

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
September 28, 2015 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

A Town Board Meeting was held Monday, September 28, 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 McKenna, Chief of Police
Matthew Weidman, Bookkeeper

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 with the exception of Councilman Langdon.

AGENDA

- Presentations
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
 - Town Board Meeting, September 14, 2015
 - Town Board Workshop, September 22, 2015
 - Bid Opening, September 24, 2015
- Supervisor’s Report – August 2015
- Department Reports
 - Town Clerk, August 2015
 - Sewer, August 2015
 - Building, August 2015
- Old Business
- New Business
- Resolutions
 - Appoint Part-Time Code Enforcer
 - Appoint Board of Assessment Review Member
 - Approve Abstract
 - Approve Sponsorship of Police Academy Recruits
- Upcoming Workshops/Meetings
 - Planning Board Meeting, October 5, 2015, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, October 13, 2015, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Workshop, October 20, 2015, 6:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, October 26, 2015, 7:00pm
 - ZBA Meeting, October 28, 2015, 7:00pm
- Presentation of 2016 Budget to the Board

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Flach invited the public to comment at this time.

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Mr. Rick Touchette stated that he is a resident of Coeymans and lives on Church Street and wished to reiterate his earlier comments concerning the application by Coeymans Recycling for a \$500,000.00 tax break. He added that especially in light of the State Comptroller's finding of significant fiscal stress in the Town of Coeymans, the last thing they need is to give someone a tax break.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Bill Tryon stated that he is running for one of the Board seats and he has been out and about in town and out in the country and he hears so many people talking negatively about Coeymans but what he is finding is that it is a beautiful town. He added that there are so many positive things in this Town and he is encouraged by what he sees and he hasn't seen a lot of the little areas and developments on the back street, which are also beautiful areas. He concluded by saying that he looks forward to being part of the team and helping to build the Town up and making it what it should be, just as awesome as New Baltimore and any of the other towns.

Councilman Dolan interjected that he wanted to put on the record that he thinks the Town of Coeymans is better than New Baltimore.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Laszlo Polyak stated the he submits FOIL requests from time to time and there is a lawsuit that has Mr. Touchette's name on it and he is present so he can rebut anything that he questions. He continued by saying that he questions how someone can run for office who is costing people money and in turn asking for votes, which is what it boils down to. He added that it's borderline insanity where you repeat things over and over again and expect different results and Mr. Touchette could comment on the reason why he left his name on a lawsuit and didn't have the presence of mind to take his name off because he would like to be neutral in getting people's votes. He continued by saying that it makes it very difficult to vote for him because just for the Town to answer it, it is costing the taxpayer's money and taking money out of his pocket before he even gets to go to the voting booth. He went on by saying that at a Town Board Meeting going back to 2007, there was a Small Cities Grant application for \$750,000.00, which is money they could have had but in the minutes both Mr. Youmans and Mr. Touchette voted no, which would have been State and Federal money coming back to the Town.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Keith Mahler stated that he is a Village resident and wanted to commend each and every person who has brought business to our community because they have struggled over many years with not turning the page in the Town of Coeymans and Village of Ravena. He added that in addressing Mr. Touchette's comment about giving a \$500,000.00 tax break, if he were up in that seat, he would know that decisions have to be made about how to better our community by giving tax incentives and tax breaks to businesses to bring them here. He continued by saying that he doesn't think that he can make such a fair judgment on the State Comptroller's Audit until they report in full and whether they can come out of it as a Town and Village successfully and concluded by offering his gratitude to the Town Board for getting them to the level where they are today as a Town and growing further together as a Village and asked that they keep the good work up and he believes their fiscal stress level will decrease as they move forward.

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 were minutes from a Town Board Meeting on September 14th and then offered a motion to approve them.

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MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Burns, the Town Board minutes were approved as presented and read.

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

Supervisor Flach continued by saying that there are minutes from a Town Board Workshop September 22nd and then offered a motion to approve them.

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

MOTION

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

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

Supervisor Flach stated that there was a bid opening on September 24th for 78 Main Street, which is the property at the corner of Main and Westerlo and it was put back out to bid because the first bid didn't meet the minimum price. He added that there was some interest from other people so they decided to put it up for re-bid and three people actually looked at the building and one submitted a bid, one gentleman was interested but didn't get a chance to look at it and didn't put a bid in and Coeymans Industrial put in a bid. He continued by saying that the winning bid was \$6,500.00, the minimum was \$5,000.00, and then asked for a motion to accept the bid.

Councilman Dolan stated that he believed they should approve the minutes for the Bid Opening before they accept the bid.

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the minutes were approved as presented and read.

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

Councilman Dolan asked how the bids were received.

Town Clerk Millious stated that they were received in person.

Councilman Dolan stated that he wanted to know if people faxed or mailed them in.

Town Clerk Millious reiterated that they were sealed bids in person.

Supervisor Flach stated that he would offer a motion to accept the bid from Coeymans Industrial Park in the amount of \$6,500.00.

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Masti, the bid for 78 Main Street was accepted.

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

Councilman Burns asked what the plans are for it.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not know.

Councilman Burns stated that he has 90 days to do something with it.

Supervisor Flach stated that he has 90 days to repair the steps and doors, which was part of the bid.

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SUPERVISOR'S REORT

August 2015

Supervisor Flach gave the Supervisor's Report as follows:

FUND	BAL. FWD.	RECEIPTS	DISBURSE.	BALANCE
GENERAL	\$248,906.42	\$ 42,786.25	\$185,810.85	\$105,881.82
PART-TOWN	\$384,063.21	\$ 3,770.46	\$217,607.13	\$170,226.54
HIGHWAY	\$141,591.87	\$200,378.57	\$255,634.06	\$ 86,336.38
BRIDGE CONST.	\$ 29,165.93	\$ 6.77	-0-	\$ 29,172.70
SEWER	\$172,761.69	\$ 51,201.83	\$ 31,139.10	\$192,824.42
SPECIAL WATER	\$ 56,903.95	\$ 549.19	-0-	\$ 57,453.14
POLICE FORF.	\$ 71,191.39	\$ 2,102.87	\$ 4,332.63	\$ 68,961.63
H-FUND CAP. PROJ.	\$489,005.26	\$ 82.99	-0-	\$489,088.25
SECTION 8 HUD – 67 Units	\$ 6,118.46	\$ 45,392.97	\$ 49,184.32	\$ 2,327.11
			Total Rec. Bal.	\$1,224,916.73

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Unemployment	\$ 703.73
Grove Cem.	\$40,961.77
C.H. Cem.	\$13,437.17
Sewer Ded.	\$ 0.00
Total	\$55,102.67

**COLLATERAL FDIC COV. COLLATERALIZED
 COVERAGE**

Greene County	\$250,000.00	\$2,489,559.03
National Bank	\$250,000.00	\$ 225,348.75

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to approve the report.

MOTION

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

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

DEPARTMENT REPORT REVIEW

Town Clerk – August 2015

Supervisor Flach asked that Town Clerk Millious give the Town Clerk's Monthly Report.

Town Clerk Millious continued by giving the report.

Supervisor Flach offered a motion to approve the report.

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MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Burns, the Town Clerk's Monthly Report was approved as presented and read.

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

Sewer – August 2015

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

Councilman Dolan continued by giving the report.

Supervisor Flach offered a motion to approve the report.

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Masti, the Sewer Department Monthly Report was approved as presented and read.

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

Building – August 2015

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

Councilman Masti continued by giving the report.

Supervisor Flach offered a motion to approve the report.

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Flach, seconded by Councilman Burns, the Sewer Department Monthly Report was approved as presented and read.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #113-15 APPOINT PART-TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

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

WHEREAS, the Building Department is desirous of hiring a part-time Code Enforcer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does authorize the appointment of a part-time Code Enforcer position for the Town of Coeymans Building Department, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Coeymans appoints Laverne Conrad as part-time Code Enforcer to the Building Department, at the rate of \$25.77 per hour, effective October 1, 2015.

Councilman Dolan stated that he brought this up earlier and he wanted to be on the record as saying that he thinks in addition to Larry part-time, they need someone in the office full-time.

Supervisor Flach stated that he agrees and because of Larry's health he forced himself to retire and they wanted to still have him there because he is a wealth of knowledge as well as doing many other things. He added that Larry wanted to come back part-time, he is working with the Sewer Department to get everything up to speed before he retires completely and it is a good fit. He concluded by saying that they are looking for someone full-time, they do have someone in mind who is already employed part-time and he will keep everyone posted on that.

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Councilman Dolan stated that the rate of pay is what he currently is getting.

RES. #114-15 APPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER

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 term of Angelo Rosato on the Board of Assessment Review expired on September 30, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined his service to be of value to the Town, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosato has been contacted and has expressed an interest in retaining a set on the Board of Assessment Review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby reappoint Angelo Rosato to a five-year term on the Town of Coeymans Board of Assessment Review to expire September 30, 2020.

Supervisor Flach stated that he spoke with Mr. Rosato, who has been on the Board for quite a long time and he said he would love to be on the Board of Assessment Review as long as he can. He added that he does a good job, the BAR works well together and they are happy to have him come back.

RES. #115-15 APPROVE SEPTEMBER ABSTRACT

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Supervisor Flach, the following resolution was APPROVED –

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

PRE-PAID VOUCHERS –170499-170503,170517-170519,170521,170523,170589-170591,170603-4170604,170606-170607,170612-170614,170617-170619,170621,170626-170627,170634-170637,170640,170642-170672,170674-170713 for a **Total of \$70,357.66**

VOUHER NUMBERS – 170714-170722, 170724-170773, 170775-170815 for a **Total of \$86,291.47**

TOTAL FOR ALL FUNDS \$156,649.13

RES. #116-15 APPROVE SPONSORSHIP OF POLICE ACADEMY RECRUITS

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

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police would like to sponsor two recruits to the Zone 14 Academy at Fulton Montgomery Community College, hosted by Fort Plain Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, based on the recommendation of the Chief of Police, the Town Board does herby sponsor the following gentlemen to attend the Zone 14 Police Academy beginning October 1, 2015:

Richard Bell
Jeffrey Weir

Supervisor Flach asked that Chief McKenna discuss his request.

Chief McKenna stated that small departments are doing everything they can to try and generate revenue as a means to stay alive and serve the community at the lowest possible cost to them and Chief Robert Thomas of the Fort Plain Police Department has endeavored to create a part-time Police Academy in conjunction with Fulton Montgomery Community College. He added that because Coeymans is a very fluid department, he has been extremely kind in allowing them to hire some very qualified individuals. He continued by saying that he has to keep moving because he can anticipate on any given day that three to six Police Officers might get approached by a

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larger department so he is always trying to look out for the next wave and have someone in the cue and in speaking with Chief Thomas, he had mentioned that they were starting it up and in turn he interviewed Mr. Bell and Mr. Weir, who came highly recommended. He went on by saying that they are not actually hired by the Town of Coeymans Police Department, they are sponsored by the Department to attend the Academy and the nice part of Police Academies now is that in the span of 7 months, you actually receive your Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice because the classes are so educationally intensive. He added that these two men are going to pay their own way through the Academy as well as their own equipment and will be driving from Latham and Selkirk out to Fulton Montgomery Community College four days a week because they want to be Police Officers and they want to work for the Coeymans Police Department but he couldn't promise them anything. He continued by saying that he made eight phone calls to Zone 14 Columbia County and has received no return phone calls and he sees them continually putting people through the Academy trying to get the best possible candidates and Mr. Bell and Mr. Weir were recommended by very talented Officers, Chiefs and Commanders and after vetting them he chose to ask the Board to allow him to sponsor them and will let them fly under the Town's flag while they are there. He concluded by saying that how they perform out there will dictate whether or not they choose to continue on to Phase II, which will be field training and after that whether they choose to hire them, which will be Phase III and all the Board Members will be kept appraised as to their progress and whether or not it has worked out for them and for the Town and if any point there is a stumble, the Board will be notified and he will ask to withdraw their name as a sponsor, which he does not anticipate.

Supervisor Flach stated that Chief McKenna had mentioned that he spoke to Zone 14 and they have not produced anyone but it was Zone 5.

Chief McKenna stated that Zone 14 encompasses part-time Academies in a certain area and down in Columbia Greene, where they had sent Police Officers before, there is a Zone 14 part-time Academy that started up recently and he reached out to the Director and Columbia Greene Community College and never received a call back so they found another way. He continued by saying that he has known Chief Thomas for several years, he is a retired Police Officer and Chief of Police in a small town, Fort Plain and he's trying to keep his Police Department viable by working with Fulton Montgomery Community College in which candidates from 9-10 different agencies are attending classes there. He added that it doesn't take Columbia Greene off the map and he plans on speaking with their Board about whether or not they want them to participate, which is fine, but he doesn't see a problem with looking to other part-time Academies and they currently have someone at Zone 5, which is a full-time Academy and Ms., Posniewski is currently there and was taken off the Civil Service List. He concluded by saying that there are a number of different Law Enforcement Academies, which are all sponsored through DCJS, full and part-time, based on the needs of those attending, the Academies and the departments that put their recruits through.

CORRESPONDENCE

Highway Inventory List

Supervisor Flach stated that Highway Superintendent Searles has given the Board his equipment list, which is an inventory list of what they have.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

- Planning Board Meeting, October 5, 2015, 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, October 13, 2015, 7:00pm
- Town Board Workshop, October 20, 2015
- Town Board Meeting, October 26, 2015, 7:00pm
- ZBA Meeting, October 28, 2015, 7:00pm

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any additional comments.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she wanted to mention that the deadline for Hunting License Doe Permits is October 1st, which is the last day to get a permit.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Chief McKenna stated that he wanted to thank the Town Board for the opportunity to put the two young men through and added that all is going well down stairs and the door is always open.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would like to say that Mr. Touchette, like any other citizen in Town, has the right to sue the Town if they think due process is not being followed or their rights are being violated. He continued by saying that he has been the subject of several Notices of Claim, as many members of the Board have and none of those people have been publicly castigated for exercising their rights. He continued by saying that the Small Cities Grant that Mr. Polyak had mentioned, he was not on the Board at that time and his understanding is that he believes there was a legal opinion given to the Supervisor at that time that said if the Town does go through with the grant they would be in violation of the law but he never personally read it. He added that Mr. Mahler's comments were the most bizarre spin that he has ever seen on defending being 7th out of 2,419 on the Fiscal Stress List and added that it is possible to do economic development in this town while following the law and by not giving tax breaks to people and if it is a sound business plan, it should be able to stand on its own.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Burns stated that the Police Department, Highway Department, Fire Companies, Diane and Staff, and Matt are all doing a fantastic job and he wanted to thank everyone for all their efforts and he prays for God to lay his hand on everything and he believes that he has.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Masti offered accolades to the Chief of Police and added that it's nice to hear that everything is running smooth downstairs. He continued by saying that as far as the P.I.L.O.T. Program, his understanding was that if this company didn't get the P.I.L.O.T., they were going to take it overseas and in his mind he would rather give them a break and keep it in Coeymans and they will eventually recoup it with this company because they are a well-known company.

Councilman Dolan interjected that if in fact it is true, he knows more about it than the people who made the presentation because no one said that they were going to take it overseas if they didn't get it and Mr. Zee said that if they didn't get the tax breaks, they might not come here and reiterated that there was no talk of taking it overseas.

Councilman Masti stated that he heard different, he was not at the meeting and has to go with what he hears.

Councilman Dolan stated that if he was here, he would have heard from the 15 people who work at the Port of Albany who said that if these people moved up from the south, they would lose their jobs in Albany. He continued by asking why Albany County would subsidize moving people from out of state up here to displace people who are already work here and added that they said they would be taking food off their table.

Councilman Masti stated that he has no proof of what those people said either.

Councilman Dolan stated that the people who are potentially moving here may know that there was no representation made on their behalf and that the jobs would go overseas if they weren't coming here if they didn't get the tax break and added that the statement is false.

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Supervisor Flach interjected that they would be discussing it at the next meeting when they will need to take a vote on whether or not they accept the P.I.L.O.T. He then asked if there were any other comments, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET TO BOARD

Supervisor Flach stated that he would be presenting the Budget to the Board and in turn Town Clerk Millious will be giving it to the Department Heads and in turn to the public. He continued by reading the following:

Supervisor's Budget Message

I would like to give a short State of the Town Address this evening as there have been a few questions about the financial condition of the Town. When I came into office in January 2012, my staff and I immediately began working on the Town's finances. We met with the Accountant, the Internal Control Officer and Mayor Bruno. Our Accountant was hired from the outside and has multiple years of experience working full-time with a very large municipal and school budget (she is still with us). Our ICO was hired by the Town and worked here for years before I was elected. The ICO was paid approximately \$105.00 per hour and worked with our Accountant, Finance Office personnel and the Supervisor. At the end of 2011 there were many due "to's" and "from's, also known as interfund loans which had been on the Town's books for years. Also at the end of 2011, the Town's Highway Fund needed to borrow money from other funds in order to pay their bills. In July of 2012 The NYS Comptroller came to the office and did a Recordkeeping and Cash Disbursement Audit for all of 2011 through June of 2012. It was found that at the end of 2011 the Sewer District had an interfund loan balance totaling \$339,419.00 related to the financing of capital expenditures. The report also states that if this loan and the related capital expenditures had been properly accounted for in the Capital Projects Fund, the Sewer District Fund would have had a positive fund balance as of December 31, 2011. The previous Town Officials did not repay interfund advances before the close of 2011 and as a result, four of the Town's operating funds, had interfund loans unpaid as of December 31, 2011. The previous Officials were also unable to work together with the Village, and therefore the Town had not been collecting owed sewer revenues, as well as large amounts due to the Town for sewer capital projects. When I walked into office in January, there was a sewer BAN (loan) of over \$300,000.00 dollars due within the week that had been taken out in Jan 2011. This was not a problem, other than the previous administration had done nothing to bill the Village their portion of Capital Project H35, which at that time was 70% of a project that the town spent \$435,000.00 on and had not collected anything against it.

The Sewer District had owed the Town's "B" Fund almost \$350,000.00 for years and we took the BAN needed to pay the monies back. By doing so we were able to pay back "B" Fund or part-town, which had also lent money to "A" Fund or town wide, which was paid back. I will say that the Town and Village Boards have met and communicated on a regular basis since I came into office and the Village is up to date on all sewer payments. Because of this, the BAN as stated above should be paid off within the next couple years.

There was also an interfund loan of \$89,000.00 that the Comptroller said, was uncollectable because the project was closed and all revenues were already received and paid out. Basically, the Sewer Fund owed the Sewer Fund and could not pay themselves back, because no more money was going to come in. We basically needed to "forgive" the debt as we were never going to collect money that we kept saying on our AFR we would. It made our books look better than they really were. I was not able to do that until 2013 as the former Board despite recommendations from our Accountant, and ICO would not pass the resolution in 2012. After being prompted from the Comptroller's Office in 2013, they finally passed the resolution to forgive the debt. This was also true of another Capital Project on Martin's Hill and the previous Board would not pass that resolution either. It did not get taken care of until 2014 with the new

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Board. In short, what this means, and what the NYS Comptroller stated when they walked in the door to audit our books, again, is that the Town's books were not showing a true picture of the condition of the finances. If you know you are never going to collect receivables, but keep showing them on your AFR, it looks positive, but in fact is false.

When you come into office the budget is already set from the previous year, as we are doing the budget now, for next year. There was \$400,000.00 available in the plus, but here was \$600,000.00 that was appropriated. Thus the Highway Department was in the red because of a \$200,000.00 fund balance that was put in to the 2012 budget, which did NOT exist. I have whittled away at this negative fund balance, and this year the Highway Department will be in the positive

For the last 5 or 6 years, our Police Department has gone over budget; we along with past Town Boards have dealt with this. In 2014, our Police Department not only went over budget by \$55,000.00 but there were unexpected payouts of \$65,000.00 and \$70,000.00 in anticipated revenue that did not come in. Our dispatch center was over \$45,000.00 in their personnel services. Our court revenue was down \$25,000.00 and we had unexpected litigation costs that cost nearly \$20,000.00. The Town was over budget last year by \$280,000.00 which made the end of 2014 a bit rough.

I never wish to participate in the mudslinging that seems to automatically go with politics, but I do feel that the stories I am hearing about the Town's financial condition are very untrue and needs to be addressed with accurate facts.

For 2015, our Police are on track to be within budget for the first time in many years. A big thanks to our new Chief who has worked closely with Matt and I to monitor the budget and meet regularly. He has cut unnecessary spending and raised a large amount of Police Forfeiture that he is able to use for certain purchases, which relieves the contractual amounts in his budget. The Highway Department was more than 25% under budget, thanks to Highway Superintendent Searles and my staff monitoring there expenses closely and continuing to save money with 4 day work weeks, utilizing part time seasonal staff for mowing, as well as some other wise decisions mutually made.

Along with the savings from our Department Heads in 2015, we also saw an increase in assessment of 6.1 million. Combined with the community development income from the Lafarge Pilot Program, it has allowed us to erase all debt accrued in 2014.

We have committed to increasing our services provide to the town, and this means acquiring several new vehicles for both the Highway and the Police. We are purchasing two brand new vehicles for the Police Department in 2016, as well as two brand new plow trucks, which have desperately needed to be replaced.

The current Sewer budget also allows for a new vehicle, which has been needed for several years. We accomplished this while still having the ability to decrease the sewer rate. We have reduced the debt substantially that sewer had obtained in the past 10 years. We have a two year budgetary plan in place to eliminate the past debt completely that Sewer was in when I was elected four years ago.

My budget for 2016 not only reduces taxes to each and every taxpayer by 2.5%, but allows for the Town to have a good amount of money put into contingency, which will allow surplus money to build up each fund balance moving forward. We look forward to building reserves over the next several years, as well as setting up a plan to steadily decrease taxes. Our 4 year plan is to be able to decrease taxes by 10.0%, if that is even feasible, as well as establish a healthy fund balance for each of our funds:

Supervisor Flach stated that there was a recent report made by the Comptroller for the end of 2014 and it showed high fiscal stress, which was due to being over budget last year. He added

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that they had the Comptroller come to the Town this year, approximately three months ago, they were here for a few months and they have not heard from that report but when they had the exit interview with them, it was a good report and he spoke with them earlier in the day and it's still looking good. He continued by saying that he is very pleased with the budget, he's sure there may be changes because it is just the Supervisor's Budget, the one that he put out and the Board can change it, they may decide to change things. He concluded by saying that they are in the black, it has worked out very well and he wanted to thank his office for working very hard on it and then thanked everyone for hearing him.

Supervisor Flach asked that Town Clerk Millious present the 2016 Tentative Budget to the Board.

Town Clerk Millious presented the 2016 Tentative Budget to the Board.

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

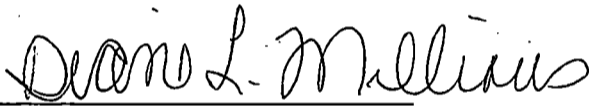
On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Burns, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

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

Time – 7:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read October 13, 2015



Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk