

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**

March 12, 2020 – Public Hearing – 6:30pm

A Public Hearing was held Thursday, March 12th, 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 (31), Media (1)

Supervisor McHugh opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then stated that all Town Board Members were present. At this point he asked Town Clerk Rowzee to read the Notice of Public Hearing:

NOTICE

**TOWN OF COEYMANS
TOWN BOARD
SPECIAL MEETINGS**

In compliance with Public Officer's Law, this will inform you that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans has scheduled Special Meetings on the following dates for the purpose of hearing comments from the public on the following topics:

- Mar. 12th – Coeymans Post Office – 6:30pm
- Mar. 26th – Chickens/Livestock in Hamlet – 6:30pm
- Mar. 26th – Unregistered/Abandoned Vehicles (R-1/R-2) – 6:30pm

The Special Meetings will be held before the regularly scheduled Town Board Meetings in February and March at 6:30pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York.

**By Order of the Town of
Coeymans Town Board
Cindy L. Rowzee
Town Clerk**

Supervisor McHugh then commented that the issue for the night is the Coeymans Post Office. He stated that the Town Board is seeking input on whether or not to pursue with the US Postal Service the option of changing to home delivery in the Hamlet or to leave the Post Office as it is. He stated that no Town Board members receive mail at the Post Office so they would like the input of those who do.

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**

March 12, 2020 – Public Hearing – 6:30pm

Supervisor McHugh then stated that he has spoken to Diane at the Post Office and this issue is in D.C. right now and they would like the minutes from this meeting to see what is said. He asked that the people who speak narrow their comments to the two options mentioned, to have delivery or to leave as is. He stated that they would keep 12045 as the Coeymans zip code.

Councilman Baker asked that if anyone makes a comment to state their name and where they live.

Public Comment

Mr. Louis Newburg of John St., Coeymans stood and spoke in favor of delivery. He stated that he has lived there his whole life but with the current hours of the Post Office it is tough to get a package during the week, especially for those that work, and even Saturdays can be tough.

Supervisor McHugh stated at this point that two families from the Hamlet who had called that day and both were in favor of home delivery.

Mr. Ken Dottino of Blaisdell Ave., Coeymans stood and stated that he had contacted Councilman Baker about some issues. He stated that with two people in a family working the hours of the Post Office just don't work. He mentioned that there is a box system in the lobby but it can only take small boxes. If your box doesn't fit then it is not in the available and it can take a week and a half to get a package. He stated that the hours of the window are not good as most people are working during those hours. Mr. Dottino also mentioned a safety issue, the road is narrower and there is a lack of parking and handicap parking. He stated that there is no reason to have a Post Office like this one. He also mentioned that the building is substandard.

Ms. Cherie Dottino of Blaisdell Ave., Coeymans stood and stated that she is for home delivery as she has medication that needs to be refrigerated and so it cannot be shipped to the current Post Office. She stated that sometimes it can be two weeks before they can get a package.

Mr. William Bruno, a Coeymans business owner, stated that he still has PO Boxes in Coeymans even though he no longer lives there. He does think that delivery is good but he would like to keep his Coeymans PO Box somewhere. He stated that he would have to contact all of his customers if it were to change. He strongly encouraged keeping the Coeymans zip code as it is a historic hamlet and part of the community.

Councilman Baker read from an e-mail he had received from **Cathy and Jim Pasquini** in favor of having home delivery. They stated that the hours of the Post Office made it extremely difficult to pick up packages.

Ms. Josie Bruno, a Coeymans business owner, stood and stated that she had talked to the clerk at the Post Office and the clerk feels that even if they go to home delivery the Post Office would stay.

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**

March 12, 2020 – Public Hearing – 6:30pm

Supervisor McHugh stated that the decision would be made on a Federal level. One of the options though would be for the mail to be sorted and delivered from the Ravenna Post Office. Any decisions will be made at a much higher level than local.

There was some discussion in costs involved with mail delivery and leaving the Post Office open.

Ms. Barbara Tanner of Ravenna stated that she lives in Ravenna but feels it would be a good idea for the Hamlet residents to get a petition going.

Mr. David Ross of Main St., Coeymans stood and stated that he suggested that they leave it be. He suggested that handicap people park right across the street and that others park a little further down where they only have to walk 3-4 car lengths. He stated that he would like to see it left as is because they need it down in the Hamlet and it is very convenient.

When asked where he lives he stated that he lives right next door to the Post Office.

Councilman Burns asked what he would say for those who can't make it to the Post Office. Mr. Ross suggested that they arrange for someone else to go for them.

Ms. Starr Ross of Main St., Coeymans stated that the Post Office used to have normal business hours and suggested the Post Office go back to normal hours before trying other alternatives. She stated that they need to have a full-time person there like a normal Post office.

There was discussion about the changes to the Post Office over the years and whether it could go back to full-time hours. Ms. Dottino spoke from the audience and stated that they had already asked for it to go back to normal hours.

Mr. Henry Traver of First. St., Coeymans stood and spoke in favor of mail delivery to his home. He stated that it was very inconvenient to go to the Post Office and it would be easier if the mail were just at his house when he gets home.

Ms. Bonnie McNeilly of Blaisdell Ave., Coeymans stood and spoke in favor of mail delivery. She stated that she has lived in Coeymans for 40 years and has resented for 40 years the fact that she has to pay the same amount of postage as others and only receives half of the service. She also mentioned that parking is an issue at the current Post Office. She spoke of things she has had to do to try and get her mail.

Mr. Jesse Wichmann of Church St., Coeymans stood and spoke in favor of having his mail delivered. He stated that he owns his own business and sets his own hours and going down to the Post Office for him is not a problem but it is inefficient. He spoke about the poor condition of the current Post Office. He stated that he would like to see the Ravenna and Coeymans Post Offices merge.

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**

March 12, 2020 – Public Hearing – 6:30pm

Ms. Judy Goodell of Westerlo St., Coeymans stood and spoke about the parking issues. She stated that the police used to give you a ticket if you were parked there and were not a Post Office customer or if you stayed there reading your mail. She stated that she does not care if it went to home delivery or stayed the same but would like a solution for the parking issue and to have people slow down.

Councilman Baker stated that they have asked the Police to step up patrols down in that area.

Mr. Frank Mirande of Frangella Dr., Coeymans stated that he had worked in a Post Office for 30 years. He said that the Coeymans Post Office does not make enough money to keep it open all day and so that it will never happen. He stated that they would not lose their zip code or their identity. He also mentioned that you can leave a check with a note and the carriers will bring you stamps the next day. Mr. Morandi stated that the Post Office should close and go to mail delivery. He said that no one wants to go there and parking is bad. He stated that we need to get the votes this time. He also stated that it is normal to have mail delivery and has had it his whole life until moving to Coeymans. He stated that you would probably be able to pick up your PO Box mail in Ravenna if you want to keep your box.

As there were no other comments, Supervisor McHugh asked for a show of hands in favor of the solution they prefer:

Home Delivery – 19

Keep the Post Office – 4

Supervisor McHugh then asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Burns, the Public Hearing on the Coeymans Post Office was closed.

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

Time – 6:56pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk