

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
February 13, 2020 – Public Hearing – 6:30pm**

A Public Hearing was held Thursday, February 13th, 2020 at 6:30pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: George D. McHugh, Supervisor
Daniel D. Baker, Councilman
Kenneth C. Burns, Councilman
Zachary S. Collins, Councilman
Brandon L. LeFevre, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk

Audience (25+), Media (1)

Supervisor McHugh opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that all Town Board Members were present. He then opened the Public Hearing for the Community Block Development Grant (CDBG). When there were no comments on the CDBG he moved on to the topic of Route 144 while leaving the CDBG Hearing open.

Supervisor McHugh stated that he had a letter from the Everingham's that he would like to read into the record. The letter stated that there was increased truck and commuter traffic. They also mentioned that there are issues when children wait for the school bus in the morning and when they come home in the afternoon. They feel that lowering the speed limit to 40mph would help. They also addressed the fact that there are no shoulders on the road and how mailboxes have been taken out by trucks and plows.

Supervisor McHugh then stated that this issue has been brought to DOT in the past and DOT has said that the reduction in speed is not justified. He agrees that the shoulders are very minimal. Supervisor McHugh then stated that he had contacted Mr. Laraway, Lafarge and Mr. Biers and they all want to see the speed limit reduced. He plans to go to DOT, State Assemblyman Tague and State Senator Amedore. Supervisor McHugh stated that engineers will look at this and say that the mathematical equation does not add up to a need for the reduction in speed but this is not a mathematical or engineering issue but a common sense one. He then opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Ms. Janet Kessler of North Coeymans spoke about how she had previously contacted the state and State Senator Amedore and that the state had done a couple of studies. She stated how she used to be able to ride a bike or walk to a friend's house but she can't now because there are no shoulders. She stated that metal falling off of trucks was also an issue. She stated that it is not safe for children getting on and off school buses, the road is not wide enough, and there are no shoulders. She stated that years ago a knoll was removed near Bronck Rd. and that helped but there are still issues. Ms. Kessler stated that she has been bumped into while waiting to turn onto a road and that people are too impatient. She stated that she feels that they are up against a brick

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wall and that there is nothing the Town can do to make it change. She feels as if we are fighting a losing battle.

Ms. Diane Evans of River Rd. stated that she has been told they can't change the speed limit because it is a state highway. She said she knows of other state highways that are lower, such as 396 and 143. She stated that twice people have passed her on the left while she was trying to turn left into her driveway. Luckily she saw them and avoided an accident. She also spoke of an accident where a truck ran into a friend of hers while they were waiting to turn into her driveway. She spoke of another time when a truck made a driver so nervous that she ended up in her front lawn to avoid it. She stated that the state comes in the middle of the day and sits there for an hour but they need to come at rush hour and stay longer.

Councilman Baker asked if she has noticed Police cars up there?

Ms. Evans stated that she has seen Sheriff's cars.

Councilman Baker replied that that is the first attempt to try and slow people down and that this Board is going to continue to try.

Ms. Evans mentioned that potential problems happen on a constant basis. She also mentioned the issue with no shoulder.

Supervisor McHugh mentioned that this is a very residential area and would like to see a reduced speed from 396 down so that it goes from 55 down to 40 down to 30 in the hamlet.

Councilman Baker stated that this does not cost anyone anything and that it would only mean a two minute delay when driving to Albany.

Ms. Sherry Newton of North Coeymans stated that she lives where the vegetable stand is. She stated that when it was open customers were terrified to stop because of the traffic. She mentioned that it is a passing area and people would pass on the left while people were trying to turn left into the stand. She mentioned that there are times when they need to take equipment to their fields that she would like to have a police escort them down River Rd. She currently follows her husband with flashers on but says there is no respect for farmers and people will pass no matter what the lines are. She also stated that she used to run down Route 144 but she can't any longer because there is no shoulder. She mentioned that trucks turn over if they go slightly off the road.

Councilman Baker encouraged her to call for a police escort when they need one.

Mr. Kent Pugliese invited anyone to come to his driveway and have a seltzer or a beer and watch. He mentioned that there were no street lights, no shoulder or sidewalks, that it is a truck route, motorcycle route, bike route, bus stops and turning traffic.

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Ms. Nicole Ambrosio of Surprise, NY, stated that the main thing when looking into a traffic problem is that the public needs to get all of their grievances on paper. She stated that there are grants for safety and streetscapes to change things. To do this you need to talk to state officials and get documentation of everything that was said here tonight. She encouraged to public to start writing it down and bring it in.

Councilman Baker asked if e-mails were ok. Ms. Ambrosio said yes. Councilman Baker said to send them to the Supervisor.

Councilman Burns spoke about some of the issues they previously had on Route 143. He stated that they took a petition to DOT and there were 24 accidents on the corner of his field. They had everything written down and DOT never did anything but they eventually lowered the speed limit. He stated that it would help if they would lower the speed limit on Route 144 and adding a bike lane would help even more.

There were then some comments on the CDBG. After those comments Supervisor McHugh asked if there were any other comments on either topic. As there were no other comments Supervisor McHugh asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion to Adjourn

On motion of Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Baker, the Public Hearing on Route 144 was closed.

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

Time – 7:03pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk