

**A Town Board Meeting was held Monday, March 12, 2012 at 7:00pm at Town Hall,
18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

PRESENT: Stephen D. Flach, Supervisor
Dawn Rogers, Councilwoman
Thomas A. Boehm, Councilman
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman
Peter E. Masti, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Albert Deering, Highway Superintendent
Greg Darlington, Chief of Police

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

OPENING COMMENT

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

AGENDA

- Presentation
 - National Eye Donor Month, Lions Club
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
 - February 27, 2012
- New Business
 - Change Date of Town Board Workshop, May
 - Lions Club Tree Planting Campaign
- Resolutions
 - Appoint Part-Time Clerk 1, Town Clerk's Office
 - Authorization to Submit Application to Department of State 2011-2012 Local Government Efficiency Program for Grant Funds to Support a Countrywide Shared Highway Services Study
- Correspondence
 - US Department of Homeland Security, FEMA
- Town Board Workshops/Meetings
 - Town Board Workshop, March 20, 2012, 6:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, March 26, 2012, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, April 9, 2012, 7:00pm
- Executive Session

PRESENTATION

Proclaim March National Eye Donor Month - Lions Club

Supervisor Flach stated that they would be doing a presentation of a proclamation to the Lions Club for National Eye Donor Month and continued by asking that Mr. Pat Downes join him in the front of the room. He continued by reading the following:

WHEREAS, National Eye Donor Month was first declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, and

WHEREAS, one of our most important senses is that of sight and restoration of this sense, to those not so endowed, is the goat of the Sight Society of Northeastern New York, Inc., and

WHEREAS, the Eye Bank in this area is supported by the Lions Club, a member of the Sight Society of Northeastern New York, Inc., and

WHEREAS, the Sight Society of Northeastern New York Inc. seeks to raise awareness of the need for cornea, tissue and organ donation, and

WHEREAS, the Lions Bank at Albany treats over 5,000 children and 30,000 adults every year, and

WHEREAS, the success of the Eye Bank Program is dependent on eye donors, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to urge our community to consider participation in the Eye Donor Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, proclaim the month of March as “Eye Donor Month” in the Town of Coeymans for the year 2012.

Supervisor Flach asked if Mr. Downes wished to speak.

Mr. Downes stated that his daughter, Patricia Downes would speak.

Ms. Patricia Downes continued by reading the following:

On behalf of the greater Ravena area Lions Club I would like to thank the Town Board for this affirmation of the work that the Lions do both in this community and around the world. I just wanted to remind everyone that we help wherever we can within the community and we are here to serve. We provide eye exams and eye glasses to people in need, we have a scholarship every year for a student in the R-C-S School District that is graduating, we support food pantries and youth activities within the community. We have been doing this for over 50 years now and look forward to providing these types of services and working in conjunction with the community for many years to come. Thank you again for the affirmation.

Supervisor Flach thanked Ms. Downes.

Councilman Boehm asked that she leave contact information for anyone that may be interested in joining the organization.

Ms. Downes stated that if anyone wants more information about the Lions or is interested in joining, they can contact Mr. Pat Downes at 756-2879 and added that she also wanted to remind everyone that they also do the signatures for eye donors and tissue donors, which they recommend that people consider as they go through life because it is a good opportunity to give back.

Supervisor Flach asked that she mention the cell phones.

Ms. Downes stated that a new program that they are starting is collecting cell phones as a way to support various activities that they do and those funds are going toward sight and hearing as well, with their primary goal being sight and hearing assistance. She added that they also support Lions International for different things that they have going on such as vitamin B shots that help reduce blindness in third world countries and they send eye glasses overseas and they support doctors that go overseas and the Lions Eye Bank, which is a tissue donor collection organization. She continued by saying that there are boxes scattered around for collection of cell phones and eye glasses, which they will happily take and Southtowns Optical is collecting in Ravena as well as there being locations in Greenville and Coxsackie and any other members may take donations as well.

Supervisor Flach stated that he wanted to thank the Lions Club again and added that when they take prescription glasses they take them apart and categorize them by frames and lenses, with a lot of them going to third world countries and/or to people that can't afford them, which is a phenomenal program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Flach invited the public to comment at this time.

Ms. Donna Pasquini stated that she lives in the Hamlet of Coeymans and has come before the Board for many years and has asked that they please consider putting a Noise Ordinance in the Hamlet and has been told that disturbing the peace and disorderly conduct covers it. She continued by saying that it does not, has not and is not working because Saturday night there was a whole evening of two cars racing up and down the street burning rubber and going sideways up the hill until approximately 5 different neighbors called the police. She added that it was a beautiful evening, kids were out playing and people were sitting out and when the police showed up the cars disappeared but there still was illegal parking and there was a car with a speaker in the back of their vehicle and played music as loud as they could and from the end of Colvin Avenue all the way out to Westerlo Street their windows were shaking. She continued by saying that if anyone wants to take a ride down Westerlo Street, they will see from Colvin Avenue down to Ms. Burton's at 22 Westerlo, that they were driving up and down the street and going sideways and it is like Lebanon Valley on weekends since the weather has gotten nice. She added that she understands that police coverage is short and they could be on another call and added that maybe a Noise Ordinance would help and it would make it a little easier and she feels personally that it would help the police do their job, because they would have something to fall back on other than disturbing the peace and disorderly conduct if they don't catch it or see it. She concluded by saying that she would appreciate it if the Board would consider something like that, which she has been asking for, for years, and if necessary she will go around with a petition in the Hamlet because they have all had it and she was to the point on Saturday night where she went outside and screamed at the people and it has pushed the residents to the point where it is going to end up being a bigger problem than it is when there are people partying and groups gathering and if it disturbs enough neighbors, it will be a bigger problem.

Supervisor Flach thanked Ms. Pasquini and asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Laszlo Polyak stated that he has attended meetings for years and added that he wanted to confirm the rumors that he is running in a write-in campaign for Village Justice and if he is so blessed to be elected on the 20th, he will not be able to speak at a Town Meeting for a minimum of four years since Judges cannot make comments or ask questions about items such as budgets. He continued by saying that if he is elected, he may be able to help Ms. Pasquini because he will be available for arraignments 24/7, which should help assist the police if they do have to arrest someone for misconduct that is going on in the Hamlet.

Councilman Dolan stated jokingly that there is an upside to him being elected.

Mr. Polyak stated that he will be silenced as far as FOIL requests and he won't be able to say things like Colonie has 27,000 people living there with a million dollar police force and in Coeymans there are 8,000 people with a 1.4 million dollar force. He reiterated that if he is elected he won't be able to ask those types of questions.

Supervisor Flach thanked Mr. Polyak and then asked if anyone else wished to comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Flach stated that there was one set of minutes for Town Board approval, a Town Board Meeting on February 27, 2012 and then asked for a motion to approve them.

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Flach asked if anyone had any Old Business topics for discussion, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Change Date of Town Board Workshop – May

Supervisor Flach stated that Grievance Day is scheduled for May 22nd and it conflicts with a Town Board Workshop and added that Grievance Day has to happen on that particular day. He then asked for a motion to change the Town Board Workshop to Monday, May 21st.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilman Dolan, changing the Workshop date to May 21, 2012 at 6:00pm.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Lions Club Tree Planting Campaign

Supervisor Flach stated that the Lions Club had asked the Town Board if they can plant some trees in the town and added that they have discussed the types of trees and where they would be planted and agreed that some should be at Coeymans Landing and some at Joralemon Park and continued by saying that they are excited about it and looking forward to discussing where and when.

Councilman Masti stated that they should let the Beautification Department know about it so they can be prepared.

Supervisor Flach stated that he will let them know about it and when it will happen.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #53-12 APPOINT PART-TIME CLERK I – TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE

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

WHEREAS, Town Clerk Millious is desirous of part-time assistance to maintain staffing levels and prevent backlogs in service in the Office of the Town Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk has advertised and interviewed a number of applicants for the position, and found a candidate who meets the minimum qualifications, and

WHEREAS, the Albany County Department of Civil Service has reviewed and approved the candidate's qualifications,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Bonnie Keyer to the position of part-time Clerk I at the hourly rate of \$11.00, effective March 14, 2012.

Supervisor Flach asked Town Clerk Millious if she wished to comment.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she is thankful that the Board has given her the opportunity for the replacement in her office due to the workload and added that she was prepared to say more if it was a problem.

Councilman Boehm asked how many resumes she received.

Town Clerk Millious stated that there were six with more still coming in and she actually interviewed three and added that the person selected lives in Town and her qualifications are good for the position and when she gives out an application she gives an attachment that goes over what will be expected as far as the days and what her office does so there are no surprises and reiterated that she was prepared to go into more detail if necessary. She added that she had given it to the Board during budget preparation as well as giving it to Supervisor Flach and Supervisor Masti, who were new to the Board and went on by saying that you would be surprised by what her office does and it entails a lot more than going to the window and there are a lot of responsibilities with the cemeteries and Records Room and she likes to bring someone with her when she has to go to a cemetery or the Records Room. She continued by saying that she wants to keep her office open and a lot of times you have to have three people as well as trying to accommodate the other offices. She concluded by saying that if there is any doubt, any member of the Board can set up an appointment with her and she will take them for a tour of the Clerk's Office and show them all the books and things that are done on a daily basis and added that she does not know how else to explain it in writing and she takes her job very serious and she hopes that they take it all into consideration.

Councilman Masti stated that he had gone through the list and detail of duties and was quite impressed.

Supervisor Flach stated that earlier in the day he received a correspondence from Albany County Executive McCoy indicating that a number of municipal leaders thought a study of highway operations to identify opportunities for collaboration and consolidation would offer an area for hard-dollar savings for all municipalities. He added that Mr. McCoy has proposed applying to the NYS Department of State for a grant for up to \$75,000.00 to study ways to find cost savings in highway services and if the grant is successful he committed Albany County to providing the \$7,500.00 local match with no cost to any of the municipalities providing the support. He concluded by saying that the grant application is due in less than two weeks and he asked for confirmation of interest on the Town's part and after consulting with the Board members they confirmed their interest in providing such support and it is the reason for the resolution that follows and added that basically it is a shared services study to try and bring costs down in the Highway Departments.

Councilwoman Rogers stated that they are currently doing shared services with the Highway and they are currently sharing the salt shed and salt with Albany County.

RES. #54-12 AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERVISOR TO SUBIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE 2011-2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR GRANT FUNDS TO SUPPORT A COUNTYWIDE SHARED HIGHWAY SERVICES STUDY

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, after due consideration, has determined that it is desirable and in the public interest to act as a co-applicant with the

County Lead Applicant; and submit an application under the 2011-2012 Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Program to be titled the Albany County Countywide Shared Highway Services Study. This study will evaluate the efficiencies and cost savings to be gained by the functional consolidation, and where appropriate, the sharing of certain highway services between the County and its municipalities, and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of this community to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Albany County prior to undertaking the study, and

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of funds being applied for from the LGE Program shall not exceed \$67,500.00. The project will require a 10% share of project costs equal to \$7,500.00, which Albany County has committed to contributing on behalf of all applicants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans authorizes and directs, Stephen D. Flach, Town Supervisor, or designee, to submit an application for financial assistance under the LGE Program and is authorized to execute all other documents necessary for the implementation of this work, and is also authorized to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the Grant Program.

Councilwoman Rogers stated that she was questioning the requirement of a 10% share of the project cost.

Supervisor Flach stated that 10% is \$7,500.00, which Albany County has committed to contributing.

Councilman Dolan stated that for right now they are just committing to applying for the grant and have not agreed to give up any sovereignty for the Highway Department roads or agreed to the County taking over any part of the Town's Highway Department or Town.

Supervisor Flach stated that this just a study to look into what can be done.

CORRESPONDENCE

US Department of Homeland Security – FEMA

Supervisor Flach stated that he was in receipt of a correspondence from the US Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and continued by asking that Councilman Dolan read it.

Dear Mr. Flach,

We are pleased to present your community with preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Albany County, New York and incorporated areas for your review and comment. We have produced the FIRM and FIS report in our countywide format, which means that flooding information for the entire county, including the Town of Coeymans and all other incorporated areas, is also shown. However, we have enclosed only those FIRM panels that actually cover your community.

We have prepared the enclosed preliminary version of the FIRM using a process that involves capturing flood hazard information in a digital format and plotting map panels using computer technology. In so doing, we have incorporated all non-revised flood hazard information from all current effective FIRM's Flood Hazard Boundary Maps and Flood Boundary and Floodways Maps as appropriate.

We are sending preliminary copies at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. Additionally, in an effort to assist you in circulating the information, the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted digital copies of the FIRM and FIS report materials to the following: <http://rampp-team.com/ny.htm>. We will contact you shortly to schedule a formal Community Coordination Meeting (a “Consultation Coordination Office (CCO)” Meeting) to discuss the revised flood hazard information, ordinance adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the enclosed copies as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the FIRM and FIS report so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the formal Community Coordination Meeting. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRM or in the FIS report. Comments may be sent to the following persons and addresses.

Paul Weberg
Senior Engineer
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 1337
New York, NY 10278-0002

Supervisor Flach stated that due to Hurricane Irene and other storms there have been a number of changes to the flood hazard areas, which may affect a piece of property that someone owns and it is recommended that people stop in the Building Department to review the maps to verify their locations in relation to the new boundaries and added that your property could be affected by the new Flood Plain Maps. He continued by saying that you can go to the Building Department or he will be available for any questions.

Councilman Dolan stated that if you feel as though you may be affected, you should check them out because to change data information on the maps after they are finalized is next to impossible.

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

- Town Board Workshop, March 20, 2012, 6:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, March 26, 2012, 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, April 9, 2012, 7:00pm

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any additional comments.

Ms. Lawler from the audience asked what the subject of the Workshops on March 20th and May 21st and whether or not there is a specific agenda for either of them.

Supervisor Flach stated that there a couple of things on the agenda and continued by saying that she can call his office and he can let her know what is on the agenda so far. He then asked if there were any other comments.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she will be sending out the Property Tax Reminder Notices, which by law are required to be sent out on March 15th and added that it is a reminder that the bill is not paid. She added that sometimes a bank has not taken care of the bill and the property owner had not gotten the bill and continued by saying that she collects until April 2nd this year because the 1st falls on the weekend. She concluded by thanking them for her allowing to fill the position in her office.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Chief Darlington stated that he met with a couple FEMA representatives and signed project work sheets, which they should be receiving the blue folders for in the amount of \$86,404.49 with additional hopefully at the end of the week or beginning of next week to be signed. He added that once he gets the blue folders, he has to verify that the work is complete and they can move on from there.

Councilman Boehm inquired as to if he had gotten the parole change made.

Chief Darlington stated that he called the Parole Officer, Rebecca Hotaling, that reports here and she was going to make arrangements for the Town to have it and she called him and advised that parole has asked that it be put on hold for some reason and with the Department of Corrections taking over, he's not sure if the left hand knows what the right hand is doing right now and added that they will get the corrected one with the Town of Coeymans on it. He continued by requesting to be on the March Workshop agenda to discuss staffing and went on by saying that for clarification, his Police Budget is less than \$518,000.00 and Colonie's is over \$14 million.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time – 7:32pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session convened in the Supervisor's Office immediately following the adjournment from the Town Board Meeting to discuss a personnel issue, the full Town Board was present. Discussion ensued, no action was taken.

Time – 8:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED –

Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk