

**A Town Board Meeting was held Monday, October 22, 2012, at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

**PRESENT:** Stephen D. Flach, Supervisor  
Dawn L. 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  
David Wukitsch, Attorney for the Town  
Greg Darlington, Chief of Police

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

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### **OPENING COMMENT**

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

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### **AGENDA**

- Presentations
  - Mid-Hudson Cable, James Reynolds
  - Rev. Antonio Booth, R-C-S Community Library
- Public Announcements
  - Town Offices Closed
  - November 6, 2012 – Election Day
  - November 12, 2012 – Veterans Day
  - November 22 & 23, 2012 - Thanksgiving
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
  - Town Board Meeting, September 24, 2012
  - Special Town Board Meeting, October 1, 2012
  - Town Board Meeting, October 9, 2012
  - Town Board Workshop, October 15, 2012
- Supervisor's Report, September 2012
- Department Report Review
  - Town Clerk, September 2012
  - Building Department, September 2012
  - Sewer Department, September 2012
  - Police Department, August & September 2012
- Old Business
  - Authorize Supervisor to Sign Employees Health Insurance Plan (CDPHP)
- New Business
  - Authorize CT Male to Prepare Updated Zoning Maps
- Resolutions
  - Appoint Part-Time Mechanic
  - Authorize Attorney for the Town to Commence Legal Action for Shed Removal on Town Right of Way
  - Approve Abstract, October 2012
- Correspondence
- Town Board Workshops/Meetings
  - Joint Village/Town Meeting, October 27, 2012, 7:00pm
  - Budget Workshop, October 27, 2012, 8:00am

- Planning Board, November 5, 2012, 7:00pm
- Public Hearing, November 8, 2012, 6:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, November 13, 2012, 7:00pm
- Town Board Workshop, November 20, 2012, 6:00pm
- ZBA Meeting, November 20, 2012, 7:30pm
- Town Board Meeting, November 26, 2012, 7:00pm

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## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Mid-Hudson Cable – James Reynolds**

Supervisor Flach invited Mr. Reynolds to give his presentation.

**Mr. Reynolds** stated that he had given a copy of the proposed Franchise Renewal Agreement to each member of the Town Board, which is to deliver cable services to the Town of Coeymans and the original Franchise was January 11, 1977. He continued by saying that over the course of that time, they have rebuilt the system several times and in the last Franchise term they did that again in order to keep pace with technology and the latest telecommunication services as well as adding a number of new services such as voice over internet, high definition television, video on demand and they have invested a significant amount of money in their data network, which provides access to the internet. He added that they are requesting a renewal of their contract and the contract that they submitted is one that has been submitted to the Public Service Commission before and they are interested as to when the Town Board is comfortable for setting a date for a Public Hearing and going through the process and if there are any issues or questions that need to be reviewed prior to that he would be happy to have another meeting to do that.

Supervisor Flach asked if the Board had any questions.

Councilman Boehm inquired as to if there is a senior package available at a lower rate and added that he had asked and had gotten several different answers.

Mr. Reynolds stated that they don't have a package that refers to a Senior Citizen Discount but what they do have is a Broadcast Basic Package, which is a collection of the broadcast signals and some other services and it is \$19.95 a month, which is a lifeline service that is there for that specific reason. He continued by saying that one of the challenges with offering other discounts is that if you have any of the popular programming services in that package, it increases the monthly fee.

Councilman Boehm inquired as to what you get in the \$19.95 package.

Mr. Reynolds stated that it is all of the broadcast channels, which he can provide and it is approximately 20 channels.

Councilman Boehm stated that he spends approximately \$140.00 a month for cable and high speed internet, high definition and channels 1-160 and every time he added something, the price on something else went up. He added that he finds their packages very confusing and it seems like a bait and switch as you talk about the packages with a representative.

Mr. Reynolds stated that he is sorry that it appears that way and added that they follow a practice, which is called in the industry, a triple play and it includes voice, video and high speed internet access and if you take all three services they offer discounts, which lowers the overall price and then there are customers who just want one or two services and it changes the price. He added that they are trying to give a discount to those who are interested in subscribing to more of the services and from time to time, quite often they run specials, which can make the price confusing but it really centers around the fact that they have gotten significantly escalating programming fees over the past several years, particularly sporting events, the major sports services that they carry such as the S-Channel, Madison Square Garden, Sports Channel New York, ESPN and all of their

networks are going up double digits almost on an annual basis and it makes it challenging and they try to put together packages that will give some savings to subscribers.

Supervisor Flach stated that his only question is the proposed 15 year Franchise Agreement and the fact that the last one was 10 years.

Mr. Reynolds stated that they are basing their request on the Public Service Commission and the overwhelming numbers of Franchises that are granted are for a 15 year term because the infrastructure to deliver the services that they deliver has become far more expensive than initially when they first started service in 1977. He added that they are delivering a video service only and the line electronics and in the plant itself they are using fiber-optic cables and sophisticated electronics to deliver the signals and all of that has increased the cost and the labor in order to complete the construction. He continued by saying that the franchise term should not be of great concern because what is being presented is a non-exclusive franchise and they are not saying that Mid-Hudson is the only company that can deliver service and at any point during the term of the franchise, if they wanted to offer a franchise to someone else they have the ability to do so if some new technology came along or someone with better pricing comes along. He went on by saying that the franchise documents that they have always used have sufficient “police powers” or jurisdiction so that if they don’t perform, the Town has recourse and 15 years may seem like an eternity but its really based more on the fact of the investment necessary to deliver the services and it is not well understood that you build the system and you are done with the investment, which is not true, particularly with the internet service because as you develop the data network and more and more people use it, the content becomes richer and you use more bandwidth, which forces them to go back and have to update the data network so that you continue to have a reasonable experience, so the investment is ongoing and this is why they are requesting 15 years.

Councilman Boehm stated that there are some places in the Hollow and in North Coeymans that do not have cable service and continued by asking what the criteria is for providing service.

Mr. Reynolds stated that the State guideline is wherever there are 35 homes per mile, which they know does not exist and anything that resembles that, they would be happy to build and for the past 20 years they have been pursuing extensions where there are 20 homes per mile but the landscaping is changing because with competition, if they go into an area they are likely to only get initially a response from people who need a faster internet connection because most people have gone to satellite if they want a video service and they have a contract and cannot convert to their service. He added that they will look at any line extension and report back to the Town and on a daily basis there are a pile of line extension requests from different parts of the system, which they go out and review and price it out based on the State’s formula, which is included in the franchise document and wherever possible they try to make sense out of it because realistically if you go below 20 homes per mile, the economics become very challenging. He continued by saying that they have looked at ways to approach extending service and they would be happy to look at any area they fell should be reviewed prior to the franchise process.

Councilman Boehm asked if anyone in the audience had any questions.

Supervisor Flach stated that Mr. Reynolds had mentioned that he could come back and added that they could schedule him to do that so people can ask questions and then asked Mr. Reynolds if he would be willing to do that.

Mr. Reynolds stated that he would and added that typically the issues that arise out of a Franchise Renewal Process are the term of the franchise, which they have already raised and the coverage area, which would be if there are areas that it would make sense to add and also the franchise fees that are paid, which they pay 3% of the gross receipts and the State Public Service Commission allows up to 5%. He added that the reason most municipalities don’t go higher is because it is not an equal tax, it would just be affecting those that have cable television service so in most cases they don’t choose to do that. He concluded by saying that they are the three issues that he thinks are most widely brought up and in some cases there are individuals who feel like they have had a service problem

that has not been resolved properly and they would be happy to look into it and typically when they get a call for service, if it is not taken care of on that day, it is the next day and they keep accurate records and have to provide the Public Service Commission with their response and they do periodic tests on their head end and equipment to make sure that they are delivering proper signals.

Councilman Dolan inquired as to how many homes are serviced in the Town of Coeymans.

Mr. Reynolds stated that he did not have that kind of information but will have it when they come back. He continued by saying that in terms of scheduling a Public Hearing, he would like to recommend, if they are willing, to outline the process if they are not familiar with it because the Public Service Commission requires publication in the paper of record and it has to be done in a certain fashion, which they would be happy to help. He added that once the process goes forward, if they choose to renew the franchise, they have to submit it to the Public Service Commission for their scrutiny and approval and then it gets finalized and reiterated that he would be happy to help with that.

Councilman Boehm stated that they can have residents come forward that live on certain roads that do not have cable.

Mr. Reynolds stated that it would be helpful to know in advance where they would like to have services extended because at a Public Hearing, all they can really say is that they can look into it. He continued by saying that he would rather look into it prior to the Public Hearing and bring to them the results of the survey at that time so they can talk about it.

Councilman Boehm stated that if someone is interested in cable services they should contact the Supervisor and let him know the area and in turn they will get it to Mr. Reynolds prior to the Public Hearing.

Mr. Reynolds stated that they know there are parts of the town that are very rural and low density and it is unlikely that they could do service there but there may be areas that they have not looked at and they are more than happy to look at wherever it makes sense.

Supervisor Flach thanked Mr. Reynolds and told him that he will be in touch with him relative to the process involving the public.

Mr. Reynolds stated that if there are people interested in having their area added they should let them know prior to the meeting and they will contact them and if there are 10-30 people in an area they will take a look at it and in turn they will bring the Field Survey Map to the meeting.

#### **Rev. Antonio Booth – R-C-S Library**

Supervisor Flach stated that Reverend Antonio Booth was present representing the R-C-S Library and then invited him to speak.

**Rev. Booth** thanked the Board for supporting the Library's Fundraising Event along with Yanni's last Thursday, which was a fun fundraiser where you ate and a portion of the cost of the meal went to the library and they raised approximately \$1,000.00. He continued by saying that the library is moving to 98 Main Street, the former Knights of Columbus building and they plan on moving by the beginning of the year and they are in the process of negotiating a lease with the owner of the building, Mr. Don Persico and he is rapidly renovating the building for their benefit, which they are grateful for his time and effort to help them. He added that they will be moving from the Village office building to that particular location and they are grateful that the Village has allowed them to be there so far and they want to encourage people in their goal to not only lease the building but hopefully purchase the building, which Mr. Persico is open to. He continued by saying that their fundraising efforts are going toward some of the initial relocation expenses but primarily going towards raising enough money to purchase that particular building, which is approximately \$300,000.00. He went on by saying that they are very ambitious and

they need to increase the amount of cash that the library has because they want to apply for a grant through the State Library Development Division that will probably be a matching grant and they have to have some cash available for them to match that particular grant and their whole goal in raising the money is to make sure that they don't have to ask for an increase in the tax rate that the library is currently getting because they know that money is tight. He concluded by reiterating that this is their goal and why they are doing it and they are putting their time and effort in trying to raise money and added that anyone that wants to help can call the library at 756-2053 and they need approximately 200 people who are willing to donate \$50.00 a month for one year or 200 people to donate \$20.00 for one year, which will help them raise a substantial amount of money pretty quickly and anyone wishing to do it can call the library for details and it can be done by writing a check or using a credit or debit card.

Supervisor Flach thanked Rev. Booth and asked if anyone wished to comment.

Councilman Boehm stated that it was a great event and well attended and the library is the centerpiece of our community and he hopes that it does stay in the Village.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is a great thing and he is blessed because his son uses the library quite a bit.

Councilman Dolan stated that two of his daughters have worked at the library over the years and he loves the library and he has worked with Judy Felston the Librarian as well as being glad that Rev. Booth is on Board.

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**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Flach stated that Town Office will be closed on November 6, 2012 for Election Day, November 11, 2012 for Veterans Day and November 22 & 23 for Thanksgiving.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Flach stated that before public comment he wanted to say one thing and added that it is in regard to the Tentative Budget that he put out. He added that he had spent the last two days reviewing the Tentative Budget and one question that arose was elimination of the Beautification Department and he tried to take a close look because he stated in his opinion that some of the good workers that are there in the winter time have not had enough work to sustain them for the four months. He continued by saying that since then he has talked with the Highway Department and went back through the budget in quite a bit of detail and in going through the numbers he is hoping that they can keep those two gentlemen in the Beautification Department. He went on by saying that this is his first budget and there are a lot of numbers to go through and he is going back through and trying to redo some of the numbers and keep everyone employed if at all possible and there is a Budget Workshop on Saturday and still a lot of decisions to make. He concluded by saying that he felt it was important to let everyone know that he is looking at the budget again to make sure that it is a good budget for everyone and then thanked everyone for their patience in dealing with his first budget and added that he will continue to try and do his best.

Supervisor Flach invited the public to comment at this time.

**Joseph Scalzo** read the following:

My name is Joe Scalzo and about ten years ago I sat on that side of the table. A lot has happened since then and I asked to address the Board as I think that it is time for me to speak about things I have had on my mind for a long while and it took a couple of recent events to pique my interest enough to come here and talk with you. I am not here for

political reasons but for what I feel is in the best interests in the Town of Coeymans. I was born here and it looks like I will not be able to leave, which may be good or bad, I'm not sure. My wife tells me it's the world according to Joe, and it probably is. Thanks again for the opportunity. The events that brought me to be here was the fact that the Supervisor, Mr. Flach, proposed exploring the idea of eliminating our Police Department and moving to using the Albany County Sheriff's Department in its place. Presently I am not here to present a case either way but to say thank you to the Board for allowing Sheriff Apple the opportunity to present his plan in detail as to the number of cars, officers and times to you, which Greg can probably expound upon. There was a lot of other police work that he went over, I was not here for the presentation, and I just read the report. To me this was a large undertaking and that is something I feel is very valuable to Coeymans as it describes what to expect if the move actually takes place and what Sheriff Apple feels is actually needed here. This is a very valuable document in my opinion and it affords the Town the opportunity to evaluate what we currently have along with its cost and should make any decision pretty cut and dry. As far as I know, our Police Department performs well and does a good job. However, today it's all about money in everything else, so why not with the Police Department. As I understand from what I have read, the Sheriff's Department would use our current officers, including the Chief, absorbing them into the department. If you decide to go any further with this and make the move and all the officers keep their jobs, it's a money thing. If the Sheriff will sign a bonafide contract detailing any and all aspects of any move and what we can expect and how we can get out of the contract if we are wronged. To me the most important part, forget about the actual Police Department, the most important part is what the Sheriff gave us was a RFI or maybe an RFP for services that he would be willing to perform for a certain amount of money and to me that is depressing, the Police Department is just a vehicle here for me. This should be a contract with measurable bench marks and results allowing either side to make, break, renew or not to. This is all I have to say about the police issue but the issue of an RFP is where I want to go, I believe that the Town should be operated as a business with all of us as customers who need to be satisfied. I believe any and all requests for services, products, equipment and the like should be bid in an effort to be sure that we know exactly what we are looking to obtain and how much it will cost. Here in Coeymans I don't think we are or have purchased anything so unique that there is not precedence for a bid. Again I feel all and everything should be sent to bid. I have examined the Town's purchasing practices and find nothing that would disallow such a procedure. As stated, while some things are specifically exempt from bidding such as professional services, such as Town Attorney, it does not mean that you don't have to. If you don't have to, you still could if you wanted to, so why not do it, why not bid everything within reason. In fact the Town Attorney itself could be bid and should be bid as that bidding practice would detail what is expected to result in payment and also open up the position to any other attorney in the Town of Coeymans. The second personal issue that urged me to come here was my inquiry to sell my home and move to Guilderland. At an interview with the real estate person I was asked what town our property was in and then what school district. The interview went on its way as to what I was looking to sell my house for and to what I was looking to buy in Guilderland. After the interview I went to the bank and inquired as to the availability of funds for a home equity line of credit. Subsequent to both of these events I now know that our home cannot demand more than its assessed valuation, resulting in a higher interest rate and lower sale price. To say I was surprised is putting it mildly. That is the background to why I am here and that is why I said that I probably can't leave. In speaking to purchases, I think we need to be sure that all local businesses are aware of the purchases that the Town of Coeymans intends to make and they are contacted so they are not left out while we shop online or go to a Glenmont big box places for products and services available right in our town. Our Town vehicles should not be in Albany or Glenmont when the drivers are making purchases from vendors that make free deliveries. I am sure that Advanced Auto Parts on Delaware Avenue would deliver here, but so would NAPA. I am sure that computer parts & services, near and dear to my heart, can be purchased here in town but my business has not been contacted one time for service or parts while Coeymans is going out of town and is about to once again purchase these parts, equipment and services from another area far away from our town. When I sat at that side of the table, we bid out the purchase of carpeting for Town Hall, I am standing on it now, after an automobile struck the building, all three carpet vendors in town at the time. All bid on the job and while it was not an easy task, I believe that Jerry Perrine

received the award and both Way's and Fori's bid. The chairs and tables that you are sitting at were purchased from a New York State Contract vendor while Joe Neri and Bernie Teriele did the necessary renovations to bring the building to basically what it is today. The point is the work was kept local and fairly awarded. In closing about this subject, if the Board wants to set a threshold on the maximum purchase without the competitive bidding requirement, then so be it but it must be remembered that any threshold means we are willing to possibly overspend on that item. Additionally I feel the town would do well in exploring the possibility of not endorsing anything unless it would benefit the Town in some positive and measurable way, for example naming a newspaper or a bank or a service station or the like as the official Town site should be the result of such entity providing the Town with both a favorable advantage and a specific, predictable, and measurable results. If it means preparing an RFP for those type of services, then so be it. With specific regard to the designation of the official newspaper, you may be surprised as to the respondents, especially if it is left and open for design and media type. Even a journalism class at the high-school could possibly respond as would the current official newspaper, our News Herald, could an existing Delmar or Greenville newspaper and they would be able to offer things like timely reports on each and every Town Meeting that we have, whether they publish it or not, investigative reports, the dreaded profiles, comments and things that are noteworthy about Coeymans. Depending on the Board's desire and any applicable laws, the newspaper could be of the online variety thereby opening the publishing up to many other alternatives. Bank or banks designated as Town banks could offer services to Coeymans that they may not be offered to its regular customers like deposit pick-up, to save Town employees time in going to the bank to deposit in person, no fees, or favorable interest rates and things like that. Now back to the Police Department just for a minute, I am not a Police Officer, nor am I versed in the inner workings of police work, thankfully. However, it does seem like our Police Department, like many if not all are hung up on remedial measures when it comes to crime rather than working on preventing crimes so remediation is not needed as much as it is now. Personally, and again I am not a Police Officer, I do not think that the use of officers as speed collectors when sitting along side our roadways like across from the former Marshall's Garage, on Edna Avenue, Coeymans Fire House, Port of Coeymans entrance, high-school driveway, Nolan Propane and Miller Road looking to nab those of us making the mortal sin of forgetting that we are going 49mph and not 35mph and then have to take time off from work, because court is during the day when most of us work, so that we can see what our fine is going to be, what our NYS payment is going to be and then paying an increase in insurance for years. As long as I am on a roll here, why can a Police Officer use their cell phone when they are driving while we get ticketed for doing it? It also seems like using a police radio requires as much or more concentration than a cell phone yet the police have to use while driving and while looking at their computer. I know I will hear that much is done after a traffic stop because many other crimes are found as the result of a traffic stop. But if these people are passing through Coeymans, more than likely they will be apprehended at their destination. If Coeymans was the destination then maybe we need better surveillance or intelligence here so that the criminals can be arrested here doing whatever it is that is illegal. It would seem like to me anyway, that there is a lot more community involvement for our police to get into, which may go a long way to deter real crimes and possibly provide needed intelligence. When is the last time that anyone here has seen a Police Department representative at one of your group's meeting in town? How about directing traffic at the start and end of religious services? I'm sure our Police Officers can learn a lot about our community by stopping for a cup a coffee and talking to Dick Tracey, Jim Pietropaoli, Al Collins, Jerry Perrine, Roni Fori, Michele at The Spot, Deli Plus or Ravena Welding or Dale Ann at Louise Apartments or anyplace in town, Oakbrook, any local business or someone mowing the lawn. It would be good for the neighborhood because a Police Officer could show up at any time, so you better be careful of what you are doing because a Police Officer could stop by to say hi. Although I believe a School Resource Officer is a non-existing position at this time, it certainly would be nice to see a Police Officer in our schools having a cup of coffee or lunch with the kids on a regular basis as a public relations move and as we all know, a police uniform is a really good deterrent to criminal activity. As I recall the turkey, potatoes and gravy were very good and eating with the students goes a long way in building a needed foundation for the future good relationships. I may hear about what I have said above and if I do, I will be back to give you a report on it. It seems like the Assessor's Office needs to revalue our properties at some point, which has been done in

the past. However, now that our property values have decreased, why is a reduction in assessed value not done at a regular basis? It seem like the State provides spreadsheets that should be able to accommodate this task pretty easily. However, like the gasoline prices, it takes a long time for values to go down but can rise dramatically over a relatively short period of time. The next thing reminds me to ask the Board to explore ways to relieve the tax burden on property owners in Coeymans. Property owners whether they are residential or commercial, bear the brunt of the tax load and there does not seem to be any relief in sight. Although it may sound terrible, and it does, I propose that we ask the county, state, DC or whoever is in charge, if we can add a ½ of 1% sales tax to the county levy and have that money moved directly back to our town and put towards the money that has to be raised by property taxes, so in effect it would lower our property taxes. I don't know if it is legal or not, I am not a lawyer and I don't want to be but it seems like if I charge ½ of 1% on a 99 cent cup of coffee, it might make it a \$1.00 and 1/2 cent might come back and take away from property taxes. If you look into it you will probably find that we need to do something so it does not add significantly to the cost of the product so people go out of town to buy something. We have to set a threshold so maybe \$500.00 could be set so it does not have an adverse effect on higher end purchases like automobiles. We need to do something outside the box to stop the never ending spiral of higher taxes. A number of years ago, there was a maximum effort put forth to put an end to the awful traffic accidents at the middle-high school entrance. As I remember, the Village of Ravena took the lead role in getting the traffic light installed in a very quick installation time frame. It seems that it really helped but there remains the one glaring fact needing attention, we are probably the only traffic light that has the left turn lane located in the driving lane causing vehicles to turn and pass on the right to get past a vehicle waiting to make that left turn into the complex. As I remember, we were taught to not pass on the right as it was not the safest thing to do and we are encouraging that to happen. We need to talk to who ever is in charge because it needs to be dealt with. We need to get 9W straightened out so that the left turn lane is not the line designated as the main driving lane. We are settling for a 2<sup>nd</sup> best solution and don't deserve it we pay good money like everyone else does. Think about other similar situations, the Creble Road intersection is a familiar one where one needs to turn to get into the left turn lane while through traffic continues on straight. Oops, I forgot that is Bethlehem and they don't put up with 2<sup>nd</sup> best or have to compromise like we do here and we shouldn't, especially on safety issues. As an example of treating municipalities differently, how about the paving just completed in Coeymans on Rte. 9W and the similar project going on right now as we speak in Bethlehem and Glenmont where they have ground up the old surface and are installing new pavement on a fresh bed rather than just smoothing out the bumps, like they have done in our Town. Also, it must be noted that the Bethlehem portion was one at night so as to not disrupt traffic while the Coeymans portion was done in the daytime without regard to disrupting traffic. Our government needs to stand up and be counted, we should not have to settle for whatever is given as we have the right to have a job done properly and insist that the company that does the paving in our town also have attended surface transition training so we do not have to feel every new bump and transition that they put in the road, like coming down from the north in the twin dips, you know exactly where they started and where they stopped. If you keep on going you are going to feel two hard hits where trucks drop some of their load, which can bounce and hit your windshield. I know 9W is not a Town road but we can still voice our concern and a letter can't hurt, especially at election time and a letter to the right person can really help. I think that we need to be heard. Supervisor Flach has expressed his interest and desire in to Coeymans having its own Transfer Station, similar to other towns. I wholeheartedly agree with this but with the stipulation that it be privately operated and on a private taxable property, again via a contract with strict monetary penalties. The operators would bid on the sites and I think we would need one out back and one here, possibly using existing facilities with Town Officials performing the to be specified inspections and enforcing the monetary penalties and penalties should hit them hard, because we don't want to have any. I think the same should be done with regard to official Town Recycling Centers; again I would bid both of these things out. Again these would be permitted operations and utilize competitive bidding practices. I am steadfastly against any landfill activity and the town inspections will have to deal with enforcement for any Transfer Station or Recycling Center. Supervisor Flach has indicated that the line will be held on taxes and it appears that he has cut out some services. I am not for cutting services as we hardly receive any now. If you are a resident of Coeymans and you receive



a service like municipal water, sewers, lighting or the like, you are already paying for it. If you don't live in those areas, you are not, so what can you lose? The Police Department provides our first line of defense and first priority for safety, the Highway Department provides for Town road repairs and snowplowing and someone cuts the grass alongside the road, who does a good job because there is junk alongside the road because there is no place to bring your white goods, beds & mattresses and the like, which are all over the place. Other than that, all services that Town residents receive are located in this building as the Fire Department and Ambulance Service are maintained and supported on the own. So I ask, what can be cut? There is nothing to be cut unless you close the doors on the building. Instead of typical cutting, increasing, adding, moving and the like, we need something positive to be done to move our town out of the doldrums it is in and to provide a place our youngsters can live and work as they are our future, gray hair and gray beards don't represent the future. The youth are our future and we need to provide something other than gathering places, they need jobs and productive ones at that, the government does not make jobs, they make the opportunity for jobs to be created. We need to work with R-C-S to coordinate and begin programs that can help both groups, there are a number of things that we can both work together on but the groups need to sit together and talk about it, good things will happen based on talking. A lot more can be said and I've got a lot more that I am not going to say tonight. I believe the bottom line is to bid everything possible, be flexible and stand up to meet the needs of both our residents and the tax paying property owners. Again I thank you.

Supervisor Flach thanked Mr. Scalzo and then asked if anyone else wished to speak.

**Mark Mahar** stated that Supervisor Flach talked about how many employees he has in Town under him, but he also has Department Heads under him, who is actually responsible for the departments. He continued by saying that the Budget Workshops are when everyone comes in at one time and he would question why they don't have each Department Head and a representative of the employees to sit down one on one with each department to try to straighten out and do something with the budget. He added that he thinks that it makes much more sense because there are less people in the room and there are not multiple departments trying to straighten things out at the same time and they will accomplish a lot more.

Councilman Dolan interjected that it is one on one.

Mr. Mahar stated that in reading the budget and the way that they talked last meeting, it sounded like everyone is going at the same time.

Supervisor Flach stated that there are four different departments who come in at different time and added that any Town Meeting that they have, whether a Budget Workshop or regular meeting, has to be a public meeting so anyone can come in and sit in the audience. He continued by saying that they bring the Department Heads up to the front table and go over their budgets line by line.

Mr. Mahar stated that it is the way it should be and added that the Department Heads are ultimately responsible for their departments and staying within their budgets, which most of them can do and there are places that they can find some savings here and there by sitting down that way. He continued by saying that he understands that there is another mechanic being put on part-time but they have been talking about laying people off and not replacing full-time people that are leaving and he is trying to figure out how they are bringing in a mechanic now if it is the case.

Supervisor Flach stated that they do not have a seasonal employee that they have had and they have one gentleman that left so they are actually down to seven instead of eight and they lost their mechanic to a different grading position.

Mr. Mahar stated that with the Beautification guys it makes more sense because the Town is self insured and they have to pay unemployment and it is foolish to pay unemployment over the winter when they can find things for them to do to keep them busy around town, which would be more cost effective and they would not lose any one.

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

**Sylvia Lawler** stated that she is a resident of the Town of Coeymans and added that Supervisor Flach had spoken to the Beautification Department and she did some math and found that the Beautification Department is what she would consider bare bones so she divided \$200,000.00 by the number of residents in the Town, which come to \$25.00 per resident, per year for beautification, which she thinks speaks for itself. She reiterated that it is bare bones if you compare it to other communities and with Rev. Antonio Booth asking for individuals to contribute individually because everyone realizes how important a library is to the community and the Town needs to think of their citizenry with the Beautification Department. She concluded by saying that if it is in anyway compromised, it would be a grave mistake for the Town.

Councilman Dolan interjected that the budget is actually lower than that because one of the workers is retiring and there has been no talk of replacing him and by going line by line in the budget at the Budget Workshops they see where they can save money.

Supervisor Flach stated that he wanted to speak to that and added that they have to be careful when they say that it is so much per resident, because there are people that pay \$300.00 in taxes in a year and people that pay \$2,000.00 a year, which is so much difference as well as people in the town that aren't affected by certain services that the Town provides. He continued by saying that the Beautification Department does quite a bit of work in Coeymans Hollow by the Highway Department and mow at Joralemon Park but then there are people that are way out there who don't see anything that they do. He added that he tries to look at everything as a whole and every taxpayer because every taxpayer is so different and he tries to be careful with that.

Supervisor Flach thanked Ms. Lawler and continued by asking if there were any other comments.

**Donna Pasquini** stated that one of her concerns is that she knows there are two employees that have more than one job with the Town and has more than one position and in Beautification there is a gentleman that has worked for the Town for 28 years, who has a family and without going into details, if you cut him to make his job temporary he will lose his Health Insurance and he has a wife who is battling cancer. She continued by asking if anyone cares about the residents in this town and added that they need to start thinking about the residents and what they are going through because to cut someone who has that on their shoulders, who has been an employee for 28 years and a good employee, it's a shame that it would even be brought up when you are paying people for two different positions in this town.

Supervisor Flach stated that he wanted to address that and added that when you are the Supervisor or an Elected Official of the Town, you are the Elected Official for 7,418 residents and not just two or twenty but all the residents. He continued by saying that they have to remember that in Town Government everything in the budget affects everyone in the town and they have to look at taxes coming in from people because there are people paying \$2,000.00 and people that pay \$300.00 and anywhere in between. He added that they have to be careful as Town Board members to remember that it is the Town as a whole when they look at the budget and his original feeling way that maybe there was not enough work for those two people and it was \$100,000.00 on all of the town's people and this is what he looked at when he did his budget and he understands that saying that they have an employee that has been here 28 years and one that has been here 6-7 years. He added that if he can find work for them to do, and he talked with the Highway Department and they are actually lacking a guy, if they can keep them busy at the Highway Department and making sure that there is work for them to do and they are not just painting picnic tables all winter, they need to look at it and do it. He continued by saying that it is the reason he spent the last few days searching the budget in trying to figure out how they can keep those guys and he understands.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would commend the Supervisor for looking into it and not having a closed mind on the issue and he did the extra work that it took to do the math to find the money for those two people.

Supervisor Flach asked if anyone else wished to comment.

**Gary Bogardus** asked how they are doing with the zoning changes.

Supervisor Flach stated that later in the meeting they will be signing a resolution to finish the mapping process, which started long before he came and once they get them done the Zoning Board can complete the zoning process that has been started. He added that it has been an uphill thing, it is something that has to be done and he has been trying to put it forward to the Zoning Board.

Mr. Bogardus stated that it seems to him that it has been dragging on and on and if someone had a junk car in their lot and they wanted to pass a law for it, it would be done in a heartbeat. He continued by saying that maybe they can get this done and they can get some business here to replace the buildings that are being torn down. He went on by saying that he is glad about what Supervisor Flach said about looking at things because he does not like misleading comparisons and the school budget was only suppose to be a cup of coffee and then asked how they liked their cup of coffee when they got their school taxes. He added that the police were only suppose to be 47 cents but in putting it into perspective, a \$500,000.00 savings on a 3 million dollar budget equals 1/6 of the budget.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is actually a 6 million dollar budget, so it would be 1/12.

Mr. Bogardus stated that on the website it says 3 million dollars.

Supervisor Flach stated that the complete budget is approximately 6 million.

Mr. Bogardus stated that on the website he sees a figure of 3 million.

Supervisor Flach reiterated that the complete budget is 6 million and that he will look into what is on the website.

Mr. Bogardus stated that it is a huge chunk of money and then asked if the Police Budget is 1.4 million.

Supervisor Flach stated that some things that people don't look at when they look at a budget is Workers Compensation, insurances, retirement, fuel and other things that are used and with all of that added together with communications and the Police Department it is pretty big and the total is 1.368.

Mr. Bogardus stated that if it is a 3 million dollar budget like he saw on the website, it's half of the budget going to the Police Department to protect against ourselves, basically. He added that he thinks the people in town ought to have the right to vote on whether they want to save \$500,000.00 or not and the five on the Board are not any smarter than the 7,500 people in the Town and they should let the people of the town decide what they want to do. He continued by saying that if they want to keep the Police Department, that is fine because it is their decision but if they want to save some money and get the same services, then they would vote the other way and it is up to the Town Board to put it up to vote. He concluded by asking how many seats would be up for election next year.

Supervisor Flach stated that there will be three, 2 Council and the Supervisor. He then asked if anyone else wished to comment.

**Laszlo Polyak** stated that he was from Ravena and added that when the Sheriff came and made his proposal he came and wanted to see it because as a former auditor you want to look at the numbers and see how they comparatively work. He added that it was hard to follow Joe Scalzo with all the stuff that has been said and done and he is either for getting rid of the Police Department or keeping them. He continued by saying that he comes from a community where there is only a County Police Department and it was one town out of the 12 townships, South Hampton, which was wealthy enough that in addition to that they were able to maintain a local Police Department. He went on by saying that everyone is right and it should be brought before the people and the 7,500 should make

the decision, whether they want to spend the 1.5 million, then so be it or they could say that they want to do away with it and have the Sheriff's & State Police Departments. He added that everyone on either side of the issue is right that it should go to the public, which would resolve the issue that has come up for the past 15 years, which includes the Village. He continued by saying that he has family members that are agents all the way down to a NYC Police Officer and he has knowledge of what goes on in their lives and you don't see in the paper when a tree falls in front of a car doing 65 mph and it falls in front of the car and they are catapulted right out of their car and they are injured but you always hear about the heroic things like shooting up a gang that is dealing drugs. He went on by saying that what he is trying to say, and he is a little frustrated to say that he read in the newspaper that the Town's Police Chief made a comment that Coeymans would collapse if they did away with the Police Department and it was a very hubris statement to make if you had real leadership here and leadership elsewhere would have called him on the carpet for making the comment because they are the Elected Officials and to him it would be insubordination because it was a statement that was very careless and could even get your fellow officers all the way up to your fellow agents killed. He added that to him, when he read it, he said that he had no confidence in our Sheriff, who actually grew up here and he doubts very much that anyone who grew up here would not help out in their hometown in some way, shape or form even if contracts were not made as well as it being a kick in the State Police faces because he is saying that they are incompetent and won't come in and help either, which they will. He then asked if any member of the Board addressed the issue when it was made, which should have been addressed in Executive Session and he is really concerned about that comment and the type of leadership that they have in the Police Department, if that's the case because it also undermines some of the officers that work here because you don't know if you are going to have or not have backup. He continued by saying that everyone is replaceable and the way the Constitution was written, it was written so we all work together and even if there was no Police Department he finds it very difficult to believe that the sun would not come up the next day and the Town would not work and that they would not do the things that they need to do. He added by saying that it's bad enough that we have bad press in the Times Union almost on a daily basis from various elected and non-elected officials and leaders in various offices, which include the Village, Town & School Board. He went on by saying that as Mr. Scalzo had stated, they are stuck and if you have driven around the community in the past 3-4 months there are more and more signs on houses for sale and in going into other communities you are in awe when you see the building and growth but we have a dead Main Street and he has been watching it die for the past 23 years that he has been here. He continued by saying that there are dysfunctional Boards, both in the Town and Village and they keep arguing over the same issues over and over again but it never goes to the next level and at some point in time it should go to the next level and let a Judge figure it out. He added that he is not involved with the Mayor anymore and his epitaph and legacy is a boarded up Main Street and we can't get around it because in other communities there are Planning & Zoning Boards that are friendly and want stuff and he witnessed a property that was both in the Village and Town and the owner had to succumb to two Planning & Zoning Boards and businesses are moving because they like what is going on in other communities. He went on by saying that we lost our McDonalds and Cocksackie is building one and it is because our Elected Officials don't call people on the carpet when they need to be on the carpet and he believes that Greg is a nice guy but sometimes you have to be called on the carpet and reprimanded for some of the things that you do. He continued by saying that they are elected and if they continue down the path of being dysfunctional, two things are going to occur; the residents will not re-elect them or the State will come in, which they already have in demanding no more than a 2% cap and they are forcing the issues because the State is now concerned that millions of people are leaving and we are still seeing more signs of those that want to leave. He concluded by saying that he does not know what else to say and he is telling his children to leave the Town because there is nothing here and it is a Ghost Town.

Supervisor Flach asked if anyone else wished to comment.

**Ann Marie Vadney** stated that it seems as though everyone is on the same path with the comments and that she would be brief. She continued by saying that she is very concerned about the budget process and she thinks that a lot of things are being piecemealed and they are not looking at issues in a comprehensive manner. She added

that as an example they talk about the Police Department, the ambulances and the medics and when you add all of that money up, it is a lot of money and she firmly believes that there is room for them to analyze all of those and possibly put the group together and take a look to see how they can offset each other and have a much more cost effective delivery of services. She continued by saying that she also thinks that we need solidarity amongst the Town Board and she does not care what political party people are representing because the citizens voted them in and they have one Supervisor and it should not matter what party and we are in a situation, like many other communities but in our community no one wants to cut anywhere and there has to be cuts somewhere. She went on by saying that it goes back to the issue of a boarded up Main Street and the fact that businesses do not want to come to our community, for many reasons with high taxes being one but another reason are the processes in place here and they have been working since the last Supervisor to change the proposals and now they are talking about zoning and after researching zoning and comparing the purposes of it, she does not know why they have zoning because if they have Local Laws 1 & 2 for Site Plan Review Processes, there really is not a need for zoning because whether you are in a district where you are zoned for a specific use, or not in the district, you still have to go through the same steps and the same review process, which seems like double jeopardy. She added that businesses don't come to this community because they have to jump through hoops, first a process to see if it would be an approved use in a particular district and then the review process with the Planning Board, which is duplication. She continued by saying that they need to think out of the box in this area because our Town is not in the same category as Coxsackie, Bethlehem and even Athens and they need to put their heads together and be innovative and have some initiative, they have to look at the facts as far as what laws are in effect, what is really required and how we can make changes in our community to encourage both businesses and individuals to come here because as everyone knows, there are a lot of houses for sale and people are not even coming to look at them. She went on by saying that they are talking dramatic issues and it is wonderful that they are trying to address them, but they have to do a better job and people in the community and our elected officials really need to get it together if we are going to see any kind of changes. She added that she also wanted to comment on presentations and as an example she would use Mid-Hudson Cable, and the fact that they don't have any facts about our community and they should not waste their time. She continued by saying that when they walked in the room they should have known how many people are in this community, how many people they serve and what type of services they provide and the Town Board needs to start demanding this kind of conscientious, effective management, which she has heard has been this way for many years. She added that she use to work with people like that and she fired most of them because she is a firm believer that just because it has been done that for a lot of years does not mean that it is the right way to do it and there is nothing in this world that they cannot approve upon. She went on by asking how we get there and added that she is looking to them as leaders to help everyone in this community join together and they have tried, they have a business group, they are trying to form a Chamber but she has found that every time you attempt to do something positive in this community, there are people out there that are supported by people in various positions at the Village and Town levels that put dampers on it and try to kill it. She continued by saying that she is a firm believer too and if they don't want her to take the lead, they should do it and she will help because she does not need to be in the limelight, she just wants to make our community a better community where business can survive because all small businesses are struggling and when a small business pays \$15,000.00 a year in taxes and doesn't make a profit, there are not a lot of years that you can do it and you can't raise your prices so things need to change. She concluded by saying that the people in the community need to stick together and they need the Town Board to stick together to support their needs and consolidation and innovation are what they need to look at as well as respecting each other and working together so they can determine who and how they can keep as many people employed as possible while saving tax paying dollars.

Supervisor Flach asked if anyone else wished to comment, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Supervisor Flach stated that there were four sets of minutes for Town Board approval, a Town Board Meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>, a Special Town Board Meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, a Town Board Meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> and a Workshop on October 16<sup>th</sup> and continued by asking for a motion to approve them.

**MOTION**

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

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**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT**

**September 2012**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance Fwd.</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>General</b>	\$266,920.08	\$369,715.92	\$341,731.27	\$294,904.73
<b>Part-Town</b>	\$850,808.96	\$ 805.69	\$319,142.95	\$532,471.70
<b>Highway</b>	\$ 7,142.96	\$201,435.69	\$115,968.97	\$ 92,609.68
<b>Bridge Const.</b>	\$ 28,775.84	\$ 18.47	-0-	\$ 28,794.31
<b>Sewer</b>	\$144,181.06	\$ 2,097.73	\$ 24,637.14	\$121,641.65
<b>Special Water</b>	\$ 26,241.22	\$ 9,245.02	-0-	\$ 35,486.24
<b>Police Forf.</b>	\$ 12,860.27	\$ .57	-0-	\$ 12,860.84
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	\$ 13,142.24	\$223,514.04	\$225,280.04	\$ 11,376.24
<b>H-Fund Capital Proj.</b>	\$ 41,869.92	\$ 1.76	-0-	\$ 41,871.68
<b>Section 8 – HUD</b>	\$ 50,399.14	\$ 40,082.94	\$ 44,325.33	\$ 46,156.75
			<b>Total Rec. Bal.</b>	<b>\$1,218,173.82</b>

**SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

Unemployment	\$ 702.68
Grove Cemetery	\$40,902.06
Coey. Hollow Cem.	\$13,417.61
Sewer-Dedicated	<u>\$ 6,331.97</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61,354.32</b>

**COLLATERAL  
COVERAGE**

Bank of Greene	\$250,000.00	\$1,554,458.50
National Bank	\$250,000.00	\$ 1,136.59

**FDIC**

**COLLATERALIZED**

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to approve the report.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Boehm, the Supervisor Report was approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Town Clerk – September 2012**

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

Town Clerk Millious continued by giving the report.

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to approve the report.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilwoman Rogers, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the Town Clerk’s Report was approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Town Clerk Millious stated that she has an announcement from Albany County Board of Elections regarding extended hours for absentee ballots and continued by reading the following:

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Albany County Board of Elections is extending office hours to accommodate voters who will need absentee ballots for the General Election on November 6, 2012.

The Election Board, located at 32 North Russell Road, Albany, NY 12206, will be open on the following days, dates and times:

Monday	October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	4:30-8:00pm
Wednesday	October 24 <sup>th</sup>	4:30-8:00pm
Saturday	October 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	October 30 <sup>th</sup>	4:30-8:00pm
Thursday	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	4:30-8:00pm
Saturday	November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am-1:00pm

Voters applying for absentee ballots by mail must have the application postmarked to the Board no later than October 30, 2012. Voters applying in person at the Board may do so up to and including November 5, 2012.

Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than November 5<sup>th</sup> or may be returned in person to the Board by 9:00pm on November 6<sup>th</sup>, Election Day. Ballots returned by mail must be received within seven days of the Election, November 13, 2012)

**Building Department – September 2012**

Supervisor Flach asked that Councilwoman Rogers give the Building Department Monthly Report.

Councilwoman Rogers continued by giving the report.

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to approve the report.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Boehm, the Building Department Report was approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

**Police Department – August & September**

Supervisor Flach asked that Chief Darlington give the Police Department Monthly Reports for August & September.

Chief Darlington continued by giving the reports.

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to approve the reports.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilwoman Rogers, seconded by Councilman Masti, the Police Department Monthly Reports were approved as presented and read.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CDPHP Health Insurance Plan**

Supervisor Flach stated that there is a CDPHP Health Insurance Plan that needs to be signed and continued by asking for a motion authorizing him to sign it.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Boehm, seconded by Councilman Masti, authorizing Supervisor Flach to sign the CDPHP Health Insurance Plan for Town employees.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**C.T. Male – Zoning Maps**

Supervisor Flach stated that they went over this at the last Workshop and continued by asking for authorization for C.T. Male to update the zoning maps.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Boehm, authorizing C.T. Male to update the zoning maps.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Councilman Boehm inquired as to the amount.

Supervisor Flach stated that the proposal says that they will not exceed a maximum of \$1,900.00.

Councilman Boehm interjected that this is opposed to Laberge Group who were going to charge a substantial amount more.

Supervisor Flach stated that it was quite a bit more and approximately double the amount.

Councilman Boehm stated that as they discussed at the Workshop that as the maps become available they will be accessible for the public to view.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

Supervisor Flach stated that the Highway Department has requested a part-time mechanic due to their mechanic going to a different class. He added that as Supervisor he will recuse himself from the vote because Mr. Deering had interviewed and has chosen his brother-in-law and the Board had approved the position but it is up to Highway Superintendent Deering to choose the individual.

Councilman Dolan added that it is the individual that Highway Superintendent had recommended to the Board and it was properly advertised in the paper.



**RES. #114-12 APPOINT PART-TIME MECHANIC**

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers, the following resolution was APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSTAIN 1 – SO MOVED

**WHEREAS**, Highway Superintendent Deering is desirous of filing a part-time position for a mechanic at the Highway Department, and

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent has advertised and interviewed a number of applicants for the position, and found a candidate who meets the minimum qualifications, and

**WHEREAS**, the position is pending the Albany County Department of Civil Service review and approval of the candidate's qualifications,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Guy Weidman to the position of part-time Diesel/Heavy Equipment Mechanic, at the hourly rate of \$25.00 effective October 23, 2012.

Councilwoman Rogers stated that they have another mechanic in Town for the Police Department and continued by asking if they are going to raise him to \$25.00 an hour.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is a Diesel/Heavy Equipment Mechanic and not an Auto Mechanic, who will be working on the heavy equipment and dump trucks and they checked around and the going rate for part-time was between \$25.00-\$45.00 dollars per hour.

Supervisor Flach stated that there is a resolution prepared to authorize the Attorney for the Town to commence legal action for a shed removal on the Town right-of-way and he wanted to table it because he spoke with the person earlier in the day about the shed that has to be removed because they are in the process of doing some sewer work between Colvin and Blaisdell Avenues. He continued by saying that he now has her cell phone number so he can contact her and Highway Superintendent Deering is going to write a letter so that when the Town helps her move it, she will not hold the Town liable if anything happens to it as well as having it ready to move by next Monday.

Attorney for the Town Wukitsch stated that they have been trying to do this for weeks and weeks.

Supervisor Flach stated that he was in the Hamlet for another matter and noticed that she was home so he went and talked to her and it was very positive and good.

Councilman Dolan asked Highway Superintendent Deering if he had a standard form for that.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that he does and he has to change it a little bit and in turn he will have the Attorney for the Town look at it.

Supervisor Flach stated that they will deliver it to her and get it signed before any work is started.

**RES. #115-12 APPROVE OCTOBER ABSTRACT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board, of the Town of Coeymans, does hereby approve the following claims of vouchers for the October, 2012 Abstract.

FUND	VOUCHER #	AMOUNT
GENERAL (A)		
General Pre-Pay	1993-2035	\$169,103.93

General	2085-2120,2173-2174	\$103,692.05
	<b>General Total</b>	<b>\$272,795.98</b>
<b>GENERAL CONSOLIDATED</b>		
General Cons. Pre-Pay	2036-2039,2171-2172	\$198,809.26
	General Cons. Total	<b>\$198,809.26</b>
<b>PART TOWN (B)</b>		
Part Town Pre-Pay	2040-2051	\$ 13,079.08
Part Town		\$ -0-
	<b>Part Town Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,079.08</b>
<b>HIGHWAY(DB)</b>		
Highway Pre-Pay	2052-2061	\$ 31,984.67
Highway	2121-2154	\$ 5,435.60
	<b>Highway Total</b>	<b>\$ 37,420.27</b>
<b>SEWER (SS)</b>		
Sewer Pre-Pay	2062-2076	\$ 13,074.77
Sewer	2155-2170	\$ 31,544.08
	<b>Sewer Total</b>	<b>\$ 44,618.85</b>
	<b>Total for all Funds</b>	<b>\$566,723.44</b>
<b>TRUST &amp; AGENCY (TA)</b>		
Trust & Agency Pre-Pay	2077-2084	\$210,339.79
	<b>Trust &amp; Agcy. Total</b>	<b>\$210,339.79</b>

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**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOPS / MEETINGS**

- Joint Village/Town Meeting, October 27, 2012, 7:00pm (Village Hall)
- Budget Workshop, October 27, 2012, 8:00am
- Planning Board, November 5, 2012, 7:00pm
- Public Hearing, November 8, 2012, 6:00pm
- Town Board Meeting, November 13, 2012, 7:00pm
- Town Board Workshop, November 20, 2012, 6:00pm
- ZBA Meeting, November 20, 2012, 7:30pm
- Town Board Meeting, November 26, 2012, 7:00pm

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any additional comments.

Ms. Lawler asked if she could comment and added that she would be brief.

Supervisor Flach stated that she could.

Ms. Lawler stated that she hopes that she is not out of line and added that she has been coming to the Town Board Meetings on a regular basis for approximately a year and what has become blaringly apparent to her is the lack of civility on the part of the public when addressing the Board. She continued by saying that one this current Board, not one of them has been disrespectful to the public and earlier in the meeting, three times, the public resorted to name calling when they called the Board dysfunctional and told them that they had to get it together. She concluded by saying that it is disrespectful and if they want them to be sensitive, how can they ask them to become callous and they are our fellow citizens as well with feelings and they are cut to the quick just as easily as everyone else and the fact that they are Elected Officials should not mean that they should be treated with the degree of disrespect that she has seen meeting after meeting and it has gotten them no where.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Chief Darlington stated that he wanted to comment on a couple of things that Mr. Scalzo brought up, which he appreciates and added that his officers are in the schools frequently, unfortunately sometimes for calls and they go to the three schools and actually walk around so they are aware of the building and the students are use to seeing them in a positive way. He continued by saying that as far as being involved with the local churches and such, they frequently assist with funerals when they are of a large size to help them move along as well as currently working with the River View Baptist Church for their Halloween Night and they are donating Halloween bags with safety tips on them as well as some candy to go with them. He went on by saying that the purpose of the traffic enforcement is not to generate revenue and the purpose is to reduce traffic related accidents, alcohol related fatalities and to provide safe streets for everyone to travel and as far as officers in a coffee shop, he met Mr. Masti in one and Mr. Dolan in one and it took him over 45 minutes to get out of the coffee shop because he was speaking to members of the public as well as when he goes grocery shopping or when he is trying to eat at a diner and he has never turned anyone away when they want to discuss issues that they have in their family. He added that he wanted to make one thing clear and added that Sheriff Apple did not grow up in this town; he lived in the Town of Bethlehem. He continued by saying that the have a PAL Program that took about three years to get up and running and it is running actively and they had 56 youth from the community, which included the Hamlet, Hollow and Village who bowled for approximately three hours for nothing and many of them at one point were in trouble with them but did not make it into the Court System because the officers worked with them and helped keep them out of the Court System. He added by saying that a hard part is that the media only likes to publish the negative things that go on and they frequently publish what they do on the positive side but for some reason it does not make it in the paper. He went on by saying that this Saturday night there will be a basketball game between the Town of Coeymans Police Department, the Albany County Sheriffs, the NY State Police and Albany County Correctional Facilities for Barb McMullen who is going through some medical issues and is having a tough time and recently they had a Ride for Barb and there were over 150 motorcycles and it was amazing. He concluded by saying that he checked into the State Contract price for the police car and it is approximately \$1,025.00 less than the low bid.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Mary Pape stated that she believes that there are some corrections with the meeting dates and continued by asking about what she believed to a wrong date for the Zoning Meeting and a wrong date for a Meeting that they approved earlier in the meeting and concluded by saying that she hoped that they all got a copy of the letter that someone asked that she put in the Town Board's mail boxes.

Collectively the Town Board stated that they did receive the letter and discussed at the previous meeting that they had gotten it.

Supervisor Flach stated that they would look into the dates and asked if there were any other comments.

Highway Superintendent Deering stated that he wanted to point out that the part-time Mechanic position use to be a full-time position and he knows that they are trying to save some money but if anything changes he will be back to the Board. He continued by saying that according to Section 142 of Highway Law he had to submit his equipment list to the Board and then distributed a copy to each member of the Board. He concluded by thanking Joan Radley from the Garden Club for doing such a great job with the Memorial Garden at the Highway Department.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Councilman Dolan stated that the budget process is not pretty and not fun but the do endeavor to do their best. He continued by saying that Department Heads do not come before the Board and ask for something that they don't believe is absolutely necessary for their department, which they don't always agree with them and there is a combination of negotiations and arm twisting. He added that if anyone has time to stop in to a Workshop they would see that they don't rush through it or arbitrarily do things or deliberately take something out of a budget or just add extra money and would see that it is not the case and all of them take it seriously. He concluded by saying that Supervisor Flach has worked hard at redoing the numbers and looking at them again and hundreds, maybe thousands of numbers come into play.

Councilman Boehm stated that he agrees with Councilman Dolan in that he does not think that the Town Board is dysfunctional at all and they have different opinions and it can be adversarial at times, which he thinks is healthy and good but they are all committed to making the Town a better place and coming out with a budget that makes sense for everyone. He reiterated that he does not believe that they are dysfunctional, it is what they do here and they have a commitment to get this done and they will. He concluded by saying that he hopes that everyone comes out to support Officer McMullen and added that his daughter was involved in a car an accident a number years ago and she was very helpful to her and he hopes that it is a good turnout for her.

Councilman Masti stated that the Budget Workshops and preparation of the budget is an interesting process and you will see that while they are not dysfunctional, they are definitely of different opinions on a lot of things and he agrees that it is good and what made America great and if they can work through their differences for the betterment of the community, they will get through this challenge. He then asked Chief Darlington for an update on the Hannacroix Project.

Chief Darlington stated that he has nothing new.

Councilman Masti asked what they are waiting on.

Chief Darlington stated that they are waiting on the topographical survey and the new timeline from F.X. Browne, which they figured to be early November.

Councilman Masti stated that he had a question for Ms. Lawler and continued by asking if anyone from the Hamlet had gone and talked to Mr. Laraway.

Ms. Lawler stated that they have tried to set up a meeting but it has been to no avail and she does not know but he might be more comfortable if someone from the Town Board contacted him about a meeting. She added that he had suggested that they get in touch with him but maybe he is really busy and she knows that Barbara Heinzen wrote him a letter and called him but did not succeed. She reiterated that it might be more comfortable for him if a member of the Board calls him and she knows that the Coeymans Landing Neighborhood Association also wants to speak with him.

Councilman Masti stated that he was trying to catch up on follow-up things.

Supervisor Flach stated that he wanted to let Chief Darlington know that he had a gentleman come up to him last night and told him that an Officer had approached some students at the football game and it was done in a good way and a good example for the students and he was very happy and impressed that he had done that. He added that he

went on the ride for Barb McMullen and it was a great thing for her, she is a great lady and then asked that everyone keep her in their prayers. He continued by saying that he wanted to thank Mr. Geraldson, an employee at the Sewer Plant for last night when they had an alarm go off at the Division Street pump and he had to stay there for four hours and had to operate it every 15 minutes until someone got there to repair it. He added that Mr. Bullock got out of bed and came down to repair the pump and he wanted to thank him as well for doing it at night and he was going to relieve Mr. Geraldson but he didn't have to.

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Flach asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION**

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

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time – 8:50pm

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**APPROVED –**

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*Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk*