

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS**  
**September 12, 2019 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 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  
James C. Youmans, Councilman

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk  
Paul Pastore, Attorney to the Town  
Daniel Contento, Officer in Charge

Audience (25+) Media (1)

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Supervisor Crandall opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced the following presentation.

**Presentations**

**VFW Auxiliary** – The VFW Auxiliary United Post 9594 conducted a POW/MIA “Missing Man” Ceremony to honor the men and women of the armed forces who are unaccounted for and are classified as Prisoner of War or Missing in Action.

Supervisor Crandall thanked the members of the VFW Auxiliary for presenting the Missing Man Ceremony.

**Public Announcements**

**Reassessment Project** – Supervisor Crandall read the following announcement: The Town of Coeymans is undergoing a full town reassessment project, to be completed for the 2020 assessment roll. More information will be made available regarding this in the coming months, including a Town Board meeting taking place on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 that will address this process. In the coming weeks, property owners will be receiving a data mailer. We are asking that all property owners review the mailing, and sign and return it by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Public Comment**

**Ms. Mary Driscoll, of Coeymans**, stood spoke about how touching the POW ceremony was. She also spoke about the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 and stated how surprised she was that there was nothing on the agenda about it. She asked that we have a moment of silence.

Supervisor Crandall asked for a moment of silence to remember all those that were lost on 9/11.

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**Ms. Mary Ellen Rosato, of Ravena**, stood and recognized the VFW Auxiliary for bringing baked goods to the Police, Fire Companies and Rescue Squad on 9/11 to thank them for their service.

**Mr. Jeffrey LaQuire, of Coeymans**, stood and asked the Town Board to give special consideration to two of the possible appointments for Planning Board who are lifelong residents. He stated that there were things that you can learn from living in a place that you can't get in a law degree.

**Mr. Chris Hagen, of Alcove**, stood and spoke about a message on the internet from Mike Ewall that was written to a lawyer blog. It was regarding creating a clean election law for a town in the state of New York to make it harder for a corporate polluter to take over the town in the November elections. He stated that there was a majority willing to pass the law if he could get it drafted.

Councilmen Youmans and Dolan and Supervisor Crandall all stated that Mr. Ewall was not speaking for them.

Mr. Hagen went on to read more from the post by Mr. Ewall. The post stated that three "dems" would be willing to pass the law. Mr. Hagen then mentioned Supervisor Crandall being contacted from the paper and having no recollection, then he later remembered it. He asked the Town Board to own it.

There was heated discussion between the Town Board, Mr. Hagen and the audience regarding this topic.

**Marisa Tutay, of Coeymans**, stood and stated that she was born here and that her children are the 5<sup>th</sup> generation born in Coeymans. She spoke of her displeasure in how people were getting along and that we should be working together to move forward. She stated that she no longer sees camaraderie in this Town and that people should be respectful. She also stated that we should not allow an outsider to make accusations and decide what is best for this Town.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **Motion to Approve Minutes**

Councilman Dolan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 3 – NAYS 0 – ABSTAIN 2 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Councilmen Burns and Youmans abstained as they were not at the last meeting.

As there was no Old or New Business Supervisor Crandall moved on to the Resolutions.

### **Resolutions**

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**Resolution #107-19 – Appoint PT Police Officer - Iovinelli**

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Councilman Dolan, 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 Jeffrey T. Iovinelli to the position of Part-Time Police Officer effective September 12, 2019. Appointment is contingent upon paperwork being filed with the Human Resource Clerk. The officer will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Resolution #108-19 – Appoint Planning Board Member - Herrick**

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

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 3 – NAYS 2 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board is desirous of filling a vacancy on the Planning Board for the remaining term left by Peter Foronda which is set to expire on December 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Kristin Herrick has shown interest in being appointed to fulfill the remainder of said term;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, does hereby appoint Kristin Herrick as a member of the Planning Board for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Philip A. Crandall	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
Daniel D. Baker	VOTING <u>No</u>
Kenneth A. Burns	VOTING <u>No</u>
Thomas E. Dolan	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
James C. Youmans	VOTING <u>Yes</u>

**Resolution #109-19 – Appoint Planning Board Member - Battaglia**

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

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 3 – NAYS 2 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board is desirous of filling a vacancy on the Planning Board for the remaining term left by Ernie Quinto which is set to expire on December 31, 2025; and

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**WHEREAS**, Mr. Nicholas Battaglia has shown interest in being appointed to fulfill the remainder of said term;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, does hereby appoint Nicholas Battaglia as a member of the Planning Board for a term to expire December 31, 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, does also hereby appoint Mr. Battaglia to serve as the Chairman of the Planning Board for the remaining term set to expire December 31, 2019.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Philip A. Crandall	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
Daniel D. Baker	VOTING <u>No</u>
Kenneth A. Burns	VOTING <u>No</u>
Thomas E. Dolan	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
James C. Youmans	VOTING <u>Yes</u>

**Resolution #110-19 – Appoint Planning Board Member - Tutay**

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Baker, the following resolution was:  
NOT APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 2 – NAYS 3 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

**WHEREAS** a vacancy exists on the Town of Coeymans Planning Board for a Member, with a term of office to end on December 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS** a public notice to residents was advertised seeking the resumes and cover letters of interested applicants to fill said vacancy on the Coeymans Planning Board; and

**WHEREAS** several resumes and cover letters were received by the Town Supervisor’s Office and interviews were conducted of all interested applicants by Supervisor Crandall and Councilman Baker;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Marisa Tutay as a Member of the Town of Coeymans Planning Board, effective immediately, with a term of office to expire on December 31, 2021.

A roll call vote was called for by Councilman Baker. Before it could be held Attorney to the Town Pastore counseled against holding a vote as the two positions for Planning Board had previously been filled. He said that it was a factual impossibility that you can fill a vacancy that does not exist.

Councilman Baker questioned that there were four nominations, two from Supervisor Crandall and two from himself, and because the other two went first, his didn’t get to be heard?

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Attorney to the Town Pastore again stated that it was a factual impossibility to fill a vacancy that does not exist.

Councilman Dolan added that any of the candidates could have been discussed at the time that the first name was offered and for whatever reason that did not happen.

Supervisor Crandall stated that he would go ahead with the vote if Councilman Baker wanted him to.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Philip A. Crandall	VOTING <u>No</u>
Daniel D. Baker	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
Kenneth A. Burns	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
Thomas E. Dolan	VOTING <u>No</u>
James C. Youmans	VOTING <u>No</u>

**Resolution #111-19 – Appoint Planning Board Member - Boomer**

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Burns, the following resolution was:  
NOT APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 2 – NAYS 3 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

**WHEREAS** a vacancy exists on the Town of Coeymans Planning Board for a Member, with a term of office to end on December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS** a public notice to residents was advertised seeking the resumes and cover letters of interested applicants to fill said vacancy on the Coeymans Planning Board; and

**WHEREAS** several resumes and cover letters were received by the Town Supervisor’s Office and interviews were conducted of all interested applicants by Supervisor Crandall and Councilman Baker;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Nathan Boomer as a Member of the Town of Coeymans Planning Board, effective immediately, with a term of office to expire on December 31, 2025.

Attorney to the Town Pastore again counseled against proceeding with the resolution. He cautioned the members of the Board on bringing on a motion when something has been resolved as this could set a precedent.

Councilman Baker moved that he would offer it without setting a precedent. Attorney to the Town Pastore stated that the precedent had already been set. Councilman Baker asked if they should not vote on this one. Attorney to the Town Pastore said they had already voted on the first one and they could certainly take a vote on this one, but if you bring this to an extreme then

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every single matter that is brought before the Board and resolved could then have another motion that is contrary to the one you just resolved. Councilman Baker stated that he would accept that responsibility wholeheartedly.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Philip A. Crandall	VOTING <u>No</u>
Daniel D. Baker	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
Kenneth A. Burns	VOTING <u>Yes</u>
Thomas E. Dolan	VOTING <u>No</u>
James C. Youmans	VOTING <u>No</u>

It was decided that they would not move forward with the next resolution on the agenda.

Councilman Burns asked if they should have discussed the candidates together. Supervisor Crandall stated that he and Councilman Baker had been assigned to interview the candidates and they came up with to different choices.

At this point several members of the audience got up and left.

**Resolution #112-19 – Salary Increase for Account Clerk**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor has given additional duties to the part time Account Clerk Annette Demitraszek; and

**WHEREAS**, the employee should be compensated for said additional duties;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans hereby increases the salary of Annette Demitraszek to \$20.00 hourly to compensate her for the additional duties, effective September 3, 2019.

**Resolution #113-19 – Appoint PT Police Officer - Seney**

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Baker for discussion, 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 Edmund J. Seney to the position of Part-Time Police Officer effective September 16, 2019. Appointment is contingent upon paperwork being filed with the Human

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Resource Clerk. The officer will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Councilman Baker asked Officer in Charge Contento about these appointments and asked if we had two officers leave. Officer in Charge Contento stated that Iovenelli had left to deal with retirement issues. Officer Seney used to work for the Town and missed working here and wished to come back. Councilman Youmans pointed out that Officer Seney was a really good officer when he was with us before.

**Resolution #114-19 – Appoint PT Police Officer - Torres**

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Youmans, 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 Gina M. Torres to the position of Part-Time Police Officer effective September 16, 2019. Appointment is contingent upon paperwork being filed with the Human Resource Clerk. The officer will be compensated at the rate designated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
Town Board Meeting – September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**Discussion**

There was discussion among the Town Board members, the Attorney to the Town and the remaining audience regarding the Planning Board nominations. Councilman Youmans commented that there seemed to be a sentiment that the longer you lived in a Town the more qualified you are to sit on the Planning Board. He felt that this is untrue and that they had picked the most qualified candidates.

Attorney to the Town Pastore stated that they had to choose between partisan politics and what can and cannot be done. He stated that aside from the applicant's qualifications, Councilman Baker and Supervisor Crandall had done their due diligence by interviewing the candidates and that it is no fault of anyone that they did not agree. He cautioned the Board against bringing a motion to the Board in the future when the matter has been resolved.

Councilman Baker stated that he felt that the candidates deserved to hear their nomination.

Sylvia Lawler stated that some of the candidates wanted to know if they had been read first, would they have been chosen. Albert Collins suggested that they should have had a workshop

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and discussed the nominations until they all agreed. Councilman Dolan mentioned that they could have offered a different name for discussion when the first nomination was read and it would have been discussed at that point. Supervisor Crandall stated that he and Councilman Baker had spent hours working on this and they could not come to an agreement. Sara Pruiksma mentioned that her default for fairness has been to use alphabetical order. She was thanked for her idea.

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**Motion to Adjourn**

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

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

Time – 7:47pm

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk*