

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
January 12, 2017 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Philip Crandall, Supervisor
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman
Kenneth A. Burns, Councilman
George E. Langdon, Councilman
James C. Youmans, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk

Supervisor Crandall opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Burns offered a prayer.

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Crandall stated that the record should reflect the presence of a full Town Board in addition to Town Clerk Millious, Attorney for the Town Pastore and Chief of Police McKenna.

AGENDA

- Public Announcement
 - Town Offices Closed January 16th, Martin Luther King Day
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
 - Town Board Workshop, December 15, 2016
 - Public Hearing, December 22, 2016
 - Town Board Meeting, December 22, 2016
 - Organizational Meeting, January 2, 2017
- New Business
 - Sign for Riverview Baptist Church
- Correspondence
 - NYS DOT
- Resolutions
 - Amend Resolution #033-17
 - Amend Resolution #034-17
 - Authorize Building Inspector to Attend Training
 - Authorize Extension of Spending Freeze
 - Authorize Supervisor to Execute Rescue Squad Agreement
- Upcoming Workshops/Meetings
 - Town Board Workshop, January 19, 2017, 6:00pm
 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, January 25, 2017, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, January 26, 2017, 7:00pm
- Executive Session
 - Contract Negotiations

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Town Offices Closed

Supervisor Crandall stated that Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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PRESENTATION

Supervisor Crandall stated that Councilman Touchette was present to give an update on Albany County happenings.

County Legislator Touchette stated that there were a couple of things that he wanted to bring to people's attention, the first is a Proposed Local Law, which is entitled Local Law S of 2016 that is currently bouncing through the Albany County Legislature and what this Law does is it expands an existing law that would prohibit small establishments, such as Mom and Pop type businesses from using Styrofoam for carry-out or for service. He added that what this says is "no food service establishment shall sell prepared food in any disposable food service ware that contains polystyrene foam", which is Styrofoam. He continued by saying there are a couple of questions about it, one is the definition of food service establishment because they are not sure if it covers not-for-profit like fire companies and the Senior Projects so it has to be clarified, the Law has been sent to the County Attorney for his comments. He went on by saying that it will have some impact on some folks in town so he would be interested in anyone's opinion on this law and they can contact him with any questions or opinion on it. He added that the second item is a letter he received from Sheriff Craig Apple expressing his concern with the EMS System and the increasing cost and call volume that is increasing of a rate of 5-10% per year. He continued by saying that he has put together a work group to look at the future of EMS, specifically the challenges in the areas they serve and Captain Brian Wood is going to chair the group and has asked that due to his expertise and knowledge in the current system, could he participate in the Task Force, which he will be doing starting January 18th and he will be in communications with Ravena Rescue as they move forward. He concluded by saying that the third item is the Winter Festival and then asked Councilman Dolan if he was going to discuss it.

Councilman Dolan stated that County Legislature Touchette could do it.

County Legislator Touchette stated that the Winter Festival will take place at Lawson Lake County Park on January 21st and 22nd and is hosted by the Coeymans Hollow Fire Company, Albany County Sheriff's Office and Albany County Recreation Bureau. He added that it is Saturday and Sunday from 10:00am to 3:00pm with some of the activities on Saturday such as ice fishing, learning to skate, three on three hockey with a curling demonstration, hover craft demonstration, tractor rides, rescue demonstration by the Albany County Sheriff's Office and Coeymans Hollow Fire Company with a discussion on Ice Safety at 1:00pm and on Sunday there will be Take a Friend Snowmobiling with the New York State Snow Mobile Association. He concluded by saying that it looks like a great activity and use of a County Park right here in our own town and he has some flyers that he will post around.

Councilman Dolan asked the best way to contact him if anyone has any questions.

County Legislator Touchette stated that they best way would be by e-mail at rick.touchette@albanycounty.com or his cell phone at (518) 858-6388.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Crandall invited the public to comment at this time.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she wanted to speak.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he was going to give her time, like he does for all Elected Officials at the end of the meeting.

Members of the audience interjected that she has a right to speak.

Supervisor Crandall stated that she does have a right to speak; he gives all the Officials time to speak before he ends the meeting.

Ms. Tanner interjected that she is not speaking as an Official; she is speaking as Diane Millious.

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Supervisor Crandall asked Town Clerk Millious if it was something that she can't say when she has her turn to speak.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she would like to speak because she has some things to address and he did say in his last memo to her that she could speak at the end of the meeting.

Supervisor Crandall reiterated that it is when all the Officials speak.

Town Clerk Millious stated that sometimes she's not asked and there have been a couple of times when she hasn't and she wants to make sure that she addresses some things.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he would clear that up real quick and added that at every meeting he gives everyone there a time to speak, always and she can check the minutes of all the meetings.

Town Clerk Millious interjected that she can show him in the minutes where she wasn't called on a couple of times and she spoke at Public Comment period before.

Supervisor Crandall stated that wasn't true and added that if she wanted to speak, she could go right ahead.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she would be speaking from her seat because she had a lot of documentation and will go as quickly as she can. She added that she is addressing January 2nd Meeting, in the last resolution at the Organizational Meeting \$11,921.00 was taken out of her A1410.1 Town Clerk Personnel Services and was moved to A – Contingency, A1990.4. She continued by saying that she has worked for the Town for 25 years, 10 years as Deputy Clerk, 15 years as Town Clerk and she has never had to experience what she is experiencing with the Town Board, she has worked with many different Supervisor's and no matter what party she has always accommodated what people need. She added that she had a girl leave on October 7th, in turn she had trouble getting on the agenda and finally she was approved to put an ad in the paper, Supervisor Crandall asked her not to use her other part-timer so much because there is a spending freeze and asked that she wait until next year. She went on by saying that she waited and addressed it again in December because she needed the help because it's tax time and once again she was not put on the agenda when she asked so she spoke at Public Comment regarding it for the first time. She continued by saying that the second time was after the Election when Supervisor Crandall spoke to her and told her she was violating Civil Service Law and called Civil Service on her only to find out when she did a FOIL for his part-time clerk who he said was volunteering her time, there were eight times, she has the documentation for anyone that wants to see it where her Clerk worked 40 hours three times because she was without help and the eight times for his Clerk were, 60.50, 70.50, 62, 70, 67.75, 66.50, 64.50, 62.50 hours and maybe now she is volunteering her time. She added that she feels as though it is a political punishment, not just to the Town Clerk's Office, for 16 years she has had this help. She went on by saying that when she first started in 1992 with Doris Millett, they found a dead rat downstairs in the records room, which was a garage bay, the records were a mess, Doris got one grant and she got two grants, they now have a nice inventory and Records Room, which she wants to continue without it being a disaster like it was when she first came. She continued by saying that during the last quarter of last year she was cut short and didn't have that part-time clerk and since the last time that she talked to him on January 2nd after the meeting and he compared her to New Baltimore, the Town of Coeymans has a population of over 7,000. She added that she talked to the New Baltimore Clerk earlier in the day, Supervisor Crandall said that she has one full-time person when in fact she has two part-time, one is the Tax Collector who also works with a part-timer, she doesn't do Certificates of Residence, or cemeteries, which she took over four years ago, she now has three of them, Grove was abandoned in 2003, in 2008 Indian Fields, which calls her to go out in the field and that takes time away from the office. She went on by saying that she isn't complaining, she works hard, is always present and this has caused a hardship on her office without seeing any cuts in the Supervisor's Office where his Clerk is exempt at \$25.00 an hour from Civil Service and can work as much as she wants and there are approximately 8 people filling his positions counting himself, his full-time Confidential Secretary, his full-time Clerk, part-time Payroll, an Internal Control Officer at \$105.00 an hour and an Accountant paid by voucher as well as calling in a previous Bookkeeper who they paid to help assist as well as assisting herself, which she has always done, many records were required from her office. She continued by saying that it's not fair and falling on the taxpayers, taxes were raised 1.84% this

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year and she feels to take away from service and call her window to be shut is not what she was elected to do, she wants to continue serving the community the best she can, she doesn't want to have to shut her window, she has seen this happen in different departments. She went on by saying that Supervisor Crandall shook her hand prior to the January 2nd Meeting and told her that it is going to be a better Happy New Year, this should not be her budget time, there were no questions asked during her budget time about any of her part-timers and she asked that the Board please reconsider it and move her money back and allow her to hire someone, who she does currently have. She continued by saying that during her busy time it is terrible that she is having to go through a budget at Property Tax time and then listed some of her office duties, marriage licenses and certificates, transcripts of marriage, births, death, death certificates, burial permits, cemeteries, genealogy, bingo, games of chance, bell jar, license amendments, additional fees, certificates of residence, handicap parking permits, FOIL Officer, park reservations for four parks, Notary Public, sportsmen licenses, dog licenses, effective 2010 the Department of Agriculture and Markets does not do the renewals anymore, it is required from her office to send out the renewals, new licenses, renewals, delinquent notices reminding people to license their dog because she doesn't like for people having to pay \$100.00 for the first three days at the kennel, there is a redemption fee to collect, she covers Town Board Meetings as Secretary to the Town Board, Filing Officer, she's responsible for Local Laws, bids, BANS, complaints, everything has to be logged in, Notice of Claims, receiver of taxes for the property. She added that she can go on with a long list of other things that she does, she has tried to go with the times and went with credit cards to accommodate people's needs, she collects sewer and water twice a year, she is responsible for re-levies and has to send out re-levy letters to let people know plus she is a cashier for the Building Department fees, Police fees, does monthly reports and is equal now with the staffing in the Building Department with two full-time and one part-time. She continued by saying that her office does vouchers, some towns have Comptrollers, the Town doesn't, all the mail comes to her and it is logged into the computer, an abstract has to be created, there is a time limit, this has put a crunch on getting things done, she does record retention and has to follow guidelines when she gets rid of anything for the Court, she has to answer to the Court Administration, she is Election Officer, the day of the Election she is up at 3:00am unlocking the Polling Sites for 5:00am and is still in her office until 10:30 that night, this last Election she had to use her part-timer because her Deputy was unable to come in and she's not going to be alone in the building 10:30 at night. She went on by saying that the reason she stays is so she gets the slips that come off the machines because there has been inaccuracy before and this is the only proof that she has, otherwise she gets the same response as anyone else looking on their website, she is responsible for the Town's General Code book, there are many procedures that go with that such as keeping track of books when people come and go. She added that her Town Clerk fees are up from what was anticipated, she is up \$9,000.00, not counting December and she is asking that the Board please reconsider it, it should not be to take something out on her, she wants to continue serving the Town of Coeymans and when she retires she would not want to see a new Town Clerk have all these duties and be short-cut.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he wanted to assure her that they appreciate everything that she does for the Town and it had nothing to do with politics or is personal, it is just dollars and cents with staffing and they want to cut back on expenses for the Town and reiterated that it is not personal and she does a good job for the Town.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he has hired a whole slew of people in his office and to him it isn't right.

Councilman Youmans stated that he was sitting home last week and he came across a budget from 2009, so he took a look at it and because comparisons are being drawn, the Supervisor's Office, if you take into account that Human Resources, Finance and the Supervisor's lines is doing with about \$50,000 less right now than it was in 2009. He added that the Town Clerk's Office is about \$10,000.00 more than it was in 2009, so to say that he has hired a whole slew of people, there is only a skeleton crew of who he needs.

Town Clerk Millious stated that there is a Buy-Back, which is an employee benefit and this administration feels as though it should fall in her services, which makes it look like there is a big increase and she can prove it to him.

Councilman Youmans reiterated that it is \$50,000.00 less and \$10,000.00 more.

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Councilman Langdon interjected that two years ago there was even less than that being spent in that office.

Councilman Youmans stated that it sure showed because there was someone getting paid to stuff bills under piles of paper and hide them to the tune of \$300,000.00, which is fact and not opinion.

Supervisor Crandall asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Ms. Barbara Tanner stated that as a taxpayer she would like to see that money put back for another Clerk, it's only \$11,000.00. She continued by telling Councilman Youmans that in the Rules and Regulations for Public Comment, it says that you are not supposed to make comment about any one particular person, which goes for her as well as the Board.

Councilman Dolan asked who he made a comment on.

Ms. Tanner stated that he made a comment about stuffing bills.

Councilman Youmans stated you shouldn't without facts but there were \$300,000.00 worth of bills.

Ms. Tanner stated that it doesn't matter; he should not have made that comment.

Councilman Youmans interjected that he will say what he wants.

Ms. Tanner stated that it is what the Rules and Regulations say and maybe they should get the Police Chief to escort him out.

Councilman Youmans stated that maybe they should.

Supervisor Crandall asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Mr. Warren Moessner stated that he has lived in the Town of Coeymans since 1996 and there have been changes in administrations, different parties with different aspects of elected office with the discretionary hiring that goes along with it. He added that it sounds like the Town Clerk's Office is a revenue generating department in the Town of Coeymans so you would be jeopardizing fees and other monies coming into the town to support town operations by cutting that office and limiting service. He continued by saying that he wanted to ask the Supervisor if he is in his office as the Town Supervisor 7-8 hours, he doesn't know what the standard work week is for the Town, and if he is there 5 days a week so if he comes knocking on his door, he is sitting in his office and can see him.

Supervisor Crandall stated that anytime he wanted to come in, he will be glad to see him and he should call and set up an appointment.

Mr. Moessner stated that if it is by appointment, he is not there.

Supervisor Crandall stated that the Town Supervisor's job is a part-time job; the Town Clerk's job is full-time.

Mr. Moessner stated that if he wants to see the Town Clerk, he can see her or her Deputy in the office just by walking in the door; he can't see the Highway Superintendent by walking in the door because he may be out on the road. He continued by saying that he worked in State Government and when they had budgetary situations they were very careful to try to not reduce revenue generating opportunities with staff because it would be cutting off your nose to spite your face. He then asked if there have been other equal across the board cuts in other departments or is the Town Clerk the only department, who apparently was approved during the budget development process, had the person that was agreed and approved for before the end of the 2016 fiscal year, had that person removed after the beginning of the budgetary period and if there were any other Town employees that have been removed from the budget since then.

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Councilman Dolan stated that first of all there was not an employee; there was a position, which is different from an employee.

Councilman Langdon interjected that it was budgeted.

Councilman Dolan reiterated that there was a position and not an employee.

Mr. Moessner stated that what he is saying is because there was no authorized fill, they could do whatever they wanted with the position and decide to fill it or not. He continued by saying that he worked in government and they had for example 1,000 items to fill but were authorized to fill 988 of them, therefore they had positions on the books and it sounds as though the part-time clerk position as part of a belt tightening being done at the end of the fiscal year, was that this part-time person would go away but what Clerk Millious said was that they will be all set for next year and go back to full staffing. He added that it sounds like they permanently cut the position and are jeopardizing the services that the Clerk's Office does, which sounds like a lot of hands on work compared to some other departments. He went on by saying that it seems as though it is a labor intensive job and having adequate staffing to have adequate coverage, and also to assure that everything is done appropriately and in a timely manner, it would be something that the town would be striving for rather than trying to decrease it and potentially having the Town Clerk's Office close periodically at various times during the day when a member of the town wants to come in and conduct business. He concluded by saying that he has been there early in the morning, in the middle of the afternoon and on a lunch hour, the office doesn't close for lunch, someone is there to take care of you and he thinks this move may jeopardize that to the extent that someone would come to do business with the town, perhaps generate some fees, and have no one here to take the money or do the processing of anything that has been required of them to do.

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Josie Bruno stated that she was there for something different but she wanted to ask the Board one question about what Town Clerk Millious had said and then asked if the \$11,000.00 was budgeted and then moved after it was approved and after she advertised the position.

Supervisor Crandall stated that was true.

Ms. Bruno asked if there was a reason for that happening.

Supervisor Crandall stated that it was for belt tightening move to have more cash on hand during the year.

Ms. Bruno asked if there was any fluff in any other departments where they could take it from.

Councilman Dolan stated that this question was asked before, there is a position in the Community Beautification Department that was created by someone retiring and they are going to try and go 5-6 months without filling it. He added that it is in the budget and they could hire for it right now but they are trying to put it off for as long as they can.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he doesn't want to go through what he went through in being short of cash like they were last year.

Ms. Bruno stated that she was thinking that there are so many departments; they could pull \$1,000.00 out of each.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he is trying to not lay off anyone but if he can eliminate certain jobs through attrition, which is what he is going to do.

Ms. Bruno continued by saying that she is there representing the R-C-S Community Library as their Treasurer and last year she spoke with Supervisor Crandall about this and last year the Village sent a letter to the Assessor asking why the library was not paying taxes, they didn't own the building, they were leasing 95 Main Street. She added that she went through with the State and she spoke with Dawn about the library paying all the bills and because a letter came from the Village asking the question, she had to refer it to the State. She continued by saying that the State's reply was that they were in the process of buying the building but they didn't own it yet

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so they have to put them on the roll as not being tax exempt so she called the Assessor and Supervisor Crandall who had said that he would look into it and the Assessor sent them a letter saying they are now taxable. She went on by saying that she talked to the State and they told her to talk to the Town Board to see if they can do anything, she called Supervisor Crandall back who said he would talk to the Board and in the meantime they got a Tax Bill for \$1,800.00. She added that she called the Assessor who said that she didn't want to put them back on the Tax Roll because they now own the building and they are tax exempt but could not do anything now and advised that she talk to Town Clerk Millious and was advised that she had to go to the Town Board. She continued by saying that it has been done where bills have been null and voided by the Town Board if there is a tax exempt as well as them not budgeting \$1,800.00 to pay taxes, the building was bought last year and now they will also be getting a Village Tax Bill. She concluded by saying that she is there to ask the Town Board for their help in helping the R-C-S Community Library to void out the bill.

Councilman Dolan asked when they bought the building.

Ms. Bruno stated that it started in the beginning of last year and they finally closed in October.

Councilman Dolan stated that it was the Board's understanding that once the Library Board bought the building, they would be tax exempt.

Ms. Bruno stated that they are and there is a ruling that because they are a tax exempt library, the Board can help them and make a decision to null and void the bill because it just came out and has not been paid yet.

Supervisor Crandall asked that she give him a copy of what she has and in turn he will talk to Assessor DeRose, they will call the State to find out exactly what they can do, which he will be more than happy to do for them.

Ms. Bruno stated that they have until the end of the month when payment is due so she would appreciate that it gets done as soon as possible.

Supervisor Crandall stated that they would get right on it and then asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Ms. Mary Driscoll read the following:

My name is Mary Driscoll and I am glad that Mr. Youmans brought up about the Supervisor's Office. The Supervisor's Office has a Supervisor, supposedly at \$35,000.00 a year, he has a Secretary who makes \$18.00 an hour, which is \$35,100.00 a year and then he has a Clerk who makes \$25.50 per hour according to the first meeting that I attended when you appointed her, who is evidently from what she has heard is not Civil Service, she makes \$49,725.00 a year so before you even start your budget, the Supervisor's job costs the taxpayers in this town \$85,000.00, that's without a Secretary, without the Clerk getting overtime for attending meetings or working on Saturdays with an Accountant, plus benefits. I don't know what the Saturday Accountant is paid per hour. I have a question about the Clerk's position being Civil Service, that would be if they worked 37 ½ hours if they work 40 hours a week the Supervisor still gets \$35,000.00 the Secretary gets \$37,440.00 and the Clerk gets \$53,040.00 per year but we can't afford a part-time clerk for the Town Clerk's Office. Especially since she is here five days a week and we can see her, we don't have to call her, we don't have to make appointments, she is here and she is an Elected Official. The Bookkeeper's pay is also in the Supervisor's Office and not included in these figures and why is the payroll being serviced out, that is taxpayer's money going out of town. So for Councilman Youmans to say that the Supervisor's Office is \$50,000.00 less than it was in 2009, I would have to and like to see the figures to really prove that. I cannot understand why we have a Clerk that makes more money than any Elected Official in this town who is not Civil Service; she is appointed and makes \$49,725.00 a year if she only works 37 ½ hours, that is not counting overtime for Saturdays or for attending meetings, or for working with the Accountant. Why do we have to have an Accountant, you can't blame it on a previous Supervisor because that is a lot of hogwash. What is the Accountant on Saturdays paid per hour, does anyone know? I am sure a part-time Clerk in the Town Clerk's Office would not get that pay, I mean its bad enough that we have a Clerk that is getting \$25.50 per hour, that is pretty

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darn good pay even in this day and age. So I am glad you brought it up about the Supervisor's Office.

Councilman Youmans stated that he would be glad to share the numbers with her.

Ms. Driscoll interjected that she'd bet he would.

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Barbara Tanner stated that she was born and raised in this Town and continued by saying that she hopes and prays that it is not political because she has a gut feeling that it is, there are three Democrats and two Republicans and she knows that if it was three Republicans and two Democrats this never would have happened.

Supervisor Crandall asked if anyone else wished to comment.

Ms. Darlene Moessner asked why there is a Clerk who basically receives double what any of the other clerks make, why is it happening and what special skills does this person bring.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he is not sure what she is referring to and for her to understand that everything being said in public is not necessarily true and necessarily factual; it is public comments and told her she could say whatever she wanted.

Ms. Moessner reiterated that her question is, is one Clerk making double what every other Clerk is making.

Supervisor Crandall stated that there isn't to his knowledge.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he has to know that it is true, there is someone making \$25.00 an hour and the other girls are making \$12.50.

Supervisor Crandall stated that she is not a Clerk, she is a Bookkeeper.

Ms. Moessner stated that she can't possibly do more than Town Clerk Millious' office does and then asked what responsibility falls on her shoulders.

Supervisor Crandall interjected that all of the financial responsibility of the Town flows through the Supervisor's Office.

Ms. Moessner asked why that person is not Civil Service.

Councilman Dolan interjected that State Law allows the Supervisor to hire two people, a Confidential Secretary and a Bookkeeper, which is the Clerk to the Supervisor and those people are exempt from Civil Service and they are the choice of the Town Supervisor and can be approved or not by the Town Board but it is only the Town Supervisor that can pick those two positions.

Ms. Moessner stated that he can choose anyone he wants no matter if they have wonderful or terrible qualifications.

Councilman Dolan stated that is correct but in this particular case this woman has more town experience than anyone else in the Town.

Ms. Moessner asked if it included doing what Town Clerk Millious does.

Councilman Dolan interjected that she used to be Town Clerk, Supervisor, and a Town Board Member.

Ms. Moessner questioned them not having any problem paying her \$25.00 an hour.

Councilman Dolan stated that the person who sat in the chair before her under a Republican administration was paid the same exact amount of money.

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Councilman Youmans interjected that he had no knowledge of how to do it.

Councilman Langdon stated that he also didn't work a full week.

Councilman Dolan stated that they hired him full-time.

Councilman Langdon reiterated that he didn't work a full week.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would show him the resolution they voted on making him full-time.

Councilman Langdon stated that he didn't work a full work.

Councilman Youmans stated that if he wasn't full time, why did he get the insurance buy-back.

Councilman Langdon stated that he wasn't saying he wasn't full-time, he was saying that he didn't put in 40 hours a week or put the hours in that Nita is logging.

Councilman Burns interjected that he was doing three jobs.

Councilman Dolan stated that his job title was Clerk to the Supervisor and that is what his rate of pay was.

Councilman Langdon stated that now there are three people doing that.

Supervisor Crandall stated that there is a Confidential Secretary, a Bookkeeper who is also the Clerk to the Supervisor and a Human Resource person who also does payroll.

Ms. Tina Nunziato asked about the vacant part-time Bookkeeper position in his budget.

Supervisor Crandall stated that there is one but he hasn't filled it.

Ms. Nunziato asked if it is a position that he is going to fill.

Supervisor Crandall stated that it isn't necessarily true that he will fill the position.

Ms. Moessner asked if it has been taken out of the line items like Town Clerk Millious' part-time position has.

Supervisor Crandall stated that it hasn't been done yet but it's on its way.

Ms. Moessner stated that Town Clerk Millious has a pretty strong backing and she personally has watched Town Clerk Millious for years and she is excellent at her job, she goes way above and beyond and what she is saying is that it is cost foolish to keep putting her office under this kind of stress. She added that they are never going to get anyone that is as dedicated as she is and it is so comprehensive what she does, her office brings in money, her office deals with the public, you can't buy that kind of publicity for \$11,000.00 but you can buy bad publicity by having too many people in the Supervisor's Office and having a Bookkeeper position not put out into the public and it is really frustrating when they see him cut \$11,000.00 out of a budget. She continued by saying that she isn't saying whether this person is or isn't capable but there is no question whether she is capable because she is not stacked up against anything and sometimes just by being in a position a long time doesn't necessarily make you the most qualified person. She concluded by reiterating that she doesn't know the person, she is just listening to the number and facts that are being brought out.

Supervisor Crandall reiterated what he said earlier by saying that everyone is making public comment but some of the things said are not facts, they are opinions. He then asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Ms. Tina Nunziato introduced herself and said that she is Town Clerk Millious' daughter and continued by saying that her mother has had the part-time position for 16 years and then asked

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why they are trying to fix something that isn't broke. She added that her office gives good customer service, she is excellent at what she does and isn't there because she is not good at what she does, she is not asking for any more, she is just asking to keep what she has and she is asking them to reconsider.

Supervisor Crandall asked if anyone else would like to comment.

Councilman Burns stated that they have heard stories about Town Clerks in the past, the duties and how much there is to it but she has taken on a lot more than most of the other Clerks have. He added that he has seen her go out 7-8-9:00 at night because an elderly person couldn't get out of their house to get something notarized that needed to be in the mail the next day; she does it on her own time and doesn't charge the Town a cent. He continued by saying that as far as the cemeteries, she physically goes there and drives rods in the ground to make sure that there is no one buried in a certain plot so they can put someone there and in doing that she can't be in her office to do what she normally does if she is at the cemetery. He added that if she has the part-time person she can continue to do all these extra things that she has been doing without closing her window and he doesn't think that it is a lot to ask for.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Crandall stated that there were four sets of minutes for Town Board approval, a Town Board Workshop on December 15th, a Public Hearing on December 22nd, a Town Board Meeting on December 22nd, and the Organizational Meeting on January 2nd and then asked for a motion to approve them.

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

NEW BUSINESS

Sign for Riverview Baptist Church

Supervisor Crandall asked that Rev. Booth talk about the sign for Riverview Baptist Church.

Rev. Antonio Booth introduced himself as the Pastor for the Riverview Baptist Church and stated that they used to have a sign that would point to where the church was located and it is missing so they felt as though it is time to have another sign to point to where the church is located. He continued by saying that one of the members has taken the initiative to replace the sign, has done some research and worked with the Town to find out what the appropriate size of the sign should be and where it should be located. He concluded by reiterating that all they want is a sign that says where Riverview Baptist Church is located and thanked the Board for their attention to it.

Mr. Rob Rao stated that he is a resident of Coeymans Landing and added that he wants to donate the sign to the church and would like for it to be right at the junction of Rte. 144 so you can see it from both sides.

Supervisor Crandall stated that they spoke with the Superintendent of Highways and DOT who both said it was absolutely not a problem and Highway Superintendent Searles will assist them in doing it.

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Mr. Rao stated that he has to know what size, if there are any limitations and if the Highway Department is willing to install it for them.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he will get in touch with Superintendent Highway Searles about installing the sign.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Burns, allowing Riverview Baptist Church to install signage conforming with all laws and authorize the Highway Department to install it as well as waiving the sign fee.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

CORRESPONDENCE

NYS DOT – Letter

Supervisor Crandall stated that he had been in contact with DOT again as he had many times this year and this time it is about a driveway on 9W that is cut-off at the top of Mountain Road where the signal is, the white line is in the middle of his driveway and they are trying to get the State to change it. He added that right now they are telling them that there has been a review of the accident history, it does not call for it and they are telling them no but he usually doesn't take no for an answer so he will be contacting DOT again to see if they can get it taken care of.

Councilman Dolan stated that as he understands it, the issue is that the line where people stop is in the middle of his driveway.

Councilman Dolan stated that he had another correspondence to share and continued by reading the following from the Albany County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Advisory Committee who is looking for a member and continued by reading the following excerpt:

I am pleased to share with you Albany County has been awarded grant funding from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to aid in updating our Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. Our efforts will focus on opportunities for farmland protection, economic development initiatives and methods of maintaining the viability of agriculture in the County. Through this planning process we will also evaluate land use regulations and other issues that may impact the agricultural industry. It should last for 12-18 months, with approximately 5-8 meetings during that time.

Councilman Dolan stated that anyone interested should contact the Supervisor's Office and added that Mr. Collins would be perfect for it and added that there is representation from every other part of the County so it would be good if there was someone from Coeymans to represent what our farmers need as far as any sort of regulations or initiatives.

Councilman Youmans interjected that if Mr. Collins is not interested, he may be able to point them in the direction of someone that may be interested.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #039-17 AMEND RESOLUTION #033-17

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Youmans, the following resolution was **APPROVED – VOTE – AYES – 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED**

WHEREAS, Resolution #33-17 was presented and passed at the Town Board Meeting held on January 2, 2017, and

WHEREAS, Resolution #33-17 is in need of being amended in order to correct the pay rate for Donald VanAlstyne.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby state that in reference to Resolution #33-17, Donald VanAlstyne will be paid at the rate of \$20.52 per hour, effective January 2, 2017.

Councilman Langdon inquired as to the reasoning.

Supervisor Crandall stated that it is because there was an error of .94 per hour.

Councilman Burns stated that they had mentioned that they are going to try and not replace Don VanAlstyne’s position in the Beautification Department and continued by saying that with mowing the lawns and weed eating, the guys should not be by themselves, they really need another person in that position in case something bad happens.

Supervisor Crandall stated that hopefully they won’t be mowing before May and they will be taking up the issue again in May.

Councilman Dolan stated that what he actually said is that they are trying to hold off hiring for as long as possible because they are still paying Nelson even though he is not here.

Supervisor Crandall stated that they are paying him for accumulated time.

Councilman Dolan stated that they want to put off hiring until the mowing season.

RES. #040-17 AMEND RESOLUTION #034-17

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the following resolution was **APPROVED – VOTE – AYES – 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED**

WHEREAS, resolution #034-17 was presented and passed at the Town Board Meeting held January 2, 2017, and

WHEREAS, resolution #304-17 is in need of being amended in order to correct the pay rate for Donald VanAlstyne and to include Nicholas LaMountain.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby amend resolution #034-17 as follows:

D. VanAlstyne	Parks & Recreation Maintenance Supervisor	26	\$20.52
N. LaMountain	Police Officer – Part Time	26	\$18.13

Supervisor Crandall stated that Nick LaMountain was already on the payroll as part-time but he hadn’t worked in a year and instead of hiring a Police Officer, who is making \$28.00 - \$30.00 an hour for a Court session, they are looking to hire Nick for Court sessions, which will save the Town money.

RES. #041-17 AUTHORIZE BUILDING INSPECTOR TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

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

WHEREAS, John Cashin, Code Enforcement Officer, has requested to attend training, and

WHEREAS, the Association of Towns is offering a Training School in New York City from February 19th – 21st.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans authorizes payment for training for John Cashin in the amount of \$125.00 for the Training School and \$86.00 for train fare.

RES. #042-17 AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF SPENDING FREEZE

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the following resolution was **APPROVED – VOTE – AYES – 4 – NAYS 1 – SO MOVED**

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WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is in the process of completing its 2016 Annual Financial Report, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is desirous of increasing its available cash funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby extend the spending freeze, effective immediately, on all Town of Coeymans municipal departments and offices for an additional three months.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he wants to build up the cash reserve so they know they have enough cash for payroll and this will go away in three months.

Councilman Dolan stated that he knows it is for 3 months and then asked if they can revisit it at the end of the month because they should be getting tax payments in.

Supervisor Crandall stated that they would revisit it at the end of the month.

RES. #043-17 AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH RESCUE SQUAD

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was **APPROVED – VOTE – AYES – 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED**

WHEREAS, the Town is permitted by virtue of Section 122-B of the Municipal Law of the State of New York to provide emergency ambulance service for the purpose of treating and transporting sick and injured persons found within its boundaries to an acute care hospital; and

WHEREAS, the Town is desirous of entering into an agreement providing such ambulance service to the Town of Coeymans pursuant to said provisions of law, and

WHEREAS, the Ravena Rescue Squad has trained and experienced personnel and is certified by the NYS Department of Health as an ambulance service, and

WHEREAS, the Ravena Rescue Squad is desirous of furnishing emergency medical services to said Town under the terms and conditions set forth in the Emergency Medical Services Agreement for 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, hereby authorizes Supervisor Philip A. Crandall to execute said Emergency Medical Services Agreement of 2017, this date January 12, 2017.

Councilman Langdon stated that the amount is usually in the resolution.

Supervisor Crandall stated that the amount is \$147,852.00 in monthly payments of \$12,321.00 a month to the Rescue Squad and should be included in the resolution.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

- Town Board Workshop, January 19, 2017, 6:00pm
- Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, January 25, 2017, 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, January 26, 2017, 7:00pm

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments.

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**
January 12, 2017 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm

Councilman Langdon stated that he agrees with Town Clerk Millious that it is a disservice to the Town to take her part-time position away that she has had for 16 years and they have had a spending freeze for a year now and it doesn't make any sense to him.

Councilman Burns stated that they have had a spending freeze all this time, he respects his position of taking the helm of the ship and making sure that he has everything he needs to steer it but it has been over a year. He added that there have been a lot of times that they found that bills weren't paid from the previous administration but the thing that baffles him is that if they are so short and hurting for money, where have they come up with the money to pay all the bills. He continued by saying that he isn't saying that they didn't have to juggle and he isn't saying that the past administration did it all right but he believes that if Supervisor Flach was re-elected, he had the money there to pay all the bills for the following year and it wasn't something that he just blew off on the new administration. He concluded by saying that they are saying they are hurting for money but they haven't taken out any loans, BANS, TANS, etc. and they have had the money to pay the bills and then asked how they can be that short on money.

Councilman Dolan stated that the Police Chief cut \$60,000.00 out of his budget; the Highway Superintendent cut over \$100,000.00 out of his budget, the Town Clerk gave back some money in her very modest supply line.

Supervisor Crandall interjected that every department in the building gave back money including the Building Department, Assessor's Office and Beautification by not hiring the two seasonal people during the summer.

Councilman Dolan stated that the Town Supervisor gave back \$10,000.00 of his salary the first day of the year and didn't take \$16,000.00 worth of benefits.

Councilman Youmans stated that he thinks that it is also important to point out that now they have a handle on it and know that there is hopefully no surprises, everything is paid now and up to date but for instance what if they lost \$70,000.00 in sales tax, which he doesn't foresee because it is based on population and there isn't another census for 10 years so he thinks they are okay and he thinks 2017 is going to be a much better year for everyone.

Councilman Burns stated that in addition to that, they can better it by putting a full-time Comptroller in the Bookkeeping Office, which he knows is a lot of money but getting someone permanent in that office because next year is an election and if someone else gets the Supervisor's position, the office will be flipped upside down again and added that it is a vicious circle.

Councilman Langdon interjected that a Comptroller wouldn't cost any more than what they are spending right now.

Councilman Dolan interjected that was false.

Councilman Burns stated that they should look at the Village of Ravenna and how stable they are, it is because they have the same people in the Mayor's Office all the time and every time there is an election, people don't get thrown out of their jobs but here they do and reiterated that he feels it is a step that they as a Board, if they are looking to help out the taxpayers, they should look to putting a permanent person in that office.

Supervisor Crandall stated that if he would put together some numbers for him, he would be more than happy to look at them but he also has to be looking at including benefits because no CPA is going to work for cheap, which is what they would need for a Comptroller and it would have to go through the Civil Service route and be Civil Service status so it wouldn't change and reiterated that if he comes up with a plan, he will be glad to sit down and talk to him.

Councilman Burns asked if he understands what he is saying.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he does.

Councilman Burns stated that it doesn't matter what political party you are, it will benefit everyone.

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
January 12, 2017 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

Supervisor Crandall stated that he agrees and added that as far as losing sales tax money, from 1980-1990 they have growth of 3.3%, from 1990-2000 they lost .1% of the population and from 2000-2010 they lost 9% of the population, so the population has been steadily going down and they are at approximately 7,439 people now, which is a lot less sales tax that they were getting in 1980 and 1990.

Councilman Burns stated that he is praying that it is going to change, there is a lot of industry coming in and he really thinks it is going to change.

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she wanted to thank everyone for coming and supporting her and added that the Property Tax and Sewer Bills are out and if you haven't got a bill, contact her office at 756-2100. She added that Property Tax Bills are also online on the Town of Coeymans website under Quick Links, which go from 2012 to present, you can pay online or by phone. She continued by saying that they mentioned the census, which is not far away and she is already starting to get correspondence to help with the census, which is something else that she does. She went on by asking that the Town Board reconsider her vacant part-time position, she is not just doing it for her and her office, she is doing it for the community.

Councilman Youmans asked if the next census is 2020.

Town Clerk Millious stated that it is, it is every 10 years.

Councilman Youmans stated that he's not convinced that they lost as much population as they say they did and he thinks there were a lot of people who weren't home when they knocked on their door or filled out a questionnaire and in going into the next one they have to get a campaign going to let the people in town know how important it is and the effect that it ultimately has on their taxes if they are under counted.

Town Clerk Millious stated that it's like Bethlehem and New Scotland took their loss of approximately 700 in 2010. She added that she felt as though some things weren't right, like the PO boxes down in Coeymans and there was a lot of confusion with different things. She continued by saying that if she had a lot of time she would be going around because she knows the area but she doesn't want to give herself another thing to do.

Councilman Dolan interjected that he and Town Clerk Millious in 2010 tried to get a recount and they contacted people in Washington, the regional people and the Center for Economic Development and they found it is nearly impossible to get them to reconsider the numbers.

Councilman Youmans stated that some people are funny about people knocking on their doors asking questions.

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments.

Attorney for the Town Pastore wished everyone a Happy New Year

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments.

Chief McKenna gave a brief overview of Police Department statistics for 2016.

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any other comments, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Youmans, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
January 12, 2017 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

VOTE – AYES – 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

**Time – 8:10
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session convened in the Supervisor’s Office immediately following adjournment from the Town Board Meeting to discuss contract negotiations, the full Town Board was present as well as Attorney for the Town Pastore. A decision was made, a motion and vote followed when the meeting was called back to order.

Time – 8:38pm

RECONVENE MEETING AND ADJOURN

Supervisor Crandall called the meeting back to order immediately following Executive Session and asked for a motion.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Dolan, authorizing the Town Supervisor or the Deputy Town Supervisor to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Council 82 dated 10/12/16.

Supervisor Crandall asked that Town Clerk Millious do a roll-call vote.

Town Clerk Millious proceeded as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE

Supervisor Crandall – ABSTAIN, Councilman Dolan – AYE, Councilman Burns – AYE, Councilman Youmans – AYE, Councilman Langdon – AYE – SO MOVED – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSTAIN 1

Supervisor Crandall stated that he abstained because he is a member of Council 82; he was not part of Executive Session so he was not part of the vote as well as not being involved in negotiations. He then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES – 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time – 8:45

Respectfully Submitted -

APPROVED –

Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk