

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
October 30, 2014 – Public Hearing – 7:30pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Monday October 27, 2014, at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18
Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Official / Sewer Administrator /
Police Commissioner Conrad
Matthew Weidman, Bookkeeper
Peter J. McKenna, Chief of Police

Supervisor Flach opened the Public Hearing and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that there was a full Town Board present.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR CHIEF OF POLICE (Prior to Public Hearing)

Supervisor Flach read the following:

I am excited about hiring our new Chief, Mr. Peter J. McKenna. He has been working for the Town of Coeymans Police Department for quite a while as a part-time Officer. After searching for a Chief candidate and several interviews later, we are happy to have appointed Mr. McKenna. He has shown his care for our community and a willingness to make our Police Department the best it can be for our community. I cannot say enough about how pleased we are with this appointment; it is an honor to introduce our new Chief of the Coeymans Police Department, P.J. McKenna.

Judge George Dardani administered the Oath of Office for Chief of Police to P.J. McKenna.

Supervisor Flach asked if Chief McKenna wanted to say a few words.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that it is a privilege to be given such an honor by the Board and Supervisor Flach and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside the men and women of the Coeymans Police Department for the past 2 ½ years and a thrill to be taking over the helm. He added that he loves this community, it is a wonderful place to live and work, he is looking forward to doing everything that he can and as he said once before, now is not time for speeches, it's time to get to work. He concluded by saying "if you like apples, how do you like them apples?"

AGENDA

- Receive Comments from the Public on 2015 Preliminary Budget
- Appoint Part-Time Officers

Supervisor Flach asked that Town Clerk Millious read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Town Clerk Millious continued by reading the following:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans will meet and hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York, 7:30 on Thursday the 30th day of October 2014 for the purpose of hearing comments on the Budget. Pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law, listed below are the proposed salaries of Elected Officials:

Supervisor	(1)	\$45,000.00
Councilman	(4)	\$12,000.00 (each)
Justice	(2)	\$19,000.00 (each)
Highway Superintendent	(1)	\$54,000.00
Town Clerk	(1)	\$45,650.00

A copy of the 2015 Preliminary Budget will be available at the Town Clerk's Office, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York, where it may be viewed and a copy can be obtained during regular business hours.

**By Order of the Town Board
of the Town of Coeymans
Diane L. Millious
Town Clerk**

SUPERVISOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

Supervisor Flach read the following:

For the Preliminary Budget we were able to make some changes and still have a positive effect on our taxpayer's and community members. We are happy to have been able to lower taxes by 1.5%. The Board and I have met with many Department Heads over the Tentative Budget; there are a few changes to the Tentative that have moved it to Preliminary. After tonight we will take comments into perspective and come up with an Adopted Budget due by November 20th. We have added \$3,000.00 in the Budget to be able to work on sidewalks in Town and put in \$5,000.00 toward storm drain repairs, which usually come from H-Fund Capital Projects as we have seen a couple of small issues in the Hamlet. There have been issues with sidewalks and storm drains together, one that affects the other, thus the reason we put in \$3,000.00 & \$5,000.00. We have some new commercial assessments coming up and I will need to add approximately \$5,000.00 in the Budget for that, we have also put \$39,000.00 back into Communications Dispatch to make sure that shifts are covered before we transition to Albany County. We are looking at transitioning the Dispatch Services to Albany County by June 1st; we are meeting with Albany County and Emergency Management personnel over the next few weeks to make sure that the transition can go according to plan. At first I thought it would only take a few months to transition but after our Emergency Management Meeting it was realized that it will take several months so we are planning on 7-8 months from now. It has been suggested since the end of 2013 that I need to decrease the use of Fund Balance to balance the Town's yearly Budget, our Accountant has suggested this and since we are tracking toward a negative Fund Balance, this is critical in the 2015 Budget. Our Fund Balance, which is what is left in your checkbook, for lack of a better term, has been depleted over the past few years due to the overspending by some Departments. Therefore, you will see that I didn't use any, a zero balance in Highway and A-Fund Budget for last year, I was able to decrease the use of Fund Balance while decreasing taxes and this was in part due to the Lafarge PILOT Program income as well as decreasing and consolidating areas of service ie. Communications, Police and Beautifications Departments. I am striving to save taxpayer's money while improving our parks, highways and Police Department. I feel strongly that sometimes spending more money on one area of service does not mean that we are improving that area. I have decreased the Police Budget after working out the number of full-time and part-time Officers that are needed to provide coverage for the shifts necessary to insure safety in our community. After many discussions with our Board Members, it was agreed that we want outside Law Enforcement to work hand-in-hand with our Police Force; we do not wish to alienate them from our Town. I have also gone over the Budget with our new Police Chief and he feels that the Budget is fine. For next year I am proud that my office and the Finance Department will catch up to this century and will become computerized, the New York State Comptroller's Office has joked with us in the past about our paper ledgers and the inability to transfer documents, etc. electronically and now we will be able to do so. It will take some transition time but I am excited for this. I do feel that it is important to give Department Heads and some of the Elected Officials

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raises as this has been neglected in the past several years, I also put in raises for some non-union employees.

Supervisor Flach stated that they would now take public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Flach invited the public to comment at this time.

Ms. Michelle Maddage stated that what she had written down was about the Tentative Budget that the Supervisor put out and has not had a chance to review the Preliminary Budget and the copy of the Budget that she did get was mailed to her by Confidential Secretary Cirillo because she unable to get one during normal business hours because she works outside the Town. She continued by reading the following:

I'd like to start out by asking where this Budget Hearing was announced, I did not see it in the News Herald or even announced on the website until 4:00 today, I also looked on the calendar online and it was not listed that this was a meeting for tonight. I thought that there was an Open Meetings Law that it had to be announced prior to when the Meeting was going to happen and I only found out about it because I read the agenda from Monday night's meeting so that's how I knew that this meeting was happening tonight. I did e-mail the entire Board regarding the tractor trailers on the Coeymans bridge, which is a safety issue and thank you Mr. Dolan and Lisa from Supervisor Flach's Office for getting back to me responding to my concern. I both witnessed a truck in front of me go in the wrong lane as well as at another time was confronted with a truck in my lane as I approached the bridge. It is not okay or legal to cross over the yellow line ever and according to New York State V&T Code 1124 and the only time that it could be permissible is if it clearly visible, which it is not as it is a no-passing zone according to New York State V&T Code 1126. Regarding moving the Dispatch to the County, I have concerns for the safety of Officers in this town, will there be a dedicated frequency or can you purchase a frequency? I have spoken with people in Cohoes and the complaint is that the radios are screwed up as she had been told by several people. As of the Albany County Sheriff's 2013 Annual Report, it was reported that they provide Dispatch Services to the Office of the Sheriff, New York State Police, City of Cohoes Police and Fire, City of Watervliet Police and Fire, Village of Green Island Police and Fire, 11 volunteer Fire Departments and 5 Ambulance Companies as well as other agencies on an as needed basis. I have serious concerns that we will not be a priority, employees of this Town of Coeymans have one function, which is to serve this Town. Mr. Flach you were elected to serve the Town constituents, when elected into office you did that with a budgeted salary of \$30,000.00, at the beginning of this year your salary was raised \$15,000.00, the job of the Supervisor as listed by New York State Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government is to serve as Budget Officer unless you appoint someone else. You did this under the premise that as Budget Officer, you were adjusting your compensation but that is the job of the Supervisor. The Town Law prohibits the Town Board from fixing the salaries of a member of the Town Board, Elected Town Clerk and Elected Town Superintendent of Highways at amounts in excess of the amounts respectively specified in the Notice of Hearing upon the Preliminary Budget unless the Town Board adopts a Local Law subject to a Permissive Referendum increasing the salary for just that year. The Town Board can also not fix the salary of an Elected or Appointed Town Officer, or employee at an amount larger than the appropriation made and that is according to the Association of Towns of the State of New York. There is a right and wrong way to make salary corrections, I completely understand that, now proposing it in the Budget is the right way to do it, I do however question the compensation for the work being done at a rate of \$45,000.00, looking at a similar Town such as Schodack, New York, they have a population of 7,679 with a Supervisor's salary at \$28,390.00, that is \$16,610.00 more than what's been proposed. I also question, will you give yourself a Budget Officer stipend for next year and how can we trust that you will stick with this Budget. You also have Police Commissioners lined up for \$30,000.00; Commissioners generally are nominated by the Supervisor and voted in by the Town Board Members. Most good Police Officers have had long careers in Law Enforcement. The salary for this position appears very high to me so I did some research and according to the New York State Code Section 150 – "The Town Board of the Town in which such a Police Department has been established at any time by resolution may establish a Board of Police Commissioners for such a Town and appoint one or three Police Commissioners who shall at that time of their appointment and throughout their term

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of office be elected of such Town and who shall serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the Town Board". Additionally you propose a 6% rate hike for the Highway Superintendent, the current Highway Superintendent has been in office for just one year, and this appears to be premature to me. At the rate of the current Adopted Budget it does not appear that his job is under compensated. Additionally the Town Clerk has a 10% raise, it appears that the Town Clerk has not received a raise for many years and has been in office for many years, I believe that the 10% raise brings that position to a more fairly compensated rate. The Police Chief is listed at \$30,000.00; I'm not sure how or why this would be possible or permissible. Cutting the Communications Department, slashing the Police Chief's Budget, decreasing Youth Services, consolidating the Beautification Department to Highway, along with cutting the taxes appears to be what you want to do, cutting the taxes everyone is for but we don't want services to be decreased. Additionally I noticed the employee benefits are going up \$100,000.00, salaries are going up and taxpayer services continue to go down.

Supervisor Flach stated that he wanted to note on the Chief's salary, he originally put that in the Tentative Budget but it did not get changed in the Preliminary Budget to the intended Chief's salary of \$60,000.00 and he apologized for that. He added that a Police Commissioner can be paid but it has to be adopted by Local Law, which they have chosen not to do so and there will not be a line item for Police Commissioner. He then asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Mr. Bill Bailey stated that he wanted to start on page 1 where the Supervisor's Personal Service went up \$17,000.00, which he assumes \$15,000.00 went to raise the Supervisor's salary from \$30,000.00 to \$45,000.00 and a \$2,000.00 raise for someone else. He then asked if that was correct.

Supervisor Flach stated that there are two other people paid under the Supervisor.

Mr. Bailey stated that he now was really confused because he is raising the Supervisor's salary to \$45,000.00, which has to come out of there.

Councilman Dolan asked that Supervisor Flach tell them what it is because he didn't do the Supervisor's Budget.

Bookkeeper Matthew Weidman interjected that it is two people and Mr. Bailey was correct, it is the Supervisor and Confidential Secretary.

Mr. Bailey stated that he has no problem with paying the Supervisor \$45,000.00 and he said that back when Ronald Hotaling was Supervisor and he believes that they should begin paying the Supervisor a living wage and expecting it to be a full-time job. He added that Finance has a raise of \$15,000.00 under Personal Services.

Supervisor Flach stated that the Finance Office is a Clerk and the Bookkeeper.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that Finance is combined with Human Resources, so the money came from Human Resources and in looking at .1 in Human Resources, there was a decrease of \$11,800.00.

Mr. Bailey stated asked if they were moving someone from Human Resources into the Finance Office.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that they actually eliminated a person from Human Resource so there is still one person and they condensed from 3 people to 2 people.

Mr. Bailey stated that they were paying \$42,000.00 in Human Resources and it is down to \$30,000.00 so he believes that would be one full-time position.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that it would be one full-time position.

Mr. Bailey stated that Finance Personal Services went from \$20,000.00 to \$35,000.00 and then asked what the staffing is going to be there.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that it will be one person, 30 hours, just short of full-time.

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Supervisor Flach stated that one of the reasons is that they are doing in-house payroll now.

Councilman Langdon stated that there is going to be a savings there and some of the savings is not going to be realized so much in the first two years because of the software that they are purchasing but in the third year it becomes substantial.

Mr. Bailey stated that he would strongly recommend not doing that and he believes that PayChek or an equivalent is the way to go, they do an efficient job and keep you out of trouble with taxes being filed in an incorrect manner.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not disagree that they do a good job but the software is for payroll as well as a whole governmental bookkeeping system.

Bookkeeper Weidman interjected that it is a whole governmental software program with built-in payroll.

Mr. Bailey stated that on page 3 under Town Hall they have taken \$6,250.00 out of Personal Services.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that it was actually for weekly cleaning and originally she was supposed to be an employee of the Town but she didn't end up becoming an employee and fills out a voucher monthly so it was moved to the .4 Contractual.

Mr. Bailey stated that the .4 Contractual was \$38,000.00 in last year's Adopted Budget and it was increased to \$40,000.00 and they dropped the \$6,250.00 so basically they have let out a cleaning contract for Town Hall for \$40,000.00.

Supervisor Flach stated that Town Hall is for everything that happens in Town Hall and not just the cleaning services.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that the \$6,250.00 is for cleaning services so basically the Town Hall Budget was \$38,000.00 for their contractual and \$6,250.00 for the cleaning services and they actually combined them in that line item for \$40,000.00 because they were \$4,250.00 under budget for Town Hall and this is why it decreased and went from \$44,250.00 to \$40,000.00.

Mr. Bailey asked about the Central Garage Contractual for \$50,000.00 and what it is for.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that it is Police Fuel.

Mr. Bailey asked if it should be under Public Safety instead of Central Garage.

Supervisor Flach interjected that it is where it has been since he has been Supervisor.

Mr. Bailey stated that in looking at it he would think that it belonged under Police.

Councilman Dolan asked if it included other fuel.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that it does include other gas fuel, which is why it is in there because it is combined and roughly \$40,000.00 of it is Police and \$6,000.00 for several Highway people's gas as well as Sewer, which comes out of it but is paid back to the Highway Fund out of Sewer.

Mr. Bailey stated that he is curious about what Central Communications is.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is phones, internet, and tower on Gedney Hill.

Mr. Bailey asked about it going up \$8,000.00.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is and part of it is for computers.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that part of it includes software updates for the rest of the Town and it will link all of the systems together throughout the Town so vouchers can be sent right to the Finance System.

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Mr. Bailey stated that Central Storeroom went down \$4,000.00, which he is curious about.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is actually what was spent for the past three years.

Mr. Bailey stated that his understanding was that last year the Contingency is where the \$15,000.00 came out of for the Budget Officer.

Supervisor Flach stated that was correct.

Mr. Bailey stated that they still have \$25,000.00 in there and like the first speaker he has no problem raising the Supervisor's salary to \$45,000.00 but he should have told them at the Budget Hearing that it was going to \$45,000.00 and he wouldn't have a problem if he was raising the salary \$15,000.00 and at the time all of the Elected Official's salaries should have been listed but he assumes there is not going to be \$15,000.00 out of it and then asked if his assumption was correct.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is certainly correct.

Mr. Bailey stated that in Communications, what he sees is that he took \$75,000.00 from what it was in Personal Services from last year and in the Tentative Budget it was down \$114,000.00 so he put back in about \$39,000.00 and last time he had a discussion with him, he was trying to run Dispatch from 7:00am-11:00pm at night and switch over at night and he told him that the end of May was his target date to be done with Dispatch and there was going to be a charge of \$100,000.00 from the County.

Supervisor Flach stated that it would begin in 2016.

Mr. Bailey asked if the County was going to dispatch 2015 for nothing and if they negotiate a contract, how much and for how long the contract that they are negotiating is for.

Supervisor Flach stated that \$100,000.00 is the maximum a year and it may be \$50,000.00 if they only need one full-time Dispatcher and it has not been determined yet, they are working on that part of it and it would be for three years. He added that basically it is to get our Town into their budget to get things straightened out and after that there will be absolutely no cost unless they decide to use the County's IT Department, which they offer as well but they have not decided on that yet and it is something that can happen.

Mr. Bailey stated that he was at the Emergency Management Meeting that they had earlier in the month and when he left the meeting he was under the impression that everything was going to be rethought and the Town was going to go slow and they were not going to make a move this year. He continued by saying that he was very surprised when the Tentative Budget came out, which was only a day between the Emergency Management Meeting and then and he believes that the consensus from the Emergency Management Committee was to slow down because they don't know the impact of it.

Supervisor Flach stated that he feels as though it is what they have done and based on a conversation that they had was that yes, within two months was too early and after the Emergency Management Meeting they decided to go another 6 months. He added that in talking to the Sheriff's Deputy that they are dealing with, he said there is absolutely no problem and he basically told him that they were going to slow down but not stop it.

Mr. Bailey stated that he believes that it was the same Sheriff Deputy that recommended that they slow it way down and the problem is, once they adopt the Budget and only put in enough money to operate it for half a year, you can't back out.

Supervisor Flach interjected that there is actually enough in the Budget until August.

Mr. Bailey stated that even with August, you can't back out, they are going to make the decision within the next month and four months from now as they get closer and closer and more problems pop up they are going to be stuck with this Budget. He added that he thinks they should budget for the year and then if no problems develop in six months, which they know his feeling about, then they can pull the plug and at least if problems develop, they will have the flexibility of continuing

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through the year and having the funding available. He concluded by saying that they are making their decision within the month and there is no backing out.

Councilman Dolan stated that somewhere in there Mr. Bailey used the word surprised and he also was surprised because they all sat there last Thursday with the Police Department and Dispatch and said that they were going to keep Dispatch for the year and it is what they all agreed to.

Mr. Bailey stated that he wasn't at that meeting.

Councilman Dolan interjected that it was a Budget Workshop.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he does not know where he got that from.

Supervisor Flach stated that they will need to listen to the tape of the meeting.

Councilman Langdon stated that he didn't have any intention at that point to commit to keeping anyone for the whole year.

Councilman Dolan asked why they were putting the money back into it.

Councilman Langdon stated that they weren't putting all the money back in, they were asking how much it would be and it was all under consideration.

Supervisor Flach interjected that they put the money back in there because everyone was concerned about slowing things down and making sure that they had enough time to get everything done so they put more back in there for 6-8 months.

Mr. Bailey stated that it is four months down the road and there are a lot of things to be worked on with the capability of paging and other things and if it is not going to happen, they don't have the money to operate for a year in the budget. He continued by saying that in going to the police, he understands what they did with the Commissioners and they are going to make the change but then they lowered Personal Services by \$67,000.00, which would be a full-time Police Officer and then asked how they expect to meet their schedules and man the roads with that much less and he assumes that the Union has a contract increase in the next fiscal year and he does not see how they are going to do it. He added that with equipment, he thought they were on a rotation for vehicles, which would be the \$25,000.00 but he is taking out \$25,000.00 and the last time the Town did that, they ended up with 3-4 really old vehicles and reiterated that they had built in a rotation of buying new cars because they put a lot of miles on those cars but it has been taken completely out of the budget, which he thinks is poor management because if you are going to have a Police Force, you are going to need cars, safe cars. He reiterated that they put a lot of miles on them, they spend a lot of time idling and they are going to be back in a fix like the one time they had to buy three in the same year.

Supervisor Flach stated that currently they have 6 cars with 2 of them being newer with two Officers on the road.

Mr. Bailey reiterated that they put a lot of miles on them every year and the idea was to rotate a car every year and he thought it was why \$25,000.00 was in the budget, which made sense and it is like buying school buses when you have a fleet that ages it is going to cost you more money, you have a rotation and he thinks that it is a step backwards. He continued by saying that for Highway Administration on page 7, he understands why the Highway Superintendent is in the A-Fund and his secretary, which is due to the fact that the whole town including Village residents vote for the Highway Superintendent but it was increased by \$44,000.00 so he believes that they have added another position to the line item.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that in going to Beautification, they didn't get rid of the people. Mr. Bailey stated that there is no one assigned to do those jobs.

Supervisor Flach interjected that they certainly do.

Mr. Bailey stated that he has no problem with Beautification, they maintained the buildings, took care of the parks and cemeteries.

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Supervisor Flach stated that they still do.

Mr. Bailey asked if there were 3 or 4 people in that unit.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that there were 3.

Mr. Bailey stated that it is labeled Highway, it is supposed to be for the Superintendent of Highways and his secretary and it is only supposed to be two positions that the people of the Village of Ravena pay for regarding Highway.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that the Deputy Highway Superintendent has always been there.

Mr. Bailey interjected that he is not an elected position and has never been in there and it is for two positions.

Supervisor Flach stated that as long as he has been Supervisor, it has been A-Fund.

Mr. Bailey reiterated that it is only supposed to be the Elected Official and his secretary.

Bookkeeper Weidman interjected that it is the Elected Official and whoever he appoints, his personal Deputy and secretary.

Mr. Bailey stated that it is his secretary but not Deputy.

Councilman Dolan interjected that the point is that it still went up \$44,000.00 whether the Deputy is supposed to be in there or not.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is because Nelson is in there and not in Beautification.

Mr. Bailey asked if he is the Deputy Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Flach stated that he is not.

Mr. Bailey asked what he is doing there.

Supervisor Flach stated that he is a Supervisor.

Mr. Bailey stated that the Bookkeeper just said that the Highway Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Secretary are the only ones in there.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that they were the ones that were in there and Nelson's position was added.

Mr. Bailey stated that he is not an Elected Official but a career Civil Servant.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that he is appointed to his title of Supervisor by the Town Board.

Councilman Langdon stated anyone who is a Supervisor by his understanding is appointed.

Mr. Bailey interjected that he does not believe that non-union is supposed to be in the A-Fund.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that no one came into the A-Fund that wasn't in the A-Fund.

Mr. Bailey stated that he knows that and there was a group that dedicated their work to the parks, building and cemeteries.

Councilman Langdon interjected that they sat around and did nothing all winter long and that is why they consolidated and in bringing Beautification into Highway, you are seeing the number reflected in Highway because Beautification does not exist anymore.

Mr. Bailey stated that once you put the Highway Superintendent in Highway, the jobs underneath him have nothing to do with the parks, buildings or cemeteries, which is under the law.

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Councilman Dolan stated that it is also not factually correct that they sat down and did nothing all winter and maybe he thinks they were underperforming but it is not factually correct in saying that they sat around all winter doing nothing, which is an insult to them and their families.

Councilman Langdon stated that it was a mistake to say that and what he was trying to relay is the fact that you had people who didn't have parks to take care of all winter long, he understands that they built some picnic tables and painted tables but it was not really a productive use of taxpayer money to leave them in that department and could not be used by the Highway when the Highway could use them in the wintertime when they need a lot of help. He added that to him it is a good use of personnel and resources to be able to have some of that consolidation.

Councilman Dolan interjected that it is bad public service to insult people who work for the Town after all the speeches in the last few weeks about appreciating all that everyone does who works for the Town and continued by saying that was ridiculous.

Councilman Langdon stated that he totally agrees that he was wrong, he was sorry and it was a poor way of expressing what he was trying to say.

Mr. Bailey stated that he wanted to discuss parks and cemeteries and then asked in doing away with Beautification whether the idea was that they are going to contract out all of the work.

Supervisor Flach stated that they definitely were not doing that.

Mr. Bailey stated that they have taken Parks Contractual from \$7,800.00 and it is now \$25,000.00 with no Personal Services in that line item.

Supervisor Flach stated that Parks Contractual is more because they need to put in a concrete bathroom at Joralemon Park because there is already a septic system there.

Mr. Bailey asked where the money is charged from when the parks need to be mowed or work has to be done because it is an A-Fund cost and should not be coming out of Highway.

Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Official / Sewer Administrator / Police Commissioner Conrad stated that it always did.

Mr. Bailey stated that he would agree with him five years ago and that is why they created Beautification.

Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Official / Sewer Administrator / Police Commissioner Conrad stated that he was on the Town Board when Beautification was created with Ron Hotaling and Nita Chmielewski and until that time the Highway Department always mowed the cemeteries, it came out of Highway and it is the reason that they made Parks a separate A-Fund.

Mr. Bailey stated that it should be, it was wrong ten years ago when they recognized it was wrong and they corrected it in the budget and now they are going back to the same situation and charging A-Fund work to the Highway Department.

Supervisor Flach interjected that it wasn't his understanding that it was wrong and they consolidated.

Mr. Bailey stated that Highway is only covered by people outside the Village of Ravenna. Supervisor Flach stated that he understands that.

Mr. Bailey stated that the Parks are the responsibility of everyone in the Town, just like the dump and leachate.

Supervisor Flach asked if the Village is responsible for Coeymans Landing Park.

Mr. Bailey stated that they are and they have paid for it from the beginning and it has always been an A-Fund.

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Councilman Dolan interjected that it is a Town park.

Mr. Bailey stated that when the Town has to take over a cemetery, it becomes an A-Fund responsibility. He continued by saying that they completely took out Community Beautification for \$145,000.00 and two workers were sent to the Highway and one under Highway services in the A-Fund and then asked if it is why Employee Benefits went down \$43,000.00 in the A-Fund because they shifted the two employee's retirement and hospitalization to the Highway.

Supervisor Flach stated that was correct.

Mr. Bailey stated that in Revenue he sees that the PILOT is \$308,584.00 with Lafarge, which is approximately the amount that they pay yearly in taxes at this time.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is payment in lieu of taxes.

Mr. Bailey stated that they deducted approximately 100 million from the assessment roll for assessing purposes because they are doing payment in lieu of taxes. He continued by saying that there is a Community Development Income of \$350,000.00 and then asked if it is for 20 years.

Supervisor Flach stated that was correct.

Mr. Bailey asked if they are going to get the \$308,584.00 and the \$350,000.00 for the next 20 years.

Supervisor Flach stated that they are going to get the \$350,000.00 for the next 20 years, the \$308,584.00 is going to increase by 2% based on 100 million all the way up to 150 million in 20 years from now.

Mr. Bailey stated that the Justice Court Fund went down \$25,000.00 and then asked if the anticipated income is down.

Supervisor Flach stated that it was way down this year.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that they are being optimistic with \$175,000.00.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is going to be less than \$175,000.00.

Mr. Bailey stated that in the B-Fund Safety Inspections Personal Services it went down \$6,000.00 and then asked if they are doing personnel changes or staffing changes.

Supervisor Flach stated that the Building Department Clerk is working 3 days in the Building Department and 2 days in the Assessor's Office.

Mr. Bailey stated that he did note the amount of money that they are transferring between the Highway Funds and it was explained in the beginning.

Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Official / Sewer Administrator / Police Commissioner Conrad interjected that the Clerk change is also an A-Fund charge so her salary has also been added to A-Fund for when she works with the Assessor and B-Fund when she works for the Building Department.

Mr. Bailey stated that it is as it should be. He continued by saying that Personal Services in General Highway went up \$60,000.00, which he believes is some of the Beautification people.

Supervisor Flach stated that was correct.

Mr. Bailey stated that it is \$60,000.00 that used to be an A-Fund town-wide charge and now it is just Highway outside of the Village of Ravenna and continued by saying that Snow Removal also went up \$60,000.00 with Employee Benefits going up \$100,000.00. He continued by saying that when it comes to wages, he personally does not have any trouble with \$45,000.00 for the Supervisor and ultimately he believes it should be \$60,000.00 and considered a full-time job because the position is to supervise a multi-million dollar operation and it should be expected to

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be the only job. He added that in the Preliminary Budget that he picked up at 3:00 earlier in the day, the Justice salary was listed as \$18,000.00.

Supervisor Flach stated that was a typo and he apologizes for that and it had since been corrected and printed.

Mr. Bailey stated that those were his general comments and apologized for taking so much time.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Thomas Boehm stated that he lives on Coons Road and continued by saying that he saw that money was put in for sidewalks and then asked how they arrived at the dollar figure.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that they spoke with Highway Superintendent Searles and he felt \$3,000.00 for the sidewalks and \$5,000.00 for the storm water would be enough to repair what they needed to fix and there are a lot of leftover supplies to do it.

Mr. Boehm asked if it is for the distance from the Town line down to Rte. 144.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that he didn't give distances, he gave his figures on what he priced out and what he felt would be sufficient.

Mr. Boehm stated that it does not seem like a lot.

Councilman Dolan stated that when Highway Superintendent Searles was before them, he agreed to a \$10,000.00 figure, which they used to have in the budget and probably back when Mr. Conrad was on the Board there was a general sidewalk repair cycle.

Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Official / Sewer Administrator / Police Commissioner Conrad stated that it was for a small portion each year and there were some areas left undone. He added that the major portions were done along Church Street and basically the areas that they are looking to get done are a couple of spots along First Street, which is a big concern because of the unevenness of the sidewalks and Highway Superintendent Searles has the forms to set them up and it would only be the cost for concrete.

Supervisor Flach interjected that the storm drain was in that part because a couple of the sidewalks on Rte. 144 are involved due to the storm drain and there is an issue where they actually filled in a hole but it sunk again, which they believe is a storm water problem and they put money for that so the sidewalk repair will come in the same time as that.

Mr. Boehm stated that he believes that it is grossly underfunded because there is such a need along Rte. 144 where the road is in such bad shape, there are a lot of houses and he would encourage that they add money to it. He continued by saying that Supervisor Flach mentioned improvements at Joralemon Park in the form of a bathroom and asked how much he budgeted for it.

Supervisor Flach stated it is \$25,000.00 and they were also looking to get some playground equipment as well. He continued by saying that the bathroom would be a block building separated by men and women and the trans-vap is already there so they will need to run water to it.

Mr. Boehm asked how much was budgeted for the playground equipment.

Supervisor Flach stated that they figured about \$12,000.00 for the bathroom and possibly \$10,000.00 for playground equipment as well as talking about a tent only campsite in the back, which he planned on putting a couple thousand dollars toward.

Councilman Langdon interjected that Highway Superintendent Searles has some playground equipment at the Highway Garage that has to be installed.

Mr. Boehm stated that when he was a child, it was leftover playground equipment from the high-school and added that to give them an idea, when they put the playground in at Coeymans Landing, it was \$25,000.00 and it is pretty expensive.

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Supervisor Flach stated that he wasn't looking to put a big set like that because they do have some and another thing that they were looking to do is some improvements at Coeymans Landing and have talked about taking the rocks out and putting nautical themed poles so it would look a little nicer down there.

Mr. Boehm stated that down by the river they have a nice playground set but at Joralemon it has been that way for years and years and they deserve a nice playground set for people who use the pavilion, a bathroom would be a nice improvement and a good use of the Host Benefit Package from Lafarge. He continued by saying that there has been talk about a Transfer Station and then asked if there is anything in the budget for that or is it dead or does it still have life in it.

Supervisor Flach stated that it isn't dead, they have talked about having it on Jarvis Road and use dumpsters at the Highway Garage, which will be donated to them so they are still planning on doing that but he didn't put anything in the budget.

Mr. Boehm asked if they are planning on doing that in the spring and if it will be for household waste.

Supervisor Flach stated that they are thinking that they would like to say that they will take garbage for \$2.00 a bag on specified days and in turn removed the next day because their concern would be smell or rats and they don't want anyone to have to deal with that.

Mr. Boehm stated that he thinks it is a good idea and maybe for those on a fixed income it could be \$1.00 a bag.

Supervisor Flach stated that he will look into it as far as the budget and it is a good thought.

Mr. Boehm stated that as far as Highway, he wanted to know what the plan is for equipment purchases in the budget.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not have that in front of him and asked Bookkeeper Weidman if he could recall.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that this year a lot of the equipment money went for a new skid-steer.

Mr. Boehm asked how much it was.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that it was somewhere between \$65,000.00 and \$70,000.00 and a bit of the money will be for attachments for it because there was not enough money this year to buy them and it was a 2-year plan. He added that realistically they are looking to find a newer, used Grader.

Supervisor Flach stated that they talked about two trucks that they would BAN because a truck costs \$175,000.00 and currently they have a 1956 Osh Kosh and 1968 Mack. He continued by saying that he has talked to Highway Superintendent Searles about doing a BAN for two for a shorter period of time and using Host Benefit money to fund a 5-6 year BAN.

Mr. Boehm stated that his problem with that is that they already did a BAN for the salt shed, there is another truck that was a BAN, so it would be a total of 3 trucks and then asked what debt service will be in a couple of years.

Supervisor Flach interjected that the salt shed will be paid for by next year.

Mr. Boehm asked if it is up, running and ready for salt.

Supervisor Flach stated that they can't put salt in it now, they are waiting for the cover, which is on the way and the company will install it.

Bookkeeper Weidman interjected that it is guaranteed to be finalized by November 30th.

Supervisor Flach stated that it will be done mid-November, the blocks are 6 feet tall and are all set and the blacktop is all set.

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Mr. Boehm stated that part of his problem in borrowing for Highway equipment is that in reading an article published in the Business Review titled "Two municipalities in Albany County, one in Saratoga County fiscal stress". He continued by saying that the two municipalities in Albany County are Colonie and Coeymans and the Comptroller listed Coeymans under moderate fiscal stress and then asked how they address that in looking at a budget where they are borrowing more and doing more BANS, which will hurt them more.

Supervisor Flach stated that part of the reason for that was the Fund Balance.

Bookkeeper Weidman interjected that the Fund Balance was the biggest reason and he talked to the Comptroller himself and it was because they were running a \$175,000.00 Fund Balance in A and it is pretty much zero dollars and negative at the end of this year and they will be in trouble, which progressed from \$500,000.00 4-5 years ago. He continued by saying that in speaking with the Comptroller and the Town's Accountant, they suggested that the number one thing for them to do is to turn it around, even more so than taking BANS out. He added that it was in the budget as revenue, but they didn't have the money and basically they were using money that they didn't have, which will put you under fiscal stress.

Mr. Boehm stated that they didn't have the money and then asked why they are spending money they didn't have and asked if it worth it if they have to borrow money.

Supervisor Flach stated that they needed Highway trucks and some of it came from the sale of other equipment and another part of the problem is the Hannacroix Creek, there is money that was spent that they owe for that and added that the problem hasn't just been within the last two years, it has been in the last 7-8 years.

Mr. Boehm stated that it brings him to the raises that are being handed out, up to 10% raises and then asked if he can get the dollar figure where the non-elected people are and what the increases are.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not have that with him.

Mr. Boehm asked if there is an outline for all personnel.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not have it with him but he will get a copy to him.

Mr. Boehm asked why there are such big raises and it had been said that previous Board's didn't give raises, but they did.

Supervisor Flach stated that for 6 years, all of the non-union people didn't have a raise.

Mr. Boehm interjected that last year there was a raise and there was one the year before that and he does not understand the big jump. He added that he understands that with the Union there are contractual raises of 2-3% and for non-union he believes that it was between 1-2% but he does not understand the big jump given their current fiscal situation.

Supervisor Flach stated that he felt like a lot of the people who they gave the raises to, over the last 7-8 years have not had the raises that they should have had and when the Board got together during Budget discussions, the whole Board agreed.

Mr. Boehm asked if the whole Board agreed to 8-10% raises.

Supervisor Flach stated that they absolutely did.

Councilman Dolan stated that he's not sure that they talked about all the raises; they talked about the Town Clerk's staff.

Supervisor Flach stated that they did but they also talked about the Highway Superintendent and Supervisor.

Councilman Dolan interjected that they didn't talk about the Supervisor's Office, Business Office, and Building Department.

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Supervisor Flach stated that they agreed to 2% for all non-union employees and for union employees they are in the middle of union negotiations.

Councilman Dolan stated that he thought they had agreed to a bigger percent for the Town Clerk's Office.

Bookkeeper Weidman stated that it ended up being a little bit more and he thinks it is 3.6% for them.

Mr. Boehm stated that in his opinion, they are going down a rocky road and this is the start of people asking in 10 years how the Town got into so much debt and it is because they are borrowing money for money that they don't have, they don't have money to buy things and they are giving out double digit raises to certain personnel, which is one of the biggest costs. He continued by saying that he agrees that everyone is doing a good job but there are more than 50 people in the Town and given the current status with the Comptroller's Office of moderate fiscal stress, he thinks there are parts of the budget that are very foolish and he hopes that they reconsider.

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

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Appoint Part-Time Police Officers

Supervisor Flach asked Chief McKenna to discuss his request to hire part-time Officers.

Chief McKenna stated that a hiring process was started by Sargent Contento and Officer Myers who in turn interviewed approximately a dozen applicants and submitted to him two names that they had specific to what they believe would be an immediate need for patrol ready Police Officers. He added that he does not have the paperwork in front of him but he had spoken to both of their Lieutenants who gave very good work-ups on them, he reviewed all of their paperwork and based on the need that they have right now, it is his hope that they will be able to start working with young Officers from the Academy but they need Senior Officers who can come on to the job now. He continued by saying that one is a Cohoes Officer and one is a Athens Officer, both have tremendous background and training and in his opinion, based on what he has been told and read, patrol ready by the end of the month, which would include field training, being advised of the differences of this department, staffing and manpower. He concluded by saying that he has been given assurances at this point that they are available, they do have full-time jobs but they are going to be available for the type of shifts and patrol that they need to fill at this point and it is not going to change anything other than the loss of Officer Klein who was full-time and it is a way for him to have more manpower availability so they can have a longer list if someone calls in sick there are more people that they can reach out to, to fill the shifts and he hopes that he can get these two part-time Officers so they are patrol ready for patrol manpower for November and December.

Supervisor Flach stated that he would read the resolution to appoint two part-time Police Officers.

RES. #156-14 APPOINT PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS

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

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police is desirous of hiring part-time Police Officers who are certified, and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has conducted a search for available part-time Police Officers and interviews have been conducted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Jeff Bressette and Roger Loran to the position of part-time Police Officer, effective November 7, 2014 pending a successful background check, one year probation and Albany County

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Civil Service approval. Part-time Police Officer Bressette and Loran will be compensated at a rate of \$18.13 per hour as designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Cool Insuring Agency COBRA Administrative Service Agreement

Supervisor Flach stated that a resolution was supposed to be done at the last meeting for the COBRA Administrative Service Agreement but they didn't have it until the next day and it is so Cool Agency, which handles the Town's insurance, will do the COBRA extension instead of the Town having to do it. He then asked for a motion to execute the agreement.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Langdon, authorizing the Supervisor to execute the COBRA Administrative Service Agreement with Cool Insuring Agency.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Councilman Langdon asked if Attorney for the Town Wukitsch read the Agreement.

Supervisor Flach stated that he did and it is fine with the exception of one paragraph that he took out.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

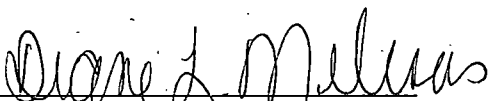
On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Supervisor Flach, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time – 8:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read December 8, 2014


Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk