

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS**  
**February 11, 2021 – Town Board Meeting – 6:30pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

**PRESENT:** George D. McHugh, Supervisor  
Daniel D. Baker, Council member  
Linda S. Bruno, Council member  
Zachary S. Collins, Council member  
Brandon L. LeFevre, Council member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk  
Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering

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Supervisor McHugh continued the meeting after the public hearing. He thanked everyone for calling in to the public hearings and asked that people call or e-mail his office as he is not good with Zoom.

**Public Announcements**

**COVID-19 Update** - Supervisor McHugh gave an update on the local numbers. He stated that he is trying to get a vaccination spot set up in Town for seniors. Candace McHugh updated him that the County has contacted the senior housing and Senior Projects individually. He stated that he will still push to get a vaccination spot down here for residents.

**2019-2020 Residential Home Sales** – Supervisor McHugh announced that in 2019 69 homes were sold and in 2020 71 homes were sold. He stated that home sales and prices are up. He stated that this is good news for home owners and property owners and shows a trend of people moving to Coeymans.

**Fire District Tax Checks** – Supervisor McHugh stated that the fire districts usually come to a Town Board Meeting to receive their checks, however with COVID this year he felt it more prudent to not do that. He stated that the checks would be put in the mail the next day with \$433,615.75 to Coeymans Fire District and \$396,871.63 to Coeymans Hollow Fire District.

**Bridge Replacement on Route 9W over Coeymans Creek** – Supervisor McHugh stated that the Town had been notified by DOT Region 1 about the rehabilitation of the bridge over Coeymans Creek on 9W. He stated that this would happen in the spring and summer of 2022. There would be a temporary two lane bridge placed east of the current bridge. He stated that he would put the information on the website and that there was quite a bit of time to prepare for it.

**TenEyck Powell, Jr.** – Supervisor McHugh stated that they had hoped to honor Mr. Powell in person for his service to the Town of Coeymans but with COVID that has not happened. He read a short biography of Mr. Powell’s life and stated that they would send a plaque to him.

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Council member Collins thanked the highway department for cleaning up after the last snowstorm.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to Approve Minutes**

Council member Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the January 1, 2021 Organizational Meeting, seconded by Council member Bruno.

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

**Old Business**

**Green Initiative Grant Application – Riverfront Park** – Supervisor McHugh reminded everyone that the Town will be a recipient of \$212,000 in environmental benefit funds and will be using it as seed money for a green innovation grant application that would be approximately \$1.5 million for major improvements in the hamlet. He stated that the application is due tomorrow and then asked Ms. Hakes to talk about this.

Ms. Hakes of MJ Engineering stated that she is grateful to work with the Town Board to pull together a master plan for the park and to identify key targets that are eligible for the grant. She stated that they have gotten several community support letters for this application. The grant will be used to improve the water quality in the area, especially of Coeymans Creek and the Hudson River. She stated that the elements create a more formalized space enhancing park user's experiences and the plan is designed for longer term improvements in the park. She spoke of pitching stormwater to these green infrastructure practices, utilizing bioswales, improving parking, improvements around the loop, sidewalks to pitch the stormwater flow and trees to help with stormwater. She stated that this is a very competitive grant program but she feels we have a very solid application.

Supervisor McHugh stated that this was not the master plan for the park and those who would like to have input on that would be able to at a later date. This was a time sensitive issue focused on stormwater issues.

Council member Collins thanked Ms. Hakes and MJ Engineering for being able to complete this in such a short amount of time. Supervisor McHugh stated that it was less than month.

**Town Emergency Management Plan** – Supervisor McHugh stated that all public employers have to develop an emergency plan for their municipality and that Chief Keyer has been working on this. He stated that it has been vetted by the unions and the requested changes made. He then stated that the draft plan is available on the Town website and that although there is no requirement for public comment they will take comments on the plan until March 11<sup>th</sup>. There will then be two weeks before the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting to incorporate comments before adopting it on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Coeymans Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan** – Supervisor McHugh stated that this is another mandate from the state and the Police Chief has been working to put this

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together. A community committee has helped and the committee is currently reviewing it and then putting the finishing touches on the draft. It will then be sent to the Town Board. He stated that there is a public comment mandate on this and a public hearing will be held. He stated that the Town is subject to losing state funding if this is not done.

**New Business**

**2021 Town of Coeymans Recycle Day** – Supervisor McHugh stated that this was very successful last year. This year it will be Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at the same two locations. He said thanks to Thiele Carting and Collins and Son for donating containers and trucking and thanks to WM Biers for transfer services this will be free for all residents. He stated that this will be a week after Alcove Day which is on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Resolutions**

**Resolution #058-21 – Determine that EFC Innovation Grant Program is a Type II Action**

On motion of Council member Baker, seconded by Council member LeFevre, the following resolution was:

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

**Coeymans Landing Riverfront Park  
EFC Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP)**

**WHEREAS**, Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR) Section 617.5 under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) provides that certain actions identified in subdivision (c) of that section are not subject to environmental review under the Environmental Conservation Law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans hereby determines that the proposed EFC Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) for the Coeymans Landing Riverfront Park enhancements is a Type II action in accordance with SEQRA 6 NYCRR Section 617.5(c)(24) and (27) which constitutes the information collection including basic data collection and research, water quality and pollution studies, traffic counts, engineering studies, surveys, subsurface investigations and soils studies that do not commit the agency to undertake, fund or approve any Type I or Unlisted action; and conducting concurrent environmental, engineering, economic, feasibility and other studies and preliminary planning and budgetary processes necessary to the formulation of a proposal for action, provided those activities do not commit the agency to commence, engage in or approve such action and is therefore not subject to further review under 6 NYCRR Part 617.

Ms. Hakes stated that this classification of a Type II Action is for the grant application itself and that once there is a final design there may need to be a SEQR. Until the plans are complete there is not enough information to make that determination.

**Resolution #059-21 – Authorize Supervisor to Execute GIGP Grant**

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans realizes the importance of improving water quality for the Coeymans Creek and Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is expected to be the recipient of funds from the Attorney General’s office for an Environmental Benefit Project to improve water quality for the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is currently progressing a conceptual master plan for improvements to the Coeymans Landing Riverfront Park (the Park); and

WHEREAS, the Park is a local and regional destination for community events such as the Farmer’s Market and Riverfest as well as for the use of the public boat launch, playground, picnic area and access to local businesses adjacent to the park; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is seeking funding assistance for the design and construction of green stormwater infrastructure improvements through the EFC GIGP program; and

WHEREAS, this important project will reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality for the Coeymans Creek and Hudson River, while allowing for the continued programming and public use of the park;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town Council hereby authorizes a grant submission to the NYSEFC for funding in the amount up to \$1,500,000, with the required match to be provided in through the Attorney General’s Office Environmental Benefit Project, for the design and construction of green stormwater infrastructure improvements and further authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute all necessary agreements and provide all necessary information with respect to said grant.

**Resolution #060-21 – Rescind Resolutions 052-21 and 053-21**

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

WHEREAS, certain Resolutions were passed by the Town Board on January 28, 2021, in particular Resolution #052-21 and Resolution #053-21, both relating to the potential purchase of real and personal property located at 38 Tompkins Road, Coeymans, New York (a/k/a Sycamore Country Club), which is no longer a viable option;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby rescind Resolution #052-21 and Resolution #053-21, effective immediately. Supervisor McHugh stated that these are the two resolutions that allowed the Town to progress

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with the purchase of the country club property. He stated they are no longer needed because they have decided to go with another buyer.

**Resolution #061-21 – 2020 Budget Transfers**

On motion of Council member Collins, seconded by Council member Bruno, 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 balances within various accounts, a number of interfund transfers are necessary;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor George D. McHugh to transfer the finds as depicted below for the Budget Year 2020:

**GENERAL FUND (A)**

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>From Account</u></b>	<b><u>To Account</u></b>
\$1,049.13	(A) 1110.4 Justice Contractual	(A) 1110.1 Justice Personal Services
\$ 892.88	(A) 1620.2 Town Hall Equipment	(A) 1620.4 Town Hall Contractual
\$1,417.24	(A) 1990.4 Contingency Contractual	(A) 1620.4 Town Hall Contractual
\$6,560.00	(A) 1990.4 Contingency Contractual	(A) 1650.4 Central Comm. Contractual
\$ 33.00	(A) 1990.4 Contingency Contractual	(A) 1660.4 Storeroom Contractual
\$ 726.56	(A) 1990.4 Contingency Contractual	(A) 4589.4 Paramedic Contractual
\$2,136.81	(A) Environmental Control P/S	(A) 8090.4 Environ. Control Leach. Cont.
\$ 700.00	(A) Environmental Control Equip.	(A) 8090.4 Environ. Control Leach. Cont.
\$1,753.17	(A) 1990.4 Contingency Contractual	(A) 8090.4 Environ. Control Leach. Cont.
\$ 41.57	(A) 1990.4 Contingency Contractual	(A) 8160.4 Refuse & Garbage Contractual

**PART TOWN FUND (B)**

<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>From Account</u></b>	<b><u>To Account</u></b>
\$ 23.86	(B) 1680.1 Central Data Processing	(B) 6410.4 Publicity Contractual
\$ 10.35	(B) 1680.1 Central Data Processing	(B) 8020.4 Planning Board Contractual

Supervisor McHugh stated that this is basically just cleaning up the 2020 records.

**Resolution #062-21 – Appoint Part-Time Assessment Aide - Contento**

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

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**WHEREAS**, the Assessor is desirous of filling the vacancy of Part-Time Assessment Aide;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Daniel Contento to the Position of Part-Time Assessment Aide for the Town of Coeymans at the rate of \$15.60 per hour, effective February 9, 2021.

**Resolution #063-21 – Authorize Supervisor to Execute MJ Design Proposal**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans is desirous of creating a master plan for the Coeymans Landing Riverfront Park and technical materials for Green Initiative Grant Program (GIGP) application; and

**WHEREAS**, M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying P.C. has provided a proposal for architectural and Engineering Services for the Coeymans Landing Riverfront Park Master Plan in the amount of \$3,500.00.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor George D. McHugh to sign the proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services provided by M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.

**Resolution #064-21 – Audit Conclusion of Justice Thomas Frese**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board must complete or have completed an audit, in accordance with Town Law Section 123 and Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act, of all Town Justices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has adopted an audit procedure, based on the Local Management Guide, Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities, published by the State of New York Office of the State Comptroller on May 14, 2007, to be applied to the records of each Town Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has completed the Audit on February 6, 2020;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The records of Town Justice Thomas Frese have been reviewed by the following reviewers and have concluded as follows:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
George D. McHugh	See attached checklist/comments
Daniel D. Baker	See attached checklist/comments
Zachary S. Collins	See attached checklist/comments
Brandon L. LeFevre	See attached checklist/comments

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Linda S. Bruno

See attached checklist/comments

**Resolution #065-21 – Audit Conclusion of Justice Rocco Persico**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board must complete or have completed an audit, in accordance with Town Law Section 123 and Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act, of all Town Justices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has adopted an audit procedure, based on the Local Management Guide, Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities, published by the State of New York Office of the State Comptroller on May 14, 2007, to be applied to the records of each Town Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has completed the Audit on February 6, 2020;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The records of Town Justice Rocco Persico have been reviewed by the following reviewers and have concluded as follows:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
George D. McHugh	See attached checklist/comments
Daniel D. Baker	See attached checklist/comments
Zachary S. Collins	See attached checklist/comments
Brandon L. LeFevre	See attached checklist/comments
Linda S. Bruno	See attached checklist/comments

**Upcoming Meetings/Workshops**

PB/ZBA Meeting – February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Public Hearing – Draft Comprehensive Master Plan – February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Town Board Meeting – February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Additional Comments**

Supervisor McHugh stated that out of the nine who had called in, two were non-residents and three voiced that there was not enough outreach and they didn't have the opportunity to have a conversation. He stated that he has not received one phone call or e-mail about the comprehensive plan. When people don't have a conversation because it is private not public he questions the authenticity of their concerns. He stated that he felt this was political theater and that they have given people more time to comment than they did in 2006.

Council member Collins apologized to Jackie Kalney for talking over her during the public hearing. He stated that they are available and to please call if you have any questions. He also stated that if these were on Zoom then people who did not have internet would complain about

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that. He stated to not waste your three minutes during public comment stating that you do not have enough time to comment.

Council member Baker stated that he has answered a few people on social media and has given his phone number and e-mail so they could call or e-mail.

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**Motion to Adjourn**

On motion of Supervisor McHugh, seconded by Council member Collins, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

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

Time – 7:23pm

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk*