

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**
March 22, 2018 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm

A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Philip Crandall, Supervisor
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman
James C. Youmans, Councilman
Daniel D. Baker, Councilman
Kenneth C. Burns, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk
Paul Pastore, Attorney to the Town
John Cashin, Code Enforcement Officer
Scott Searles, Highway Superintendent
Daniel Contento, Acting Chief of Police
Rick Touchette, Albany County Legislator

Audience (12)
Media (7)

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

Presentations

Rick Touchette – Albany County Legislator – Legislator Touchette had three announcements, the first was that County Executive Dan McCoy had made arrangements to schedule a rabies clinic here in Coeymans, more information will be forthcoming. The second was the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Tree and Shrub Sale is going on now. The order deadline is April 6th. The information will be posted on the bulletin board near the door. Lastly, there have been a few new local laws proposed for Albany County and he would like to get some feedback from residents on what is happening. He will be having a listening session on Thursday, April 12th, from 6-7pm, right before the next Town Board Meeting.

Public Comment Period

Supervisor Crandall read the following statement before the Public Comment Period:

We were all disturbed by the video showing a raccoon being hit by two Coeymans police cars on 3/12/18 in Faith Plaza, in the Village of Ravena. We are reviewing the entire incident from the first 911 call from the public to Albany County Dispatch, through the follow up by the town. Currently there are investigations by the Albany County DA's Animal Abuse Task Force, NYS DEC, as well as the ASPCA. When the investigations are complete we will release the results and take appropriate board action.

We have received the results of the rabies test on the raccoon, the raccoon tested positive for rabies.

The Town Board and Acting Police Chief Contento are consulting with DEC, the Sheriff's Department and other wildlife experts, and law enforcement agencies to update local procedures for dealing with wildlife.

There is conflicting and contradictory information about how to respond to nuisance wildlife suspected of rabies. We will continue to consult with experts and authorities to find the best solution for our community. When we have sufficient facts, we will propose and implement concrete steps that will protect the public safety.

He followed with a reminder that Public Comment time was for Public Comments and the Town Board would not take any questions. The Town Board would take any comments made into consideration.

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Mrs. Barbara Tanner from Ravena, NY stood and asked a question regarding the recent settlements on assessment. Supervisor Crandall asked her to put the question in writing and send it to his office.

Mr. Dan Boomer of Coeymans stood and made comments relating to the Coeymans Police and his feelings that they are out of control. He mentioned that he feels unsafe with all of these Police around and that the Police have not been helpful and that he has had to call the Sheriff's Department to get anything done. He feels that anyone else who had abused an animal in the way the Police did would be arrested and is wondering why we have to study it.

Mr. Harold Vadney of New Baltimore stood and stated that what happened in Faith Plaza was reprehensible. He stated that the raccoon, without knowledge of its infectivity, was harassed, terrorized and run down. He expects a higher ethical standard and conduct from professional law enforcement. Only afterwards was the animal determined to have rabies, it was not staggering drunk or vicious. He recently had examined some police procedures entitled, Town of Coeymans and Village of Ravena Police. These procedures are out of date as the Village of Ravena Police have been defunct for several years now. The procedures state that the Police are to notify the local animal control officer or notify a neighboring animal control officer. He stated that Coeymans did not have an animal control officer. He also stated that the procedures had not been updated or revised in almost 20 years.

Mrs. Mary Driscoll stood and asked a question of who the Police Chief was when Supervisor Crandall resigned as Justice. She also asked if the Town had money in the National Bank of Coxsackie. She was informed by Councilman Dolan that it would be part of the Supervisor's Report. Mrs. Driscoll voiced her support of the Police Department and Ravena Rescue Squad. She stated that if they had shot the raccoon it would have caused a panic. She received a very quick response from both when it was needed this winter. She stated that we are very fortunate to have both.

Ms. Kimberly Hostler of Athens, NY stood and stated her feelings that whoever did this to an animal needed to be held accountable. It didn't matter what kind of animal it was, it deserved to be treated better than this raccoon was treated.

Mr. Laszlo Polyack of Ravena stood and commented and said that perhaps some nets or catchpoles would have possibly been a better way of dealing with the raccoon. He also wanted to follow up on the 1982 contract with the Village regarding Water. He was wondering if the Town Board had given any thought to this. Supervisor Crandall asked him to put this into an e-mail and send it to him and that he would get him that information.

Ms. Sherry Piddiquist of Niskayuna, NY stated that she took the time to drive out here because she could not understand why the Police were allowed to do this. She also stated that if the Police were to get away with this it says a lot for the government here. She said there are trappers or people that could be called that would do that humanely, and it was not done humanely.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes

Councilman Youmans made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2018 Town Board Meeting and the March 22, 2018 Bid Opening, seconded by Councilman Dolan.
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Supervisor Report – February 2018 Report read by Supervisor Crandall

Motion to Accept Report

Councilman Youmans made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilman Baker.
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED\

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Councilman Youmans made a comment to state that this Board did not want to eliminate the Police Department. He said that when that rumor gets out it makes it hard to attract Police Officers and that it had never been discussed by this board.

Town Clerk Report – February 2018 Report read by Town Clerk Rowzee

Motion to Accept Report

Councilman Dolan made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilman Youmans.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Building Department Report – February 2018 Report read by John Cashin, Code Enforcement Officer

Motion to Accept Report

Councilman Youmans made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilman Baker.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Sewer Department Report – Tabled until the next meeting when WWTP Chief Operating Officer John Kerr would be present.

Old Business

69 Main St. – Code Enforcement Officer Cashin stated that the property had been put out to bid but that the bid closed that day and there were no bids placed. The Board decided to put it out to bid again with a lower minimum bid of \$5,000.

Resolutions

Resolution #061-18 – Authorize Town Clerk to Advertise Special Town Board Meeting

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was:

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Town Board must complete an Annual Audit for 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Audit must be in accordance with Town Law, Section 123; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is desirous of holding the Audit Meeting on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at 9:00 AM, at the Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Town Clerk Rowzee to advertise in the Ravena News Herald for the Annual Audit Meeting.

Resolution #062-18 – Appoint Acting Chief of Police

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the following resolution was:

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Town of Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town of Coeymans to appoint an Acting Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint provisionally 1st Sargent Daniel Contento as Acting Chief of the Coeymans Police Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint 1st Sargent Daniel Contento as Acting Chief of the Coeymans Police Department retroactive to March 1, 2018, at the hourly rate of \$35.36.

Resolution #063-18 – Appoint Part-Time Police Officer

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Youmans, the following resolution was:

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

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WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans Police Department has a need to fill part-time positions as Police Officer in the Police Department; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Ian Foard to the position of Probationary Part-Time Police Officer effective March 26, 2018. Appointment is contingent upon said candidate signing a personal services contract with the Town of Coeymans and paperwork being filed with the Human Resource Clerk. The officer will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Resolution #064-18 – Appoint Part-Time Police Officer

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Baker, the following resolution was:

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans Police Department has a need to fill part-time positions as Police Officer in the Police Department; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Daniel Braden to the position of Probationary Part-Time Police Officer effective March 26, 2018. Appointment is contingent upon said candidate signing a personal services contract with the Town of Coeymans and paperwork being filed with the Human Resource Clerk. The officer will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Resolution #065-18 – Accept Resignation of Confidential Secretary

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Youmans, the following resolution was:

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, Darleen L. Domanico has submitted her letter of resignation as Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, effective March 30, 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the resignation of Darleen L. Domanico, effective March 30, 2018.

Supervisor Crandall then read the following resignation letter:

Dear Supervisor and Board Members:

I am resigning my position as Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor. My last day of work will be Friday, March 30, 2018. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for the Town.

Wishing everyone well.

Sincerely,

Darleen L. Domanico

Supervisor Crandall then stated that Mrs. Domanico had been offered a job that she had applied for back in September at a much higher rate of pay than she is currently making. He stated that the Town would miss her and that she had been a good right arm to the Supervisor.

Resolution #066-18 – Appoint Confidential Secretary

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

WHEREAS, Darleen Domanico, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, is resigning her position effective March 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor is desirous of filling this vacancy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor Philip A. Crandall to appoint a Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor pursuant to Town Law, Section 29, Subdivision (15); and it is

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Coeymans Supervisor Philip A. Crandall does hereby appoint Heather Collins as Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor for up to 5 days of training commencing on March 26, 2018, and as a full-time employee effective April 2, 2018, at the hourly rate of \$19.20.

Upcoming Workshops and Meetings

Planning Board Meeting – April 2, 2018 at 7pm
Conservation Advisory Council – April 11, 2018 at 6pm
Town Board Meeting – April 12, 2018 at 7pm

Councilman Dolan added a reminder that County Legislator Touchette would be here at 6pm before the April 12th Town Board Meeting for a listening session.

Motion to Adjourn

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

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Time – 7:34

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read April 12, 2018

Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk