

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**
April 11, 2019 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm

A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, April 11th, 2019 at 7:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

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

ABSENT: James C. Youmans, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk
Paul Pastore, Attorney to the Town

Audience (16)
Media (1)

Supervisor Crandall opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that a full Board was present with the exception of Councilman Youmans who was absent.

Presentations

Dr. Rev. Booth of the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Association of Churches stood and spoke about the Ravena Crop Hunger Walk which will be held on Sunday, May 5th, starting at 2pm at Mosher Park. The money raised from this walk goes to help hunger around the world. She stated that 25% of what is raised here in Ravena will come back to the Ravena area and helps with the St. Patrick's Church Food Pantry, the Backpack Program, the Matthew Project, First Reformed Food Pantry, Trinity United Methodist Food Pantry and others. Last year's walk raised \$4,000 and nearly \$1,200 came back to the community. The walk will be about two miles and will provide information on the different feeding programs in the area. She stated that the Backpack Program sends children who need it home with a backpack of food to cover breakfasts and lunches over the weekends. She encouraged everyone to come out and walk. Councilman Dolan asked if people could just donate money. Dr. Rev. Booth said certainly.

Aaron Flach, was here as the Vice Chair of the RCS Community Business Association. He spoke of the need to update and move to a joint comprehensive plan for the Town and the Village. He was here to ask the Town to participate in this project and to look at possibly hiring a coordinator for this project. He stated the need of an experienced person who knows how to leverage available resources. He was here seeking a commitment from the Town for joint planning and asked for a pledge from the Town to work in unison with the Village and RCSCBA.

He mentioned some ideas such as programs for façade renovation or for help with startup costs. He also mentioned the benefits of having a community planner so that people would only have to call one place to have their questions answered. He mentioned that the Town of Bethlehem has one and that this could help move things along here.

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Councilman Dolan stated that he agreed, one stop shopping would be best. He also mentioned how the Town is currently working with the Village on a comprehensive plan and that they would be targeting the business district in the Village and Town.

Mr. Flach mentioned the benefit of having someone know where there were shovel ready sites and being able to tie into federal and state programs.

Councilman Baker asked if the RCSCBA could set something up with the Town and Village Board to work on this. Mr. Flach said absolutely. The RCSCBA would be hosting a meeting in May of the Economic Development Advisory Group and whoever would like to participate can come. They are scheduled to meet every other month.

Composite Technologies and Infrastructure, Inc. (CTI) – Nick Laraway with Carver’s and Mike Cody from Composite Technologies were there as a larger request to the Albany County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). They have submitted a request to the IDA for a 5 year PILOT and Sales and Mortgage Tax Abatement. This would be for a proposed building in the Coeymans Industrial Park. They are looking to construct a new building, 28,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing space and a 14,000 sq. ft. space to consolidate their headquarters and set up a training center for their employees. Mr. Cody spoke about the company. CTI was part of a larger company called Corrosion Products and Equipment which has been in business for over 30 years. CTI was spun off a couple of years ago. They refurbish aging infrastructure using new technologies, carbon fiber, epoxies, etc. They work with aging cities and work quite a bit in New York City, the City of Rochester and Albany. Their motto is don’t replace it, rebuild it. They are looking for a location to set up a first class training facility. All of their workers are unionized, they use District Council 9 in the area which is a Painter’s group. They find it difficult to get proper training because much of what they do falls pretty far outside what the painter’s do. He stated how he is blown away by what is available at the Port of Coeymans. Mr. Laraway was here to request approval from the Town Board to accept the 5 year PILOT, which would start at 50% of the assessment in 2020 and would ramp up 10% a year to the full assessment 5 years later. Overall the project is roughly \$4 million, they would also receive some savings on mortgage and sales tax as well. The parcel in question is currently assessed at \$200 a year in property and school taxes. What they can do by bringing them here will definitely help the community. They want to consolidate 40 current jobs to this location as well as creating 40 more jobs.

Supervisor Crandall stated that they had met with the owners of CTI the past week and he was impressed with everything that was presented. He stated that he is looking very favorably upon this.

Mr. Laraway said that they had met with the School Board and had received a favorable e-mail from them yesterday and hopefully at their next meeting they will pass a resolution. The IDA voted to set up a Public Hearing here for April 22nd and they hoped to be on the agenda for the Town Board’s next meeting for consideration, then they would be able to get back to the IDA on May 2nd for full approval.

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Public Announcements

VFW Easter Egg Hunt – The VFW Post 9594 will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th at 11am at the VFW Post on Whitbeck Rd.

Alcove Day – Alcove Day Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 27th, with no rain date. Supervisor Crandall read information about registration, the Treasure Map and other events for the day.

Public Comment

Mr. Jeffrey LaQuire, of Coeymans, stood and spoke about getting off on the wrong foot with the Town Board. He apologized and reintroduced himself and spoke about his background. He stated that he had moved back here after 20 years in the military and he doesn't like what he sees. He is here to make a positive impact on the community.

Ms. Barbara Tanner, of Coeymans, stood and stated her disappointment that the Town Board did not acknowledge the petition turned in at the 3/28/2019 meeting. She also felt that the Board was paying more attention to outsiders rather than to actual residents.

Mr. Nate Boomer, of Coeymans, stood and spoke about some questions and concerns the Friends of Coeymans had about the Conservation Advisory Committee and the Natural Resource Inventory that they are conducting. He also spoke about his concern that at some point the Advisory Council would be converted to a Conservation Board which would cost the tax payer more money and add more time to the Planning and Zoning process, which could hinder business growth. He mentioned the possibility of offering incentives for using solar or other renewable energy sources or for building buildings more efficiently. He also suggested organizing area cleanups that the Town could support with refreshments or equipment if needed.

Supervisor Crandall asked if he could have a copy of the list of questions Mr. Boomer had and that he would make a copy for every Board member which they could choose to answer. Mr. Boomer handed the questions to him.

Mr. Chris Hagen, of Alcove, stood and spoke about the Clean Air Law and how he felt the Town Board failed to represent the citizens. He stated that he felt the citizens were not being led or represented. He spoke about the Friends of Coeymans group and a poll they conducted to find out what people found most concerning. Some of the things mentioned in the poll were Lafarge, Carver, etc., Members of the Board, shady back door politics, truck traffic, the Town and Village not working together, speeding, lack of business, some areas of Coeymans do not have internet, drugs, condition of Town, especially Main St. and a few others. Mr. Hagen stated that the Friends of Coeymans Facebook group is only 3 weeks old and has 625 members. He stated how there needs to be change.

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Ms. Mary Driscoll, of Coeymans, stood and spoke about her history and growing up in Chatham when industries and railroads left. She said it was inspiring to see young people looking out for Coeymans. She also addressed who could park on a road in the park and would like an answer to that.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes

Councilman Dolan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the March 28th, 2019 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilman Burns.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

New Business

Village Pool Proposal – Supervisor Crandall asked Darlene Mergendahl to address the Board regarding a letter they had received from Trustee Linda Muller. Supervisor Crandall read the proposal from the Village. The Village is offering to allow all Town Residents into the pool for free if the Town pays \$5,000 the first year which would then be subject to review for the following year. The Village would keep track of the Town residents who come and swim so that the necessary adjustments could be made.

Ms. Mergendahl spoke about how there were many kids in the Town of Coeymans who could not afford to pay to get into the pool in the summer and so this would allow them a place to go. She stated that the Hamlet is full of kids who should have the opportunity to use the pool.

Supervisor Crandall mentioned how he has also contacted Dr. Bailey of the RCS School District to see about the expense of running a bus out to the Hollow to go to the park as well. This was done years ago.

Councilman Dolan asked if Ms. Mergendahl had the number of Town residents or families that used the pool last year. She stated that she did not have an exact number as she calculated how many people signed in, not how many times they came. She knows that the Town of Coeymans and the Village of Coxsackie were tied for highest numbers outside of Ravena.

There was discussion on if this had been proposed previously. Supervisor Crandall asked for a motion to look into this further.

Motion to Look into Pool Proposal and Bus Rides

Councilman Dolan made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to move forward with the pool proposal and to discuss a possible bus with the school, to be brought up at the next Town Board meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

Portable Toilet Rentals – Supervisor Crandall asked for a motion to use Big Top Portable Toilets for the parks.

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Motion to use Big Top Portable Toilets

Councilman Dolan made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to accept the bid from Big Top Portable Toilets for Joralemon Park and Coeyman's Landing, seconded by Councilman Burns.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

Councilman Baker mentioned that there were a bunch of different ones listed and that Big Top was the cheapest.

Resolutions

Resolution #072-19 – Accept Resignation - Kerr

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

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, John Kerr has submitted his letter of resignation as Chief Sewer Plant Treatment Operator, effective April 12, 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the resignation of John Kerr, effective April 12, 2019.

Councilman Burns read the resignation letter submitted by John Kerr. All Town Board members stated their appreciation for the work the Mr. Kerr did and wished him well in his retirement.

Resolution #073-19 – Appoint Provisional Chief Sewer Treatment Plant Operator - Geraldson

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

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Chief Sewer Treatment Plant Operator John Kerr will be retiring on April 12, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is desirous of filling this position; and

WHEREAS, Section 65 of civil Service law authorizes a provisional appointment when no eligible list exists for a position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Keith Geraldson provisionally to the position of Chief Sewer Treatment Plant Operator subject to the approval of Albany County Department of Civil Service, at a rate of \$25.89 effective April 13, 2019.

Councilman Burns spoke favorably about Mr. Geraldson and the work he does for the Town.

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Resolution #074-19 – Appoint Seasonal Sewer Laborer - Perry

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the following resolution was:
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Sewer Department is in need of extra help for spring and summer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Nelson Perry to the Part-time Seasonal position effective April 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019, at the rate of \$18.50 per hour, contingent upon Albany County Civil Service approval.

Resolution #075-19 – Appoint Seasonal Laborer - Kuchta

On motion of Councilman Dolan, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was:
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Community Beautification is in need of extra help for spring and summer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint William Kuchta to the Part-time Seasonal position effective April 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019, at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, contingent upon Albany County Civil Service approval.

Resolution #076-19 – Sponsor Police Recruit to Academy – Wright

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Dolan for discussion, the following resolution was:
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the Acting Chief of Police would like to sponsor a recruit to the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy; and

WHEREAS, Christopher R. Wright is desirous of attending said academy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby sponsor Christopher R. Wright to attend Session 67 of the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy beginning July 9, 2019 at his own expense.

Councilman Dolan mentioned that Officer in Charge Contento had said some great things about this new recruit.

Resolution #077-19 – Authorize Deputy Supervisor to Execute Upstate Kayak Rental Contract

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Burns for discussion, the following resolution was:
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

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WHEREAS, the Town Board is desirous to provide recreational services to the Town residents by providing Kayak rentals at the Coeymans Landing Park; and

WHEREAS, Upstate Kayak Rentals would provide a rental Hub consisting of 4-6 locked Kayaks available to rent to the public 7 days a week in 3 hour intervals through Kayak Rentals website or staff, weather permitting; and

WHEREAS, the Hub will operate from May 1st until October 31st, with a fee of \$25 for licensing the site;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Deputy Supervisor Thomas Dolan to sign the agreement between the Town of Coeymans and Upstate Kayak Rentals from May 1, 2019 until October 31, 2019, with a prepaid fee of \$25 paid for the licensing of the Hub site.

Councilman Burns asked if it had worked out well last summer. Councilman Dolan stated that he had never seen a kayak out but that Upstate Kayak Rental had contacted us about doing this again this year. He said that there were a couple of new changes, the rental would now be for 3 hours rather than 2 and that you would be able to rent at one place and drop it off at another, like Bethlehem Park or downstream. There was discussion about the logistics of how this worked and about how the Hudson is great for kayaking, especially if you stay to the sides.

Attorney to the Town Pastore made some suggestions regarding some wording in the contract and some missing paragraphs that should be cleaned up before signing.

Upcoming Meetings

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – April 24th at 7pm
Town Board Meeting – April 25th at 7pm

The Public Hearing that will be held here for CTI on April 22nd was mentioned.

Motion to Adjourn

On motion of Supervisor Crandall, seconded by Councilman Baker, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1 – SO MOVED

Time – 8:02pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk