

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS**  
**February 13, 2020 – Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00pm 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)

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Supervisor McHugh opened the meeting after the Public Hearings on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Route 144 ended at 7:03.

**Public Announcements**

**Fire District Checks** - Supervisor McHugh stated how much both Fire Departments do and so he wanted them to come and be recognized since they are all volunteers who help to keep us safe. He thanked them for all they do. He then presented a check to William Bruno, a member of the Coeymans Fire Company, representing their portion of the 2020 Town and County Tax Collection. He then presented the check for the Coeymans Hollow Fire Company to Darlene Wilson and Jack Dennis.

**Association of Towns Meeting/Training** – This meeting will be held in New York City from February 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor McHugh and Councilmen Collins and LeFevre will be attending as well as John Cashin, our Building Inspector.

**Public Comment**

**Ms. Audrey June of Coeymans** stood and spoke about the noise from the Port of Coeymans. She stated that Monday night she called the police to complain about the noise to get it to stop. She is tired of the scrap metal noise. It finally stopped at about 10 or 10:30. She stated that she has to go to bed earlier than that though so she can get up early. She said that the noise had stopped after last year but it has gotten worse again. Ms. June stated that it would be nice if the work could stop by 8pm. She also stated that the trucks were very noisy and that the hamlet is not as peaceful as it was before the Port grew. She stated that they keep adding more trucks and more businesses and it gets louder with more noise.

Councilman Burns stated that he thought they did scrap metal only rarely.

Ms. June stated that it was once or twice a month.

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A representative from the Port of Coeymans stated that it was cyclical and there were 5 ships last year. He would have to verify if they were doing some on Monday evening.

Councilman Burns stated that he thought they had agreed with the previous Supervisor to stop during certain hours.

Supervisor McHugh stated that they try and adhere to that schedule but it depends on when ships come in. He also stated that they have tried installing rubber to cut down on some of the noise so that metal hits rubber not metal hitting metal.

Ms. June stated that it wasn't as noisy years ago but now there are less trees and more noise and it goes right through the house.

**Mr. Chris Hagen** asked if there was a noise ordinance.

Supervisor McHugh stated that there was no local noise ordinance.

**Mr. William Stewart of Ravena** stated that he had heard talk of the Town looking into companies for a transfer station. He asked if they were still looking at that.

Supervisor McHugh stated that they haven't talked to anyone but that they are talking amongst themselves about getting one into Coeymans. He stated that there would be no garbage at the transfer station.

Mr. Stewart was disappointed by no garbage. He mentioned where he used to live they had it where they just shipped it out.

He then asked about what was happening with the Rite Aid building as he had heard Dollar Tree had bought other ones.

Supervisor McHugh stated that he had heard nothing.

**Ms. Barbara Tanner** stated that she did hear that either Dollar General or Dollar Tree was interested but it is just a rumor. She also asked why not garbage at the transfer station?

Supervisor McHugh stated that they haven't talked about it and there was a lot to consider.

Ms. Tanner mentioned that Greene County has a great one.

**Ms. Janet Kessler of North Coeymans** stood and asked about some construction across from the old diner.

Supervisor McHugh stated that the Building Inspector had been there and for now it was just excavation that did not require a permit. A mulch place had been proposed there but it has not gone before the Planning Board yet. He stated that they are keeping a watchful eye.

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Councilman LeFevre stated that a neighbor had asked him to look into it and there have been rumors about what the owner plans on doing. He had asked Supervisor McHugh to send Mr. Cashin there.

**Mr. Stewart** asked if there was any movement with the bowling alley.

Supervisor McHugh stated that there are some interested parties that were looking at it and are currently in the inspection phase.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to Approve Minutes**

Councilman Baker made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the January 9, 2020 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilman LeFevre.

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

**Motion to Approve Minutes**

Councilman Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the January 16, 2020 Town Board Workshop, seconded by Councilman Burns.

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

**Old Business**

**Gedney Hill Tower** – Supervisor McHugh stated that Albany County’s Conex box has been moved out and our Conex box was moved back in. Mr. Bullock is in the process of hooking up the power and once that is done Pittsfield Communications can hook up the relays again. We will not need it soon but want to hook it up for use by the Fire Companies for mutual aid. We will have an inter-municipal agreement where the fire companies will maintain it.

Councilman Baker stated that if Coeymans Hollow has to go to New Baltimore for mutual aid this service is needed to communicate with the New Baltimore Fire Company and all of Greene County.

Supervisor McHugh stated that we are going over to the 800 MHz radios for our Highway Department and the Fire Companies would be the only ones to use.

**Town-wide Spending Freeze** – Supervisor McHugh stated that they had put a spending freeze into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> for 90 days while they looked at the books and they are lifting it now. Department heads can now start buying within their budgets. He stated that everything looks good and is in a positive balance. He will be keeping a tight eye on it every month.

**911 Address Concerns** – Supervisor McHugh stated that he has a list and will draft letters to send to the duplicated Main Street addresses to make sure they know that they live in Ravenna or Coeymans. He will then go door to door to follow up. He stated that there are about 15 duplicates. He also stated that the County is going to educate the dispatchers to ask the callers if

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they live near the river or the railroad tracks for those addresses. He stated that the letter would be going out either Monday or Tuesday.

**Scrap Removal at Sewer Plant** – Councilman Collins stated that last Wednesday his father let him use donated equipment and time to help take 4 loads of scrap metal for scrap from an area near the Sewer Plant. It was a total of 70,000 pounds or 35 tons. He stated that they worked with Keith Geraldson from the Sewer Plant and the crew from the Highway. They will now have space down there that they can use. Supervisor McHugh stated that it was about 10 years worth of cars and scrap metal that is now gone. The Town made \$2100 on the scrap. He then thanked Collins and Son and Al Collins for donating the equipment and time.

**New Business**

**Albany County Land Transfer** – Supervisor McHugh stated that he met with County Executive McCoy on January 30<sup>th</sup> in regards to the Krzykowski property on SR 143. The County took the property over in November and a deal has been made for the County to donate the property to the Town. The Town will clean it up and get it back on the tax rolls for sale. It is currently on the March 10<sup>th</sup> Agenda for the County Legislature to vote on it. He hopes that it will soon be cleaned up and back on the tax rolls.

Supervisor McHugh stated that on January 31<sup>st</sup> he went out to see how much cleanup would be involved. He saw that there were 3,000-4,000 tires on the property so he called police and code enforcement. DEC had cleaned up all the tires that were there last year. The neighbor admitted that he had put the tires there and had asked for two weeks to get rid of them. The County has moved forward with an investigation and it was taken over by the County Sheriff. At this point at least 1,000 of the tires have been removed.

**Town Hall** – Supervisor McHugh stated that at the joint meeting with the Village they had discussed moving some of the Town offices to Village Hall. This is not going to happen as they do not have enough room. He then stated that Plan B is to possibly build a new Town Hall. The Town purchased this building in 1968 from the American Legion. We are outgrowing this building and it is not functional for what we need. He stated that he has been in talks with Mr. Flach, who has 5 acres of land on 9W and 101 to build a new Town Hall which he will lease to us with an option to buy. In order to make progress in this town we really need a better headquarters and this building has outlived its useful life. He stated that he is looking for creative ways to finance this.

Supervisor McHugh stated that he made a trip with Councilman Baker to Coxsackie's new Town Hall on Bailey St. He stated that it has some nice stonework and is very functional and is a very nice building with an attached Highway Garage.

Councilman Baker stated that they had a very nice tour and the Coxsackie Supervisor spoke about some of the challenges they had encountered.

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Supervisor McHugh stated that this is an old building that is not handicap accessible and it has outlived its useful life. He stated that appearance is not everything but it is a lot and he feels that a nice new building at the entrance to the Town will do well for the Town. He stated that there will be more information to follow.

**Resolutions**

**Resolution #055-20 – Appoint Supervisor as Signer on HUD Account**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, effective immediately, Phillip A. Crandall and Thomas Dolan shall be removed as signers on the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Scotia account, which issues payments related to Section 8 housing;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Town Supervisor, George D. McHugh, shall be added to the account as the sole signer on this account, effective immediately.

Supervisor McHugh stated that this was to satisfy a request from the bank.

**Resolution #056-20 – Budget Amendment**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Fiscal Officer has determined that in order to maintain proper accounting of the 2020 Budget, certain Budget Amendments are in order: and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Fiscal Officer is desirous of amending the budget for the year 2020 as follows:

**Highway Fund (DB)**

**Increase Expenditures**

(DB)5130.2 Equipment \$44,434.95

**Increase Appropriated Fund Balance**

DB599 \$44,434.95

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor George D. McHugh to amend the Budget for the year 2020 as depicted above in this resolution.

**Resolution #057-20 – Authorize Purchase of Radios for Highway**

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

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**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans Highway Department, in order to maintain public safety and proper radio communications, desires to purchase 6 hand held radios and 11 mobile radios, all of which are 800MHZ, plus necessary accessories from Pittsfield Communications Systems, Inc. for a total cost of \$44,434.95;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Town Board of Coeymans does hereby authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase 6 hand held radios and 11 mobile radios, all of which are 800 MHZ, together with the necessary accessories at a total cost of \$44,434.95 from Pittsfield Communications Systems, Inc.

Supervisor McHugh stated that this is a public safety issue. 800 MHz is the radio system used by the County, EMS, Fire Districts and Schools. This will bring the Highway Department up to speed with all of these services so they can communicate with each other.

**Upcoming Meetings and Workshops**

- Annual Audit Meeting – Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – 6pm
- Workshop Meeting – Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – 7pm
- Special Town Board Meeting – Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – 6pm
- ZBA Meeting – Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – 7pm
- Town Board Meeting – Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm

**Public Comment**

**Ms. Barbara Tanner** of Ravena stood and asked if there was ground pollution at the Krzykowski property.

Supervisor McHugh stated that it was his understanding that it was cleared by DEC in June.

**Mr. William Stewart of Ravena** asked if in regards to building a new Town Hall would they be selling this building and using the money to purchase a new one.

Supervisor McHugh stated that that was a definite possibility.

**Ms. Flach** asked when the next Joint Meeting with the Village is.

Supervisor McHugh stated that it will be on April 20<sup>th</sup> here at the Town Hall.

**Ms. Starr Ross of Coeymans** questioned the enforcement of the speed limit on 144 in the hamlet. She stated that she lives in a 30mph zone but people will do 40, 50 or 60 by her house. She stated that it doesn't matter what the speed limit is if you don't enforce it.

Supervisor McHugh stated that he hopes the presence of the Sheriff Sub-station in the hamlet will help with that.

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As there were no other comments Supervisor McHugh asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session.

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**Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel and Employment Matters**

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman LeFevre, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel and employment matters.

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

Time – 7:42pm

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**Motion to Adjourn**

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Collins, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned from Executive Session.

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

Time – 8:40pm

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk*