

A Town Board Meeting was held April 11, 2011, at 7:00PM at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: James C. Youmans, Supervisor
Dawn Rogers, Councilwoman
Thomas A. Boehm, Councilman
Richard N. Touchette, Councilman
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Albert Deering, Highway Superintendent

Supervisor Youmans opened the Town Board Meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Youmans stated that the record should reflect the presence of a full Town Board in addition to Town Clerk Millious, and Highway Superintendent Deering.

AGENDA

- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
 - Bid Opening, February 24, 2011
 - Town Board Meeting, March 28, 2011
- Old Business
 - Housing Choice Voucher Program
- New Business
 - Authorization to Sign 2011 MVP Gold Insurance Contract
 - Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Assoc. Contract for Services
 - Alcove Preservation Assoc. Contract for Services
 - Senior Projects of Ravena Contract for Services
 - Portable Sanitation Units for Parks
 - Grange Week Proclamation
- Resolutions
 - Amend Resolution Appointing Code Enforcement Officer
- Correspondence
 - Albany County Executive
- Town Board Workshops / Meetings
 - Town Board Workshop, 04-19-11, 6:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, 04-25-11, 7:00pm
 - Town Board Meeting, 05-09-11, 7:00pm
- Additional Comments
- Adjournment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Youmans invited the public to comment at this time.

Mrs. Mary Driscoll stated that she is a resident of the Town of Coeymans and added that there was an article in the Times Union a week ago Sunday about the census and she had some questions. She continued by asking the Town Board when they knew the results of the census.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he would guess that he knew the results two weeks ago.

Ms. Driscoll continued by asking if it was two weeks before the article came out.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he is not sure exactly when the article came out.

Ms. Driscoll reiterated that it came out a week ago this past Sunday and it was on the front headline.

Supervisor Youmans asked that she continue to make her comments and added that they may or may not have a response.

Ms. Driscoll continued by asking if they went over it when they got the results and then asked why the Town dropped.

Supervisor Youmans stated that this is something that he was going to touch on during the meeting and reiterated that she should make her statement.

Ms. Driscoll continued by asking what the Board did to make sure everyone was counted.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is not a question and answer time.

Ms. Driscoll stated that she would have to agree with the statement about Rte. 144 and continued by saying that she wonders why the reporter did not check out between Rte. 144 and Rte. 9W because it looks like they went down 144 and came up 9W. She went on by saying that the article said that Supervisor Youmans did not respond to repeated requests for comment and then asked when he was going to start standing up for this community. She continued by saying that there are ways to do it such as letters to the editor or invite the reporter down to show him what a great community we do have. She went on by saying that there was also mention of Lafarge being notorious for its discharge of toxic mercury and she is getting tired of the bullying, which is what the Times Union is doing to our community and it seems as though they are teaching them at the school not to start rumors and untrue statements about kids but this is what Lafarge is doing to our community. She continued by saying that it is time that they instill pride in our community, which cannot be done without leadership and if they don't start sticking up for the community they can't do anything about it. She added that she wanted to know about Main Street in Coeymans and she didn't want to start anything between Coeymans and Ravena and then asked if there are some grants that they can get to paint those buildings or clean them up. She concluded by saying that none of them are talking and she does not care to continue talking to a wall.

Supervisor Youmans thanked Ms. Driscoll and continued by saying that he didn't answer what is characterized as repeated requests for an interview, which was actually two calls in one day because at that time he was coming to grips with what may be the financial implications of the census count. He added that he finds as Ms. Driscoll does that the Times Union is biased against the Town of Coeymans and he is not in a hurry to give them anymore information to use against the Town. He went on by saying that he is glad that Ms. Driscoll brought up the census because it was something that he wanted to address because the Town of Coeymans shows a decline in population of 733 people, which on the surface sounds like a lot of people but when you look at the financial implications, the census count is what Albany County uses to determine the formula for the Sales Tax distribution that is shared by different towns and other municipalities within Albany County. He continued by saying that as a result of a 9% drop in population and also as a result of other places in Albany County rising in population, it equates to a 16% loss in Sales Tax Revenue, which is based on the current formula and trends but they won't know the true implications of that until they start receiving the checks from Albany County, which should be within the next two weeks, which will give them more of a solid idea as to where they stand financially. He concluded by saying that the census count was a startling thing for them and his first inclination was that it could not be right and they are by all means looking at every possible avenue that they have but when you look at the School District enrollment numbers, which went down by 352 students since 2000, with the majority living in the Town of Coeymans, when you put one parent with

each student it comes up to 700 and added that he is not that optimistic that the census could be all that wrong and this is where they stand on that.

Supervisor Youmans asked if anyone else wished to comment, hearing none he continued by saying that he wanted to let the Board know that the Annual Financial Report, that the Town Supervisor is responsible for submitting to the State Comptroller's Office by March 31st, was in fact submitted to them prior to that date and copies are available from the Town Clerk. He added that in addition to that they all also completed the one for 2009, which was seven months overdue when he became the Town Supervisor and concluded by saying that he wanted to report that both have been done and were submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Youmans stated that there were two sets of minutes for Town Board approval, a Bid Opening on February 24th and a Town Board Meeting on March 28th and continued by asking for a motion to approve them.

MOTION

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

OLD BUSINESS

Housing Choice Voucher Program

Supervisor Youmans stated that he was in receipt of a letter from James Mastrianni, President of JEM Inc., which is the company that administers the Town's Section 8 Housing Voucher Program and continued by reading the following:

Dear Supervisor Youmans,

This letter follows up on my letter of December 13, 2010 regarding the Town of Coeymans Housing Choice Voucher Program. In that last letter I explained former Supervisor Traver requested I contact him in April of 2011 to address the moratorium of new assisted tenancies at Oakbrook Manor.

Federal regulations at 24CFR982.306(c)(6) state that a Housing Agency may deny approval of assisted tenancies if the owner of a property has a history of practice of renting units that fail to meet State or local housing codes. In March of 2005, documentation on file with the Village of Ravena and with our office clearly indicated a history of units at Oakbrook Manor failing to meet village codes and Housing Quality Standards. Accordingly, a moratorium was placed on new assisted tenancies until Oakbrook Manor could remediate the local code deficiencies.

It is my understanding that new management at Oakbrook Manor has significantly improved the operations of the complex over the past few years. In light of these improvements, the regulations that allowed for the moratorium may no longer be applicable. To determine if there is still "history or practice of renting units that fail to meet Sate or local housing code" the Village of Ravena's Building Department would need to be contacted. Would you prefer that my office contact the Building Inspector directly, or would you prefer to have the Town contact the Building Inspector?

That you for your cooperation and I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James E. Mastrianni, President

Supervisor Youmans asked the Board if this is something that they want to investigate on their own or do they want to leave it up to JEM Inc. to contact the Village of Ravena.

Councilwoman Rogers stated that it will still be the Town's decision as to whether or not they want to open Oakbrook back up to Section 8 again.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he does not know if that is necessarily the case and added that according to the letter, the way he reads it is that if they do not have substandard or housing that does not violate code, then it's eligible for Section 8 Housing.

Councilman Touchette interjected that there are a number of units rented under the Program at Oakbrook.

Supervisor Youmans stated that to be clear they did make an exception recently because there was an elderly person who had resided there for over ten years and became eligible for the Program and rather than uproot that person and make them move, they as a Board determined that it made sense to allow that one to go through. He concluded by saying that his best guess would be that they should probably have Code Enforcement Officer Conrad contact the Village of Ravena's Building Inspector and see what his findings are and this would be the course of action that he would recommend and with the Board's blessing this is what he will do.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, authorizing Building Inspector Conrad to contact the Village Building Inspector regarding the improvements for the Oakbrook facility.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization to Sign 2011 MVP Gold Insurance Contract

Supervisor Youmans stated that there is a request for authorization for him to sign the 2011 MVP Gold Insurance Contract, which is the Health Insurance that covers the retirees of the Town of Coeymans.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, authorizing Supervisor Youmans to renew the contract with MVP Health Care who provide health care to the Town of Coeymans retirees.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association Contract for Services

Supervisor Youmans stated that there is a Contract for Exchange of Services or Compensation with the Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association and continued by reading the following:

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is in need of services consisting of assistance in improving the quality of life in the Hamlet of Coeymans, including periodic cleaning drives and neighborhood development which can be performed by Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association,

WHEREAS, the Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association is in need of services consisting of financial assistance in the amount of \$1,000.00, which can be performed by the Town of Coeymans.

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned parties hereby agree that they shall exchange services, which shall be beneficial to both entities, in that the Town of Coeymans shall provide services consisting of financial assistance of \$1,000.00 for a time period of one (1) year and the said Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association shall provide services to the Town of Coeymans, consisting of improving the quality of life in the Hamlet of Coeymans for a time period of one (1) year.

Supervisor Youmans stated that this is something that they have done for a number of years and then asked for authorization from the Board to sign the Contract.

Councilman Boehm stated that he believes that this is new and the first time for a Contract with Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association.

Supervisor Youmans stated that he didn't believe so.

Councilman Dolan interjected that it was done last year and the year before.

Town Clerk Millious stated that Bookkeeper Chmielewski was shaking her head no.

Councilman Dolan stated that he thought it was authorized.

Councilman Boehm stated that they looked into it but he didn't believe they actually did it.

Councilman Touchette stated that it was budgeted but the Neighborhood Association was not in a position to accept the money because they weren't incorporated and didn't have a bank account and they were not able to do it last year.

Councilman Boehm reiterated that this is the first time that it has been done.

Councilman Touchette stated that is the first time that it has actually been done and the second time that it was put in the budget.

Supervisor Youmans asked if there was a motion to authorize the Supervisor to enter into the contract.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Touchette, seconded by Councilman Boehm, authorizing the Supervisor to enter execute the Contract for Exchange of Services or Compensation with the Historic Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association.

VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSTAIN 1 (Dolan) SO MOVED

Councilman Dolan stated that he was recusing himself from the vote because he is a member of the Association.

Alcove Preservation Association Contract for Services

Supervisor Youmans stated that there is a similar Exchange of Services or Compensation Contract with the Alcove Preservation Association and continued by saying that it is for future site work at the Valley Paper Mill Park to transform it into a Pocket Park for Town residents. He added that he understands that once the park is completed, the Alcove Preservation Association plans on turning it over to the Town of Coeymans for a Town Park. He then asked for authorization to sign the contract.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, authorizing the Supervisor to enter into a Contract for Exchange of Services or Compensation with the Alcove Preservation Association.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Senior Projects of Ravena Contract for Services

Supervisor Youmans stated that there is also a Contract in Exchange of Services for Compensation with Senior Projects of Ravena and added that the building serves as an Emergency Shelter; they provide meals, a training facility as well as providing income tax services for seniors. He added that many of the Town's seniors enjoy the camaraderie they share and the meals and went on by saying that this is not anything new and as long as he has been on the Board they have done it. He concluded by saying that the amount is \$7,000.00 and then asked for authorization to sign the contract.

MOTION

On motion of Supervisor Touchette, seconded by Councilman Boehm, authorizing the Supervisor to execute the Contract for Exchange of Services or Compensation with Senior Projects.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Portable Sanitation Units for Parks

Supervisor Youmans stated that there are four quotes for Portable Sanitation Units for Coeymans Landing Park and Joralemon Park and read the following:

- Blue Diamond Septic \$347.00 + Vandalism Charges From \$150.00 - \$1,800.00
- Stone Industries \$450.00 + Damage Waiver of \$8.00 per month
- Greene County Septic \$490.00 + Vandalism Damages Invoice Separately
- Yankee Restrooms \$500.00 No Vandalism Damage Charges

Supervisor Youmans stated the Town has used Blue Diamond Septic right along and has received satisfactory service from them and then asked if anyone had anything that they wanted to discuss.

Councilwoman Rogers stated that she knows that they have been tipped over and pushed into the field and continued by asking if there has been any severe damage at Joralemon Park

Supervisor Youmans stated that to his knowledge he does not know of any and added that it does not mean that it didn't happen. He continued by saying that he believes that there were a couple of times that there have been charges to come and stand them back up and clean them out when they are tipped over. He added that when they see vandalism damage charges, he's not sure that it means that they won't charge the same to come down if someone tips them over and it looks to him like some more investigation needs to be done and it needs to be made more clear. He concluded by saying that he would like to table it until the next meeting.

Councilman Boehm stated that he believes that they should authorize the Supervisor to investigate it because they do want to get them placed because there are already people with boats in the river and people at Joralemon Park and he does not want to wait until the next meeting.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would like clarification because one quote mentions if a unit is burnt down there is a certain cost and another cost if a panel is destroyed and he would like to know if the costs are factual.

Supervisor Youmans suggested that they authorize the Supervisor to enter into a Contract with which ever one makes the most sense, not to exceed \$500.00.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman, authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an Agreement for Portable Sanitation Units for Coeymans Landing and Joralemon Park not to exceed a monthly charge of \$500.00.

Grange Week Proclamation

Supervisor Youmans stated that he had a Proclamation for the Ravena Grange and added that April 18 – 22 is National Grange Week and he will be at their meeting on the 18th to present them with the official Proclamation and added that he wished to read it into the record.

WHEREAS, the Grange has sought to advance the interest of farmers, rural Americans and our Nation’s families for 144 years through the simple but potent concept that by working together we can accomplish much for our communities, and

WHEREAS, voluntary association with the Grange not only provides the benefits of economic and political cooperation for its members; but also elevates their character by providing social, cultural and educational programs with opportunities for personal growth, and

WHEREAS, the Grange provides members the opportunity to service their community through projects and programs that make a difference in the lives of children, youth and neighbors in need of assistance, and

WHEREAS, the Ravena Grange in Coeymans Hollow has served this community since 1919,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, proclaims the week of April 18-22, 2011 as Grange Week, in recognition of the contributions made by the Grange throughout their many years of faithful service.

James C. Youmans, Supervisor
Town of Coeymans

Supervisor Youmans continued by saying that the Grange Chicken and Biscuit Dinner is Saturday, April 16th if anyone wished to enjoy that.

Councilwoman Rogers asked what time the meeting was on the 16th.

Supervisor Youmans stated that it is at 7:30pm.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #49-11 AMEND RESOLUTION #47-11

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board appointed Sante DeBacco, Code Enforcement Officer by Resolution #47-11 at the Town Board Meeting on March 28, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Albany County Department of Civil Service previously stated that the list is still valid and advised the Town Board that Mr. DeBacco may be appointed to this title retroactively, and

WHEREAS, Albany County Department of Civil Service recently advised that Mr. DeBacco’s appointment must be dated during the second certification period of the list,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, does hereby amend Resolution #47-11 appointing Sante DeBacco as Code Enforcement Officer, effective August 28, 2006.

Councilman Boehm stated that as they discussed at a Workshop, it does not mean an increase in pay.

Supervisor Youmans stated that was true and the reason that the resolution came about was because Mr. DeBacco's title was Building Inspector when in fact he is a qualified Code Enforcement Officer, meaning that he passed the Civil Service Exam and added that there are different duties that a Code Enforcement Officer can perform as opposed to a Building Inspector. He continued by saying that by only having him classified with Civil Service as a Building Inspector, the Town was not getting the most bang for their buck and concluded by saying that it is a formality and better for the Town.

CORRESPONDENCE

Albany County Executive

Supervisor Youmans stated that he had a correspondence from County Executive Michael Breslin and continued by reading the following:

Dear Supervisor Youmans,

In my recent State of the County address, I announced again my commitment to continue to explore shared services with all municipalities in Albany County.

We are facing unprecedented economic and fiscal challenges at all levels of government, particularly at local levels. We must reduce costs; and to do so, we must overcome the many obstacles to achieving efficiency. I believe by working together we can generate significant savings, while continuing to provide quality services.

We have prepared the enclosed preliminary inventory of existing county, city, town and village services as a starting point in identifying functions that overlap and potential opportunities to look for collaboration, efficiencies and savings. I would like to meet with you to get your ideas and begin meaningful discussions about sharing services and any other ways we can improve government and save money.

My office will be in touch with you shortly to schedule a meeting. I look forward to working with you to address our similar challenges.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Breslin

Supervisor Youmans stated that he applauds County Executive Breslin and his desire to share services and added that Councilman Boehm has been involved in some meetings in the past with the School District and others about this very topic. He continued by saying that when he gets the call to schedule a meeting he will check Councilman Boehm's availability because he would like for him to be in on the conversation.

Councilman Boehm stated that he would like to be included.

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOPS / MEETINGS

- Town Board Workshop, April 19, 2011, 6:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, April 25, 2011, 7:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, May 9, 2011, 7:00pm

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Youmans asked if there were any additional comments.

Councilman Dolan stated that the County of Albany held a Redistricting Meeting at Town Hall on April 5th and added that if anyone wants they can go online at albanycounty.com/legislature/redistricting, you can look at the minutes of the meeting as well as others that were held throughout the County. He added that his understanding is that New York State is the last state to receive their Census Data, which the County received on March 25th and the first he knew about it was April 1st. He continued by saying that if anyone wishes, you can go online and submit comments to them and the purpose of this is that the County is charged by law to make equal Legislative Districts throughout Albany County based on Albany County's census population, which is roughly 7,800 people per District. He went on by saying that they now have a copy of the map that Councilman Boehm secured from the County Commissioners and reiterated that if anyone wished to comment they could give them directly to the Albany County Redistricting Commission. He added that he also wanted to mention that Saturday morning he spent some quality time with some members of the Capital District Titan's Baseball Team and the R-C-S Travel Soccer team at the Coeymans Landing field and they have worked out an arrangement where both leagues can share the field and have the field available for when they need it for practice and games. He went on by saying that in talking with the people from the Soccer Club, they mention that teams come from all over as far as Cooperstown and of all the fields that they play on, this is one of the more favorite fields because of its location along the river and there are things for families to do prior to the game such as go down by the river or go to Yanni's. He continued by saying that it is a good economic development tool and it is good to highlight things that are going on in this town and in only looking at Main Street Coeymans, Main Street Ravena and Rte. 9W you are missing the bulk of the Town because there is the Alcove Preservation Association, Grange, Senior Projects and Historic Coeymans Landing trying to get grants to do improvements in the Hamlet.

Councilman Boehm interjected that to piggyback on that, the railings are done at the Landing, there is new playground equipment with wood chips under it and Councilman Dolan and Councilman Touchette have done a lot of work with the Farmer's Market as well as Evenings on the Green and there have been a lot of improvements in the Hamlet.

Supervisor Youmans stated that earlier Mrs. Driscoll mentioned Main Street and recently he spent some time walking up and down Main Street in the Hamlet of Coeymans and he would have to say that in the past he may have painted it with the same broad brush that a lot of people do. He continued by saying that as you walk up and down between Westerlo Street and Church Street, there are only 2 buildings in his view that need some help and there are many homeowners in that particular area that do take a lot of pride in their homes and invest heavily in them. He added that you can see some revitalization starting down there and in the past the Kellogg Foundation had invested heavily in the Hamlet and helped people get some facades and their homes painted. He concluded by saying that there is only so much that is in control of the government and he would like to think that the things that they do have control over, they do a pretty good job of taking care of such as the Town's parks and facilities.

Supervisor Youmans asked if there were any other comments.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she wanted to mention that the last day to pay taxes with her was March 31st and she will be settling with Albany County Wednesday morning and added that anyone wishing now to pay their taxes should call (518) 447-7070 prior to going there. She continued by saying that as far as the census, her office has been working on making sure that everyone was counted and the Town does have a chance to challenge it but has to wait until June and she will look into doing what they can do.

Councilman Boehm asked that Town Clerk Millious post the Legislative Map on the side of her window and added that it has some interesting demographic information about the population of the Legislative Districts.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she would.

Supervisor Youmans asked if there were any further comments, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time: 7:35pm

Respectfully Submitted;

APPROVED:

Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk