

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
September 14, 2015 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

A Town Board Meeting was held Monday, September 14, 2015, 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
Kenneth A. Burns, Councilman

ABSENT: George E. Langdon, IV, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Peter J. McKenna, Chief of Police

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

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that the record should reflect that Councilman Langdon was absent with the remainder of the Board present.

AGENDA

- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
 - Town Board Meeting 08-24-15
- Old Business
- Resolutions
 - Accept Resignation Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer
 - Appoint Clerk I
- Correspondence
 - Department of Public Service – Proposed Merger of Charter Communications & Time Warner
 - Department of Public Service – Energy Affordability for Low Income Utility Customers
- Upcoming Workshops/Meetings
 - Town Board Workshop, September 22, 2015, 6:00pm
 - Zoning Board Meeting, September 23, 2015, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, September 28, 2015, 7:00pm
- Additional Comments
- Adjournment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Flach invited the public to comment at this time.

Ms. Mary Driscoll stated that at the last meeting she asked if something could be done about the voting at the High-School regarding the space. She continued by saying that she went on Primary Day and it was like a different world, there were signs for the handicapped, items had been removed from the room so you had room to vote and it made you feel as though your vote counted. She added that she wanted to personally thank Town Clerk Millious and the Board Members who arranged for that and it is nice to know that they listen to just a regular voter.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Flach stated that there was one set of minutes for Town Board approval, a Town Board Meeting on August 24, 2015 and then asked for a motion to approve them.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Masti, the Town Board Minutes were approved as presented and read.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Gazebo Roof

Supervisor Flach stated that they are still working on getting the gazebo roof replaced and currently there is not any extra in the budget to do it. He added that he did speak to someone that can do it early next year and if some extra money comes in, they will try to get it done as soon as possible.

Railing at Riverfront

Supervisor Flach stated that they had discussed an issue with the railing at the riverfront and for now the Highway Department did put some temporary fencing up to keep little folks from falling through. He continued by saying that the price to re-do the whole thing is \$4,600.00, and to put pieces in to make it the right width is \$3,300.00 and they are in the same financial state as they are with the gazebo roof. He concluded by saying that if they can do something with that in the very near future, they certainly will.

Councilman Dolan stated that obviously the gazebo roof needs to be done and his son, an amateur roofer looked at it, not for the purpose of doing it but just for an opinion and he doesn't think that it will cost any extra to wait until the new year to do it. He added they had discussed that if they have extra money, they will have it done as soon as possible.

Councilman Burns stated that he agrees and added that he didn't see any rotted wood.

Supervisor Flach stated that if the point comes where they have to put something extra, he does not think that it will be a big expense and they will pay whatever the extra is. He added that they have not accepted a bid and he will speak with Attorney for the Town Wukitsch to see if they have to do it within a certain period of time and if they do, they will award it at the next meeting, which is a Workshop next Tuesday, which won't be televised but he is telling them now.

Councilman Dolan interjected that it isn't like people are knocking their door down asking to bid on it.

Supervisor Flach stated that they put it out to bid three times and they only had one bid.

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RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Flach read the following:

Supervisor Flach and Town Board Members;

Gentlemen,

Due to health issues it has become necessary for me to take an earlier than expected retirement at this time. During my past years of service with the Town of Coeymans, I have had the opportunity to share many different experiences. I would like to thank all my fellow employees and Public Officials for the years of help and sharing of information between departments to benefit our residents. My time has been one learning experience after another and has changed me personally, for which I am grateful. Thank you all again for your support over the past years. Therefore, please accept my resignation from my full-time positions of Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Official effective September 29, 2015, close of business.

Sincerely,
Laverne H. Conrad

RES. #108-15 ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

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

WHEREAS, Laverne Conrad has submitted his letter of resignation as Code Enforcement Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the resignation of Laverne Conrad as Code Enforcement Officer, be accepted September 29, 2015.

Supervisor Flach asked if anyone wished to comment.

Councilman Masti stated that when he first came to the Town Board, Larry was the go-to person who knew more about what has happened in the Town over the years than anyone. He continued by saying that he appreciated his friendship and tutelage, which made working on the Town Board a lot more enjoyable experience.

Councilman Burns stated that Larry puts in a lot of time that he doesn't have to and involves himself in pretty much every aspect of the Town, which is not done because he is a control freak; he really cares about our community. He added that in talking about his knowledge, he wishes he could transplant a fraction of his brain into his own so he could understand what he is talking about most of the time. He continued by saying that he believes that he is going to be healed from the sickness that he has and they are going to have him for quite a bit longer.

Councilman Dolan stated that he has known Larry for a long time, sometimes he been on his side and other times he hasn't been and vise-versa and he hates to see him leave like this and he wishes him the best of luck. He added that regardless of whatever side they were on, he never shied away from answering his question or discussing things with him and was/is okay with agreeing with him on things and they both voiced their opinions. He reiterated that he hates to see him leave like this and he wishes him the best.

Supervisor Flach stated that Larry has been invaluable to this town as Building and Code Enforcement and does a lot more than people realize and he is concerned for the folks that are

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going to have to pick up the slack. He added that he and Larry have talked about him coming back part-time to help out as well as looking at some full-time people and he will keep everyone posted as they get a little closer. He continued by saying that retirement was a hard thing for him to do; he has been faithful to this town in doing the job to the best of his ability.

Councilman Burns stated that he worked for Larry years ago and like a lot of businesses in our community, he did things for people that no one ever knew about including the people that he actually helped out. He added that for senior citizens, when other people had to drag their garbage out to the road, he made his guys go and get it off their back porch and most of them were not being charged. He continued by saying that he has taken care of a lot of people in the Village and Town and has always looked out for the betterment of the Town, which he appreciates and thanks him for.

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

RES. #109-15 APPOINT PART-TIME CLERK I

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans' Chief of Police has a need to fill a part-time position as Clerk I in the Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Kendra Leonardo to the position of part-time Clerk I in the Police Department at the hourly rate of \$11.22, effective September 14, 2015.

Councilman Dolan asked that Chief McKenna tell them what the Clerk I will be doing.

Chief McKenna stated that they have had two part-time clerks downstairs and it was discussed with the Board and Supervisor about having someone available during the day hours in lieu of the transition over to Countywide Dispatch. He added that they felt it best to still have someone there so that the door could be open and people could come in and have a face on the other side of the window to talk to. He continued by saying that initially they had two former part-time Dispatchers who expressed an interest in staying, one just left to go back to school full-time and there is an immediate opening and Ms. Leonardo's name came to him through his Confidential Secretary Dawne LaMountain. He went on by saying that he interviewed her, vetted her, and she is a bright young lady who will be doing clerical work, filing, assisting with records management, fielding reports and communicating back and forth with County Dispatch. He added that this is something that she has some experience in what they call the front of the house in dealing with the public so it will be a very smooth transition and they had her in a couple days last week for a trial period to see how it worked out and she did very well.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Resignation of Zoning Board of Appeals Member

Councilman Dolan read the following:

Mr. Stephen Flach, Town Supervisor
Mr. Stephen Schmitt, ZBA Chairmen

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Good Afternoon Gentlemen:

This is official notification that I am unable to finish my term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. My last meeting will be September 23, 2105. My husband has accepted a position in Texas and my family is relocating. I hope you can recruit new active members to the ZBA who are committed to this important work. I wish to thank the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Michelle Maddage

Councilman Dolan offered a motion to accept the resignation.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Supervisor Flach, the resignation of Michelle Maddage was accepted.

APPROVED - VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Langdon) – SO MOVED

Councilman Dolan stated that he wanted to thank Michelle for her service to what can sometimes be a thankless job, he appreciates her putting in the time and effort and he wishes her and her family well on their move to Texas.

Supervisor Flach stated that this is one of those jobs where people aren't lining up at the door to take and Councilman Dolan said it correctly in saying that many times they are thankless jobs and he thanks her for her services and offered her best wishes in relocating.

Councilman Dolan suggested that they advertise for the position.

Supervisor Flach suggested that they wait until they see what is going on there.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dept. of Public Service – Energy Affordability for Low Income Utility Customers & Proposed Merger of Charter Communications & Time Warner

Supervisor Flach read the following excerpt from the letter:

Dear Community Leader:

The New York State Public Service Commission is sponsoring a series of regional information sessions and Public Statement Hearings regarding two proceedings currently before the Commission. The first proceeding is an examination of low income programs offered by the major electric and gas utilities in New York State. The second concerns a Joint Petition submitted by Time Warner and Cable and Charter Communications seeking Commission approval to merge in to a new entity call New Charger. Attached are fact sheets, which provide information on both of these efforts as well as how to obtain the Staff Low Income Report and the Time Warner/Charter Communications Petition.

The Commission will hold Public Statement Hearings to solicit comments from stakeholders on these two proceedings. These Hearings are open to the public and will have two parts; an information session, consisting of presentations by Commission staff, and a formal Public Statement Hearing where the public is invited to participate and comment on the proceeding.

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Information received at the Public Statement Hearings will be transcribed and will be included in the case record. The public comments will be considered by the Commission in deciding these cases.

Supervisor Flach stated that they asked that it be announced to the public and it will be available at the Town Clerk's Office for anyone that would like to look at them.

Councilman Dolan stated that it looks like the only local information session and Public Statement Hearing is Thursday, September 17th at Bethlehem Town Hall, which might limit it to people who are actually in the audience that get Time Warner Cable. He continued by saying that this would be the time if you not happy with your service or concerned about what a merger may do to your service, to show up and voice your opinion. He added that they usually accept written statements and if anyone hears about it after September 17th and doesn't want to travel to Glens Falls, Poughkeepsie or Buffalo, he would suggest submitting comments.

Councilman Masti interjected that the website is listed as www.dps.ny.gov and read the following:

Submit comments electronically to Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary at secretary@dps.ny.gov or by mail or delivery to Secretary Burgess at the Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350.

Supervisor Flach stated that if anyone wishes to have a copy of it, it will be available immediately or you can obtain a copy from the Town Clerk.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

- Town Board Workshop, September 22, 2015, 6:00pm
- Zoning Board Meeting, September 23, 2015, 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, September 28, 2015, 7:00pm

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Town Clerk Millious stated that Hunting Licenses are on sale and the deadline for Doe Permits is October 1st with no price increase on anything. She continued by saying that she wanted to wish Larry well, she has worked a long time with him and is sorry for his illness as well as wishing Michelle Maddage well on her move to Texas. She added that she is sorry for the loss of Rita Flach, which they received news of just prior to the Meeting.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Chief McKenna stated that he wanted to thank the Town Board for approving his request for the part-time clerical position. He added that he wanted to remind everyone that the original number 756-2059 can still be dialed, there will be a Dispatcher at the end of the call and you can report any circumstances that you would report prior to the turnover. He continued by saying that there should be no worry with what number to dial, if you know the old number it is still in effect but if you are unsure of it, 911 will get you the Dispatch Center to get service. He concluded by

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saying that as always, metaphorically, the door is always open and their phone is always on and if there is anything you need or can think of things lacking, just let him know.

Councilman Dolan stated that obviously you would call 911 if it's an emergency and if you call 756-2059 it will go to Dispatch and they have been told to call 911 regardless of what the call is but for someone who has a question that is not emergency related, they can walk in downstairs and talk to a Clerk. He then asked if you can call the 756 number to speak to the Police Department.

Chief McKenna stated that the numbers in place prior to the transition are still in place and if there are any questions about for instance parking during a snow emergency or a problem with a tree down, you can always dial 756-2059 number for information and if they have the ability to answer the question, they will answer it, if they are uncertain, during the day hours they will transfer you to one of the clerical staff or they will call for a Unit and you will either get a call back or visit from a Police Officer to field any questions. He continued by saying that if you have any question as to the severity of the nature of a call, when in doubt dial 911 and the reality is, both of the phone numbers are going to the same Dispatch Center, the only difference is that there is one specific person dedicated to Countywide 911. He went on by saying that they will retrieve your call, enter your information and it will be dispatched out accordingly and reiterated that if you are in question as to the severity, call 911, if you just have a general question call 756-2059 and during the daylight hours, they will transfer it to a Coeymans Clerk and if not, they will call a Police Officer who will call you back. He concluded by saying that there is a 50/50 chance that you will recognize the voice at the other end at County Dispatch because both Coeymans' full-time Dispatchers went to Albany County and they are working at the Dispatch Center answering calls.

Councilman Dolan stated that he had indicated the Clerks are there during daylight hours and then asked what that consists of.

Chief McKenna stated that currently there is a phone outside the Police Department and if the door is closed, it is indicative that there are no Clerks in service at that time so you pick up the phone, which is equivalent of dialing 756-2059 where you will get Albany County Dispatch who will ask you what you need and in return they will either dispatch an Officer to meet you or give you guidance as to what you should do. He added that if the door is open, which should be Monday through Friday, Noon – 6:00pm, there will be a Clerk available if you are looking to pick up a report or have any questions. He continued by saying that they are versed in a variety of basic questions and if it something outside their pay grade, they will call a Police Officer to meet you at the station. He concluded by saying that the rule of thumb is that if the door is open, walk in, if it is closed you should pick up the phone.

Councilman Masti interjected that it is not an actual phone but rather a box with a button that you push.

Chief McKenna stated that it is a silver box with a button that you would push to call and in return it will be dispatched immediately.

Supervisor Flach asked if there are any other comments.

Councilman Burns stated that the Officers are gentlemen and not out there to just write tickets. He added that the Highway guys are doing a fantastic job and the kids from C.H.O.I.C.E.S. were fantastic workers who did a great job and they helped him out at the creek, there were never any complaints and they got a lot of work done. He continued by saying that the Fire Companies do a fantastic job, they do it for nothing because they want to be a good servant. He concluded by saying that as far as the Flach family, it's only the ones left behind that are mourning and sad

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because Mrs. Flach is in a great place, she knew Jesus Christ, she knew she was going to Heaven and she is there.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Masti stated that there was a nice article in the paper relative to the County brining some programs to the Town of Coeymans for the youth and he wanted to thank Councilman Dolan for representing the Town and then asked when the meeting was.

Councilman Dolan stated that it was a week ago Friday at 1:30pm.

Councilman Masti reiterated that he appreciates Councilman Dolan representing the Town as well as appreciating the article in letting people know that money will be coming down to start programs like this, which will get kids off the street and into something healthy that will teach responsibility and respect.

Councilman Dolan stated that he thinks the article details how local youth can sign up on the County's website and they are starting with karate and flag football, which you can sign up for now.

Councilman Masti interjected that they will be doing Lacrosse next and it is money that will be going to good use. He continued by thanking Chief McKenna, who has done a remarkable job and added that it reflective in the Officers, residents are sensing it and it is a bright light in Coeymans.

Supervisor Flach stated that he had done a cash-flow analysis and they are right on target with the budget. He added that the Tentative Budget will be out in two weeks, which is the Budget that he puts out and it's looking good, he is excited about it and he will have a statement when it comes out. He continued by saying that he wanted to thank Larry & Michelle for their service as well as thanking everyone for their well wishes on his Aunt Rita's passing who was married to John Flach and then asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

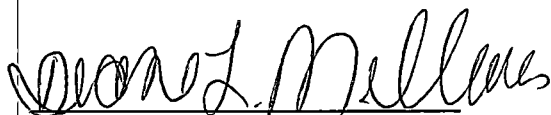
On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED - VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 (Langdon) – SO MOVED

Time – 7:37pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read September 28, 2015



Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk