

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS  
September 14, 2017 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00pm at Town Hall,  
18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk  
Paul Pastore, Attorney to the Town  
P.J. McKenna, Chief of Police  
Scott Searles, Highway Superintendent

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

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**OPENING COMMENT**

Supervisor Crandall stated that the record should reflect the presence of a full Town Board also attending were Town Clerk Millious, Attorney to the Town Pastore, Chief of Police Mckenna and Highway Superintendent Searles.

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**AGENDA**

- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes
  - Town Board Workshop, August 17, 2017
  - Town Board Meeting, August 24, 2017
- Department Reports
  - Police Department Report
- Old Business
  - Photo Contest
  - Gazebo Roof
- New Business
  - Waive Joralemon Park Fee
- Resolutions
  - End Probationary Status for two Police Officers
  - Retirement of Town Employee
  - Authorize Supervisor to Execute Agreement with SDG
  - Authorize Planning & Zoning Board Members to Attend Workshop
  - Authorize Planning Board Member to Attend Workshop
- Upcoming Workshops/Meetings
  - Town Board Workshop –September 21, 2017 -6:00PM
  - Zoning Board of Appeals –September 27, 2017 -7:00PM
  - Town Board Meeting – September 28, 2017-7:00PM

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Virginia Pearson** stated she was speaking again on behalf of the Ravena Rescue Squad. At the last meeting she gave a presentation regarding the needs of the Rescue Squad as well as their application for a contract with the Town. At that time she was told the Town would get back to her, but she has not heard anything so she called today to inquire if a decision had been made yet. She was informed that a decision has not been made yet regarding the amount of financial support the Town would be able to provide.

Supervisor Crandall responded he is waiting to see how much money the Town will have leftover at the end of the year and the Town does intend to make a donation to the Rescue Squad.

Supervisor Crandall stated he learned from Brian Woods that there is another machine out there that is one third the cost of the requested machine and will do the same job. He asked Mrs. Pearson if she knew about the machine and she responded yes.

Mrs. Pearson stated the Ravena Rescue Squad has made 674 calls since January of this year, 446 of them were transports. Mrs. Pearson said the Rescue Squad really needs the support and asked that the Town Board think about it.

Councilman Burns asked how they were doing with their fundraising.

Mrs. Pearson responded fair.

Councilman Dolan said he would like to add that the budget is being worked on. The Supervisor's budget is solely at the discretion of the Supervisor, and then it is presented to the Town Board. Once the budget is presented, the Town Board can then makes changes, additions and deletions by a majority vote of the Board.

Mrs. Pearson reminded the Town Board that the Ravena Rescue Squad has not had an increase in three years.

Councilman Dolan stated he understands that, he was explaining the budget process. If she is still unhappy once she sees the Supervisor's budget she is welcome to present her case again to the Town Board. There will also be a public hearing before the budget is finalized where she and anyone else who would like, can request changes, additions or deletions to the budget. Councilman Dolan stated it is not a onetime process.

Mrs. Pearson asked if it all has to be done by November for approval be the Town Board.

Supervisor Crandall responded that is correct.

**Barbara Tanner** stated she is very disturbed that the Ravena Rescue Squad has not gotten an increase in three years. She asked if the gazebo roof was budgeted for.

Supervisor Crandall responded yes it was included in the budget.

Mrs. Tanner responded, we can spend \$10,000.00 on the gazebo but we can't spend the money on the Rescue Squad.

Councilman Dolan responded that no one said we cannot spend the money.

Mrs. Tanner asked why they can't give the money to the Rescue Squad then.

Supervisor Crandall responded the budget has not been finalized yet.

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Mrs. Tanner commented that Mrs. Pearson said they have not had an increase in three years.

Councilman Dolan said this is the first budget that Supervisor Crandall is doing.

Mrs. Tanner then asked why an increase wasn't given to the Rescue Squad in the past; it is life and death not fun and games. She has had to use their services and is thankful the Rescue Squad was there. She feels the Town Board should not have to think about it; the Rescue Squad should be a priority.

**Mary Driscoll** stated she was disgusted after listening to the comments tonight. She thinks the most recent Town Board meeting was one of the most distressing meetings she has ever seen. To watch someone who has dedicated many hours to keeping our Rescue Squad active and available to our Town residents have to stand here and literally beg for the Town Board's consideration to spend taxpayer's money for a service that benefits everyone in the Town is ludicrous. The Rescue Squad is one of our biggest assets for drawing new people to our community. Being a member of the Ravena Rescue Squad is not like it used to be when she and her husband were members. When they were members it required a forty hour course and a desire to help not only our neighbors but to make our community safer and a better place to live. There should not be any reason or excuse as to why the Town Board does not give them the raise. To be a member of the Rescue Squad today requires many more courses and hours to be eligible to make a run on the ambulance. Mrs. Driscoll commented that she doesn't think the Board has any idea what making a run means because she has never seen any of them volunteer to watch someone get sick on their shoes, scream in pain or gasp for breath. The members of the Ravena Rescue Squad go through a lot and deserve the support they are asking for, no begging for, but that seems to be the M.O. with the Town Board. The citizens of this community need to know that the Ravena Rescue Squad has the Town Board's support. If the Town Board can give \$12,000.00 to the Library for something that might happen; then she would think that the Rescue Squad, who we know will be needed by everyone sooner or later, certainly deserves what they are asking for. Mrs. Driscoll further stated that the Town Board is supposedly here to serve the residents of the community not make them beg for the privilege of helping our neighbors.

Mrs. Driscoll also pointed out that the Welcome to Coeymans sign at the Town line on Route 9w has a political sign directly underneath it, so it appears to be part of the sign. The sign was paid for and erected by the taxpayers so the political sign should be taken down immediately as it does not belong there. She knows it could have been an honest mistake.

Councilman Dolan responded that Mrs. Pearson was not at the last meeting to beg, she was invited to speak. Councilman Dolan explained that he had spoken to her at the Open House for Carver Companies and she mentioned the LUCAS machine. He and his wife were both very interested and offered to help with fundraising as well as donate money themselves. Councilman Dolan stated he also told Mrs. Pearson he would read any information she gave him at the next meeting. He shared the information with Supervisor Crandall at the Open House, who then invited Mrs. Pearson to the next meeting saying she would be placed on the agenda as a presentation. Councilman Dolan commented he might not remember the exact content; but Mrs. Pearson replied she did not want the pressure of a presentation and would prefer to speak during the public comment period. Councilman Dolan stated the Town Board does not feel that she was there to beg, but rather they invited her there to speak.

Mrs. Pearson responded she is begging now though.

Councilman Langdon commented that Mrs. Pearson did say she was begging at the last meeting.

Councilman Dolan responded he feels that is irrelevant because she was invited to come and speak at the last meeting. The Town Board offered to help that night and they are still offering to help.

Councilman Langdon stated he does not understand why Councilman Dolan is attacking Mrs. Pearson.

Councilman Dolan responded he is not attacking Mrs. Pearson.

Supervisor Crandall stated we are just trying to clarify things.

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Councilman Dolan further stated the Library was given \$1,000.00 not \$12,000.00.

Mrs. Tanner asked if the Rescue Squad was given \$1,000.00.

Councilman Dolan responded we give the Rescue Squad more than \$12,000.00.

Mrs. Tanner stated the consensus is they are upset.

Councilman Dolan responded he just laid out the budget process. When we see the Supervisor's budget people can comment on it. The Town Board will have the Rescue Squad in to talk about the budget if they would like to talk. This is not begging, it is the process for people to request money.

Mrs. Tanner asked if they should blame the Supervisor or the entire Town Board if the Rescue Squad does not get an increase.

Councilman Dolan responded the entire Town Board. The Supervisor presents his budget, then the Town Board, after hearing from department heads and other organizations who receive money, votes on the budget. When the budget is finalized it goes before the Town at a Public Hearing, as required by law. The Town Board then considers what is said at the Public Hearing regarding what they are spending money on.

Mrs. Tanner asked if each department is voted on singly.

Supervisor Crandall responded, yes each department is a separate piece of the budget.

Councilman Dolan stated it is not true that the budget did not pass last year. By law the budget is passed if the Tentative Budget is not revised.

Supervisor Crandall asked if anyone else would like to comment, hearing none he moved on to the next item on the agenda.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Supervisor Crandall stated that there were two sets of minutes for Town Board approval, a Town Board Workshop Meeting on August 17, 2017 and a Town Board Meeting on August 24, 2017 and then asked for a motion to approve them.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Dolan, approving the August 17, 2017 and the August 24, 2017 Town Board Meeting minutes.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Police Department – August 2017**

Supervisor Crandall asked Police Chief McKenna to give the Police Department Monthly Report.

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Chief McKenna continued by giving the report.

Councilman Dolan asked Chief McKenna to speak about the fire last week.

Chief McKenna responded they did not go to the last fire but there is no relationship that they know of between the two. There was a fire approximately six weeks ago on Route 144. This past Sunday they received a call for a fully involved fire on Westerlo St. The initial observation determined it to be a mutual aid call. The Coeymans Police Department, Coeymans and Ravena Fire Departments with assistance from North Bethlehem, New Baltimore and Selkirk responded to the fire. All the residents were able to get out safely, but a pet did perish in the fire. Officer Griffith requested that Albany County Fire Investigation come down and begin an investigation into the cause of the fire. The NYS Fire Unit was also requested and they brought an accelerant sniffing dog to the scene to determine if there were any points of acceleration. At this point the cause is still undetermined and under investigation. Chief McKenna thanked all the responding agencies and his hope is to have an after action meeting to establish protocols for the future.

Councilman Dolan thanked Chief McKenna.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Photo Contest**

Supervisor Crandall stated there has been interest in extending the photo contest for another month in order to capture fall photos of the Town. If the Town Board agrees he would like to extend the contest and the Town website will be updated to indicate the extension.

Collectively the Town Board agreed to the extension.

**Gazebo Roof**

Supervisor Crandall stated the contractor who was awarded the bid for the gazebo roof has gone out of business. Since there were no other complete bids the Town will need to put it out for bid again.

Supervisor Crandall asked for a motion to put the gazebo roof project out to bid again.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Dolan, I move to authorize the Town Supervisor, to direct the Town Clerk to advertise for bids for a new roof on the Gazebo again with the same specifications as before, and to contact any previous bidders to see if they are interested in submitting another bid, seconded by Councilman Burns

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Waive Joralemon Park Fee**

Supervisor Crandall asked for a motion to waive the fee for Joralemon Park for the Living Waters Christian Family Fellowship. They have requested the park for their church picnic.

**MOTION**

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On the motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Dolan, waiving the fee for the Living Waters Christian Family Fellowship for Joralemon Park on September 17, 2017.  
VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

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**RESOLUTIONS**

**RES. #103-17 END PROBATIONARY STATUS FOR TWO POLICE OFFICERS**

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

**WHEREAS**, a civil service position is considered probationary for up to a year from the change of status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has the option of ending that probationary status after 8 weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief McKenna has requested to end the probationary status for Officers Isaiah Burton and Jonathan Dorsey from their June 26<sup>th</sup> appointment to competitive status; and

**WHEREAS**, both Officers Burton and Dorsey have worked for the Town of Coeymans Police Department for over one year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby end the probationary status of Officer Isaiah Burton and Officer Jonathan Dorsey effective today.

**RES. #104-17 ACCEPT RETIRMENT OF TOWN EMPLOYEE**

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

**WHEREAS**, David Mergendahl has submitted a letter stating his intent to retire from as Laborer for the Town of Coeymans;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the retirement of David Mergendahl, effective September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Supervisor Crandall requested a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for the laborer position.

**MOTION**

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Youmans, authorizing the Town Clerk to advertise for the laborer position.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Supervisor Crandall stated the Town appreciates and thanks Mr. Mergendahl for his thirty three years of service and wishes him the best on his retirement.

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**RES. #105-17 AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH SDG**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Assessor's office uses Image Mate Online software and its support plan in its day to day operation; and

**WHEREAS**, this program makes assessment information available for public use; and

**WHEREAS**, the yearly software support plan with Systems Development Group, Inc. (SDG) expired on August 31, 2017;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to execute the Agreement between SDG and the Town of Coeymans for September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018, which is attached to this resolution.

**RES. #106-17 AUTHORIZE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND WORKSHOP**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Capital District Regional Planning Commission will be sponsoring a Local Government Planning & Zoning Workshop on October 5, 2017 at the Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Planning and Zoning Boards desire to attend this seminar which will provide credit hours for the minimum training as required by Town Law; and,

**WHEREAS**, a prepaid registration fee of \$30 per person is required,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the members above are hereby authorized to attend the Local Government Planning & Zoning Workshop in Troy, New York, October 5, 2017; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans will reimburse the round-trip mileage upon submission of voucher for use of the members personal vehicle.

**RES. #107-17 AUTHORIZE PLANNING BOARD MEMBER TO ATTEND WORKSHOP**

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

**WHEREAS**, Hudsonia Ltd. And the Hudson River Estuary Program are offering a workshop on Habitat & Water Resource Assessment for Land Use Planning on September 21-23, 2017 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office in Voorheesville, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, Michael McGuire of the Planning Board desires to attend this seminar which will provide credit hours for the minimum training as required by Town Law; and

**WHEREAS**, a registration fee of \$55 per person is required;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Michael McGuire to attend the Habitat & Water Resource Assessment for Land Use Planning Workshop on September 21-23, 2017.

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**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS**

- Town Board Workshop – September 21<sup>st</sup> – 6pm
- Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, September 27<sup>th</sup> – 6pm
- Town Board Meeting, September 28<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Supervisor Crandall asked if there were any additional comments.

Councilman Langdon stated he really appreciates the work and effort of the local Fire Companies. He would also like to thank Dave Mergendahl for his thirty three years of service.

Councilman Youmans would also like to extend his praise to our first responders. They are always the first ones there and are of the utmost importance to our Town. He will do the best job he can with the budget to make sure they get something.

Councilman Dolan stated he agrees it is quite an achievement to last anywhere for thirty three years.

Councilman Dolan stated he has health advice on consuming fish caught in the Hudson and Catskill region. He will leave the information with the Town Clerk. He would like to invite Karen to come to a future meeting to give a presentation on this.

Councilman Burns stated he would like to thank all the Town departments for their hard work. He apologized to Mrs. Pearson that they did not have a quick response for her. He asked for continued prayers for everyone affected by the hurricanes. His church is planning a trip to Texas in February to help, as that is when most of the volunteers will have returned home.

Town Clerk Millious thanked Dave Mergendahl for his many years of service; she has worked closely with him over the years with the cemeteries and building matters. She also thanked her staff for their hard work while she was away. She offered prayers for everyone who has been effected by the storms and thanked our first responders.

Town Clerk Millious reminded everyone that hunting license are on sale and doe permit sales will end October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

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

**VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED**

**Time -7:31 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk*

**APPROVED –**