, instead of fighting and having disputes and calling police, it became controlled and it is happening here, they are speaking and if someone has a complaint or they have an agitating issue, many times they will call him and he will go down and they talk about it and they don't call the Police because they have other important issues that they have to deal with but if it gets out of hand they will be called. He went on by saying that everyone on that end of the street has the acknowledgement that this is what we can do, this is what we can't do and as

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far as the Gladney's, he can see where they park and he knows now that they can't park there because it is impeding the safety of the public because they are too close to the road and when it happens, they are told that they have to move their car and with Mrs. Burton across the road, they don't do that anymore. He concluded by saying that things have quieted down and he hopes that they can do it everywhere by having people talking and eliminating the nonsense and with what they are doing in speaking about this is letting people know that if they have a problem, they can go and speak with someone and get a decent answer.

Chief Darlington stated that he would like to thank Mr. Vadney because with past incidences they came and made accusations and he spoke with Mr. Vadney and in turn he addressed the demeanor of his Officer and this was the first time that there has been professional dialog and he be discussed at a Board Meeting. He concluded by saying that he thinks they can move forward and hopefully resolve it once and for all.

Supervisor Flach asked about painting a line.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that they don't have a paint striping program or materials.

Mr. Vadney interjected that it is something to start with until they can move forward and it will be little steps.

Councilman Dolan stated that Mr. Vadney referred to it as trivial and he does not think that it is trivial and it is important that they discuss it and based upon his conversation with Mr. Vadney and checking it out with Mr. Vadney, he thinks what he has in mind is very reasonable and he didn't discuss it with the Chief of Police behind closed doors or try to tell him what to do and if the Town Board is going to address this, it should be done in public and his point about everyone being treated equally is well taken.

Mr. Vadney stated that it should be what is good for everyone and what will make them whole up and down the street so no one can go to the Chief and say that he is doing this for John Vadney. He added that he is a only a citizen and landowner and he wants to make his neighborhood safe for the community and he thinks that this will show people that when you follow the law and go the right way on issues, good things can happen for everyone and this he firmly believes.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would just ask that it all be done legally so someday they are not all there discussing the same issue, which was never addressed through the law and there would be nothing to refer back to.

Mr. Vadney thanked the Town Board for putting it on the agenda and listening.

Supervisor Flach stated that he would discuss it with Attorney for the Town Wukitsch to see exactly what they have to do and thanked Mr. Vadney.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #138-14 AUTHORIZE CHIEF OPERATOR OF WWTP TO ATTEND SEMINAR

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

WHEREAS, the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) will be holding a Public Works Training School in Saratoga Springs on October 20-22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, John Kerr, Chief Sewer Treatment Plant Operator is desirous of attending this conference which will provide credit hours required by NYS DEC to maintain licensing; and

WHEREAS, a prepaid registration fee for these classes are required, meals and lodging, travel to and from the conference shall not exceed \$800.00,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that John Kerr is hereby authorized to attend this conference in Saratoga Springs, New York, October 20-22, 2014.

RES. #139-14 APPROVE SEPTEMBER ABSTRACT

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Masti, the following resolution was APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – 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 September 2014, Abstract.

ACCOUNT	VOUCHER #	AMOUNT
GENERAL (A)		
General Pre-Pay	1751-1799	\$188,857.09
General	1858-1897	\$ 35,826.89
	General Total	\$224,683.98
POLICE FORFEITURE (A)		
Police Forfeiture Pre-Pay	1800-1802	\$ 4,099.28
	Police Forf. Total	\$ 4,099.28
POLICE FORTEITURE LOCAL		
Pol. Forf. Local Pre-Pay	1803-1804	\$ 5,000.00
	Police Forf. Local	\$ 5,000.00
POLICE FORFEITURE FEDERAL		
Police Forf. Federal Pre-Pay	1805	\$ 1,020.00
	Police Forf. Federal	\$ 1,020.00
PART TOWN (B)		
Part Town Pre-Pay	1806-1819	\$421,522.99
Part Town	1898	\$ 22.44
	Part Town Total	\$421,545.43
HIGHWAY (D)		
Highway Pre-Pay	1820-1830	\$ 56,721.05
Highway	1899-1921	\$ 4,706.91
	Highway Total	\$ 61,427.46
SEWER (SS)		
Sewer Pre-Pay	1831-1849	\$ 21,002.17
Sewer	1922-1943	\$ 13,476.74
	Sewer Total	\$ 34,478.91
CAPITAL PROJECT (H30)		
Capital Project	1944	\$ 3,700.00
	Capital Proj. Total	\$ 3,700.00
CAPITAL PROJECT (H42)		
Capital Project	1945-1950	\$ 8,870.24
	Capital Proj. Total	\$ 8,870.24

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	Total For All Funds	\$764,625.30
TRUST & AGENCY PAYPAL (TA)		
Trust & Agency Paypal Pre-Pay	1850	\$ 319.92
	Trust & Agency Paypal	\$ 319.92
TRUST & AGENCY (TA)		
Trust & Agcy. Pre-Pay	1851-1857	\$248,667.95
	Trust & Agcy. Total	\$248,667.95

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

- ZBA Meeting, September 24, 2014 – 7:00pm
- Planning Board Meeting, October 6, 2014 – 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, October 14, 2014 – 7:00pm
- Town Board Workshop, October 21, 2014 – 6:00pm
- ZBA Meeting, October 22, 2014 – 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, October 27, 2014 – 7:00pm

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that according to Highway Law 142, Section 3, he has an Equipment Inventory List of purchase dates and Replacement Guidelines and according to Highway Law 140, Section 2 it is his yearly responsibility to inspect Town roadways, which has been completed and a detail list is attached for the Town Board.

Councilman Dolan asked Highway Superintendent Searles if there is a specific standard for the roads or if it is just his judgment.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that there is somewhat of a standard but mostly his judgment on the condition of the roads.

Councilman Dolan asked if a reasonable person were to look at the ones that he says are in poor condition, would that person agree by looking at them.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that they would agree that it is poor.

Councilman Masti asked Highway Superintendent Searles if he found out anything about the curb in the Hamlet because he was supposed to talk to the State.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that he hadn't and had two calls into them and added that the sidewalk has been patched.

Councilman Masti stated that he noticed was fixed right after they had gotten a complaint, which was nice and he appreciates it and then asked if they know what caused it.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that he had no idea.

Councilman Dolan interjected that Ms. Palmer knows.

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Ms. Regina Palmer stated that she was being nose y Sunday morning and as she was standing at the corner of Westerlo and Main she heard the sound of water trickling and found that the abandoned house on the corner of Westerlo and Main, 78 Main Street, had water running in it and has been abandoned for at least 2 years. She continued by saying that she called the Village earlier in the day and they are supposed to go and look at it but they thought they had turned it off and that house is about 30 feet up on the same side of the road and downhill from where that was happening.

Councilman Masti asked if it is down below or above the hole.

Ms. Palmer stated that it is above the hole so water would be running down.

Mr. Vadney stated that it is a problem if the bank owns the building.

Ms. Palmer stated that the County owns the building and then asked if there is a way to get into the abandoned properties.

Chief Darlington stated that if the County is officially named on it, they can get permission from the County.

Councilman Dolan suggested that she call Jeff Neal at the County who is in charge of abandoned buildings.

Mr. Vadney stated that she can also call the Building Department.

Ms. Palmer stated that she had and he said that they can't let anyone in there.

Mr. Vadney stated that if the County officially gives them permission, the Building Department can go in but if it is owned by the bank, their hands are tied and added that he went through this with a property next to his.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Masti stated that when Mr. Boehm asked for opinions earlier he didn't ask for his and continued by saying that as he had discussed with the Chief, nothing is carved in stone as far as Communications, he is looking to see how many calls they get, how many are really 911 and added that there is a lot of information that they need to get before they can make a wise decision. He reiterated that in his mind, nothing is carved in stone but they have to do what they feel is right by the Town and this is what they plan to do and continued by asking Chief Darlington if he had heard anything on the Hannacroix Creek from the Federal Government.

Chief Darlington stated that he hadn't from them or the State.

Councilman Masti asked if the time runs out at the end of this month.

Chief Darlington stated that the date is December 31st.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments, hearing none he offered a motion to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Masti, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time – 9:08pm

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session convened in the Supervisor's Office immediately following adjournment from the meeting with the entire Town Board present in addition to Chief Darlington to discuss personnel matters, no decisions were made or action taken.

RECONVENE MEETING AND ADJOURN

Supervisor Flach called the meeting back to order and offered a motion to adjourn.

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time – 10:53pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED –


Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk