

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**

July 9, 2020 –Public Hearing – 6:30pm

A Public Hearing was held Thursday, July 9th, 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
Brandon L. LeFevre, Councilman

ABSENT: Zachary S. Collins, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk
Jaclyn Hakes, M.J. Engineering
Andrew Gillcrist, M.J. Engineering

ALSO PRESENT BY CONFERENCE CALL:
James Peluso, Attorney to the Town

Supervisor McHugh opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that all Town Board members were present with the exception of Councilman Collins.

Supervisor McHugh stated that the first order of business was a public hearing on proposed laws Peace and Good Order, Abandoned Vehicles, Unsafe Buildings and amendments to Chapter 102-Garbage. He then asked the Town Clerk to read the notice.

**NOTICE
OF
CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 OF 2020**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans will continue the Public Hearing on July 9, 2020 beginning at 6:30pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, NY concerning Proposed Local Laws # 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 of 2020 as described below:

Proposed Local Law 5 of 2020 – Peace and Good Order
Proposed Local Law 6 of 2020 – Property Maintenance Law
Proposed Local Law 7 of 2020 – Unsafe Building Law
Proposed Local Law 8 of 2020 – Amend Garbage/Garbage Receptacle Law
Proposed Local Law 9 of 2020 – Abandoned Vehicles in R-1/R-2 Zones

A copy of the Proposed Local Laws are on file in the Town Clerk’s Office and are available on the Town website.

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PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, at this point in time the Town Board anticipates Town Hall will be open for this meeting at a limited capacity. All interested persons may attend the meeting to comment if they wish. Due to limited space the Town Board encourages you to submit your comments on this matter beforehand by submitting a letter, email or telephone call to the Town Clerk's Office at townclerk@coeymans.org or 518-756-6006, Ext. 3 until 4:00pm the date of the meeting.

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

Supervisor McHugh stated that there had been a public hearing on June 25th on these local laws and there were several edits to the proposed Peace and Good Order law as well as the proposed amendment to Chapter 102-Garbage. They consolidated and did away with the proposed Property Maintenance law and moved it to the amendment on Chapter 102-Garbage. Unsafe Buildings and Abandoned Vehicles did not receive any edits.

Supervisor McHugh went over the protocols for the meeting and encouraged people to call in to Town Hall for comments. As there was no one to speak in person at the Public Hearing the Town Board went over the e-mail comments that were received. The following e-mails were received:

Jo-Ann Segal of the Hamlet of Coeymans:

Thank you for starting to create ordinances that will hopefully lead to quality of life improvements for all of us in our town. It was, though, disappointing to read in Article III, Noise, that zones classified as industrial, are allowed to create noise up to 72 decibels throughout the day and night, no matter where these zones are located. I believe that none of you resides in the Hamlet so noise between the hours of 11 pm and 7 am wouldn't be something that you are familiar with. I do believe that if it was effecting you in other parts of the town you would not hesitate to cap it.

In this town many of us live and sleep extremely close to an industrial zone that has quite often, worked 24 hours a day loading and unloading ships and barges. We are in the Hamlet of Coeymans. When this occurs the noise that we live with can feel relentless during the quiet hours of the night and early morning. It reverberates to the hills of the Hamlet and travels down the river. During the daytime ambient noises blot out most of the industrial noise and no one thinks about it much....but at night when it is quiet, it can be impossible to sleep. Sometimes the noise sounds like metal beams crunching or rubbing against metal objects. Sometimes it sounds like loud bangs and sometimes it can be an insidious hum that goes on all night long.

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Studies have shown that continuous noise, while low in decibels, may not affect your hearing but can have a large impact on you and your children's health.

In the Hamlet industrial noise bounces throughout the hills and down the river disturbing the sleep of many of us. During busy times it's an all day, all night occurrence....

Think about this, you only hear a mouse in the quiet of the night when everything seems amplified. I am only requesting that between certain hours till early morning, because of the nature of being on the river.....in a valley, that any industry that creates continual noise all through the night next to a residential zone, have a cap on their hours of operation.

Perhaps they could stop work before midnight and start up again at 6:00 am.

Below is a link to a study of the adverse health effects of noise that is not high in decibels but long in duration.

Please take this into consideration and help the river residents who live in your community.

Ms. Barbara Heinzen of New Baltimore:

Although my house is in New Baltimore, most of my property is in Coeymans and people in the Coeymans Hamlet are my closet neighbors.

I have, therefore, been reading the proposed Local Law 5 of 2020 on Peace and Good Order, with especially keen interest in *Article III Noise*. As Board members know, many people in Coeymans Landing have been complaining about industrial noise since the Port of Coeymans opened. Despite this history of complaints, this law allows continuous industrial noise which is less than 72 decibels. This clause of the law is very weak as there are no restrictions on industrial noises at night or on weekends. Nor is it clear where these 72 decibels are being measured, despite the numerous complaints from people who live close to the Port and the Coeymans Industrial Park. Given that I can hear noise from the Port at the Hannacroix Creek, at least 1 mile downstream, people who live closer to the Port and Industrial Park are no doubt hearing much louder noise. Surely, the law can be made stronger on this point. I also note that the fine for any excessive noise is a mere \$200, which is inadequate to deter industrial noise that exceeds the 72 decibel limit.

The law also fails to acknowledge the damage and noise from heavy industrial vehicles traveling on Route 144 through the Hamlets of Coeymans and New Baltimore and on Route 143/Church St through the Hamlet of Coeymans and the Village of Ravena. These vehicles are dangerous to pedestrians as well as

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damaging to local houses and the noise is very definitely much higher than the 72 decibel limit. However, this law does nothing to limit this heavy industrial traffic in the Coeymans Hamlet and Ravena.

I would like to suggest, therefore, that Local Law 5 of 2020, *Article III Noise*, include provisions to ban continuous industrial noise during night time hours and on weekends and also ban the use of heavy industrial vehicles at night and on the weekends. The law should also include much higher penalties for any industrial noise that exceeds the 72 decibel limit and high penalties for any industrial vehicles that travel through routes 144 and 143 during prohibited times.

Mr. Charles Stumpf of the Hamlet of Coeymans:

In regards to proposed Local Law 5 of 2020 - Peace and Good Order, some days there is heavy truck traffic on St-143 (Church Street) in the Coeymans hamlet and the trucks are extremely loud when they go East down the hill toward St-144 using the engine (jake) brake.

I know because Church Street is a state road truck traffic can't be prohibited, however I would like to see the Town board request that NYS DOT put up "no engine brake" signs and that the local police enforce same.

Ms. Renee Walbridge of the Hamlet of Coeymans:

I am making a comment on the above proposed law particularly pertaining to Article 3. I am asking the town to reroute the large trucks coming to and from the Port of Coeymans.

My husband and I bought our house on Church Street in Coeymans a little over three years ago. We were excited to move to a nice quiet town. I am sorry to say that living here is not at all quiet. The large trucks from the Port of Coeymans are hugely disruptive to our lives. I have attached a short video that I took while spending some time on my front porch. I sat outside for about 30 to 45 minutes. Please watch the video with your sound on so that you can better understand where I'm coming from. I was only able to capture trucks going up the hill that day. When they are traveling the other direction, back to the port, the noise is much worse. They use their engine brakes right in front of my house which causes our windows to rattle.

With this pandemic, my husband and I are both working from home. It is likely that we will be working from home from now on. We are unable to open the windows in our house because the trucks can be heard while we are on conference calls. This is extremely disruptive to our work.

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My 8 month old son loves to sit on our front porch. Sometimes, when he's particularly fussy, it's the only thing that keeps him from crying. That is, until a truck goes by. They are so loud that they scare him and he starts crying.

On occasion the trucks honk their air horns as they go by my house. I have called the Port of Coeymans and complained. The woman I spoke to was unable to explain why they were honking. She told me that they might not be Port of Coeymans trucks and I should stand outside and write down the license plates. I asked her how I was going to do that when they are going 30mph. She was unable to give me an answer.

I understand that the Port is valuable to Coeymans and Ravena. It provides jobs, pays taxes, etc. However, I feel that the trucks are a detriment. Coeymans and Ravena have a lot of potential for small businesses and could become a destination much like Athens or Troy. There could be restaurants and coffee shops on Main Street in Ravena instead of the blight that we see today, but who wants to sip their latte outside a coffee shop with an 18 wheeler cruising 20 feet away?

If you are unable to play my video, please email me back and I will try to find another way to get it to you. I think it will really help you see the issues that I, and ALL of my neighbors are dealing with.

Mr. Curt Devenitch of the Hamlet of Coeymans:

I am sending this email as a public comment on the proposed Local Law 5. I live on Church Street just as you start heading down the hill from the school down to Route 144. This may appear to be a healthy environment and peaceful place to the casual onlooker but to its residents it is not.

Daily thunderously loud sounds radiate from tractor trailer trucks as their engines attempt to make it up the hill or they throw on their brakes as they go down the hill. The windows shudder on my house built in the 1880s. I am surprised that they have not broken. I wish this were an exaggeration. This environment damages the property values of the housing on this street. I admit, I would not had purchased this house if I knew what awaited.

The trucks should be rerouted to bring peace back to the neighborhood. There are more adequate roads for large trucks that connect the port and other businesses along 144 to the thruway and Route 9w. The intersection of Church Street and 144 is a treacherous one and the huge trucks just add to the danger. I suggest the trucks be rerouted, as there are plenty of other options connecting 9w and 144, so that Church Street can once again be a neighborhood road.

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This would make so many residence in Coeymans happy. Thank you for your consideration.

Supervisor McHugh stated that the Town Board has no jurisdiction over Route 143 and 144 as they are State Highways. He stated that he had reached out to Carver Companies and Lafarge and as a result there has been a reduction in trucks traveling on Route 143. He stated that he would send any letters or comments sent to him with concerns about truck traffic on to Chris Tague and George Amedore to see if they can make any headway but we cannot forbid or prohibit trucks from traveling along state routes. He also stated that we can put up a no “jake” brake sign but that it can’t be enforced.

There was discussion about the industrial zone working 24 hours a day. At one point Supervisor McHugh stated that the noise at the Port had never been above 56 decibels and that the Port measures their decibel level. The only issue seems to be when there are scrap ships which is 5-6 times a year. They try to not work after 11 but they get fines if those ships are not loaded or off-loaded in a certain amount of time.

There was discussion about different industries and dealing with some of the issues they create. Councilman Burns suggested putting a milling machine in an insulated room to run the metal through and then loading it that way. This would create less noise. Carver Companies had informed him that a previous Town Board had told them no on the proposed building to do this.

Town Clerk Rowzee suggested letting people know ahead of time when the scrap metal ships will be in port.

There was discussion about the reduction in truck traffic and the hope for an exit off the Thruway straight to the Industrial Park.

One other e-mail that was received from **Ms. Elyse Kunz of the Hamlet of Coeymans** was read:

I just wanted to offer my support for the proposed new town laws. As a resident of the hamlet of Coeymans, I believe these ordinances would improve the quality of life in the hamlet, as well as improve property values.

Councilman Burns and Supervisor McHugh both stated that they had spoken with **Ms. Starr Ross of the Hamlet** who had also spoken in favor of the laws.

Motion to Close Public Hearing – Abandoned Vehicles

On motion of Supervisor McHugh, seconded by Councilman Baker, the Public Hearing on Abandoned Vehicles was closed.

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

Motion to Adjourn Public Hearing – Peace and Good Order and Amend Chapter 102 - Garbage

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On motion of Supervisor McHugh, seconded by Councilman LeFevre, the Public Hearing on the proposed Peace and Good Order law and the proposed amendment to Chapter 102-Garbage law was adjourned.

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

Time – 6:59pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk