

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS**  
**May 13, 2021 – Town Board Meeting – 6:30pm**

**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, May 13<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  
Scott Searles, Highway Superintendent

Audience (2)

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Supervisor McHugh opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that all Board members were present.

**Public Announcements**

**COVID-19 Update** - Supervisor McHugh gave an update on the local numbers. He stated that 56.9% of the residents of Albany County have their first dose of the vaccine and 48.3% have been fully vaccinated. The number of cases in the area have been extremely low. He stated the Town Board is working with the Coeymans Hollow Fire Corporation as well as the Albany County Sheriff's Office to plan a vaccination pod at the Coeymans Hollow Fire House with the Pfizer vaccine. There was no date yet and Supervisor McHugh asked those who were interested to call the Town, once there is enough interested people they will set a date.

**Evening on the Green/Farmer's Market** – Supervisor McHugh announced that Evening on the Green and the Farmer's Market had been extended to 16 weeks and would be held May 26<sup>th</sup> to September 8<sup>th</sup>. The first band would be "In the Dust". The Farmer's Market would begin at 4:30 and the band would start at 6pm. He named a few of the vendors. He stated that Frese's Catering would be selling rib and chicken dinners to raise money for Riverfest.

**2021 Riverfest – September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>** – Supervisor McHugh stated that this would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Riverfest. The committee was already working on securing vendors and fireworks. He asked those that were interested in becoming vendors to call Rosemary.

**Food for Thought and Summer Rec** – Supervisor McHugh stated that the Summer Rec program would run July 12<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>. Food for Thought would be for children ages 5-11 and Summer Rec is for ages 10 and up. He stated that they are taking applications for summer youth employment and applications could be found on the Town website or picked up at Town Hall.

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**Memorial Day Flag Placement – May 29, 2021 at 8am** – He stated that this would start at Grove Cemetery. They will be placing a flag on the grave of every veteran in Grove Cemetery as well as the other cemeteries throughout the Town. They will start with the Pledge of Allegiance and Lisa Foronda Schmitt will be singing the National Anthem. He stated that there would be refreshments and this is done in conjunction with the VFW and CSEA.

**Coeymans Landing Memorial Day Ceremony – May 31, 2021 at 11am** – Supervisor McHugh stated that this would be at Coeymans Landing at the Veterans Memorial. He stated that this would be hosted by the Coeymans Fire Department and the VFW.

**Lawson Lake** – Supervisor McHugh spoke of some events happening at Lawson Lake this summer. He mentioned several Boy Scout and Girls Scout Day Camps, as well as on June 17<sup>th</sup> a kick-off for a Summer Trail Run series. He stated that he has been trying to work on busing some of the kids from Coeymans to spend the day up there, maybe one or two times a week throughout the summer. He stated that there would hopefully be more on this by the end of the month.

**Stormwater Run-off Grant** – Supervisor McHugh stated that there was an environmental justice case against Lafarge that lasted before Lafarge-Holcim even purchased the plant, about 15 years old, regarding stormwater run-off of cement kiln dust into Coeymans Creek. He stated the DEC had prosecuted that case and since Lafarge had improved their process and is a very clean plant, they decided to end the environmental justice case and came to an agreement with Lafarge where they are under certain restrictions and will pay a fine of \$850,000. Of that money \$212,000 will be given to the Town to use for stormwater run-off to help keep the river clean. He stated that the Town Board took that \$212,000 and went to the EFC and wrote a grant, using this as seed money to get more money to put towards Riverfront Park. Supervisor McHugh stated that he had received an e-mail stating that the Town had been awarded the grant, up to \$1 million. He stated that most of this year would be used to design the project in more detail and then it would be put out to bid and be underway in Spring of 2022. He stated that the Board was well aware of this because they had all been at the meeting down by the river when they originally did this.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to Approve Minutes**

Council member Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the April 8, 2021 and April 22, 2021 Town Board Meetings, seconded by Council member LeFevre.

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

**Old Business**

**Streetlight Upgrade Status** – Supervisor McHugh stated that Central Hudson was almost finished switching the streetlights over to LED and we should notice the first savings on the July billing.

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Council member Baker mentioned that we still needed to work on the light by the cemetery.

**Joralemon Park/Riverfront Park Upgrades** - Supervisor McHugh stated that they had been talking about this for a few months now and were starting to see some of the results of the efforts. He stated that the tennis courts, the basketball court and the parking area had been paved. These would be surfaced with Copeland product after 30 days. He stated that they are working on purchasing playground equipment off of state contract and are currently waiting for estimates.

Council member LeFevre stated that they had reached out to the RCS Special Ed Department requesting that parents of special needs children send in their recommendations.

Supervisor McHugh stated that he is working with the local business community on putting together designs for permanent lavatory facilities for both Joralemon and Riverfront Parks. He stated that they are looking to put these facilities in this year in both parks. He stated that the design for the Riverfront Park is complete and they are waiting on the one for Joralemon and then they will reach out to the community to see how they are going to be able to make this happen. He stated that they will rely heavily on industrial partners to secure funding, equipment and know-how.

**New Business**

**Recreational Marijuana** – Supervisor McHugh stated that he had given each of the Board members a summary sheet from the NYS Association of Counties about the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. He read the section about Local Opt-out and stated that the Town Attorney was looking into this and putting together a presentation. He stated that if you opt out there would be a tax consequence but certain towns may not want this in their towns.

Council member Baker stated that there is a 9% tax on the retail sales that will go to the state, an additional 4% tax that goes to the localities with 1% being retained by the county and 3% going to the Town, City or Village. The County would be responsible for distributing the 3% to the cities, towns and villages based on a proportionate share of the dispensaries in each jurisdiction on a quarterly basis. He stated that if the sale is in a village where the town and village allow sales then the 3% is split according to an agreement between the town and village. Absent an agreement it is divided evenly.

Supervisor McHugh recommended having an informational public hearing in order to see what residents felt about this topic. Council member LeFevre recommended having a joint meeting with the Village. Supervisor McHugh stated that we could ask.

**Motion to Have Informational Public Hearing on Recreational Marijuana**

Supervisor McHugh made a motion to hold an informational public hearing on recreational marijuana on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, during the meeting, and authorized the Town Clerk to publish notice of the hearing, seconded by Council member Baker.

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**Mountain Bike Trails** – Supervisor McHugh stated that he had received a request from a local parent to put a mountain bike trail or bike park somewhere in the town, possibly Joralemon Park. He stated that he did not feel Joralemon Park was the right place for this. There was discussion about different areas in the Town, settling on the Deer Mountain Village trail owned by Lafarge as the most likely area. Supervisor McHugh stated that he would contact Lafarge to see if this would be possible.

Council member Bruno mentioned that once these trails were created they would need to be maintained. Supervisor McHugh stated that Lafarge had been looking to resurrect these trails and thought maybe this would be a good purpose.

Candace McHugh mentioned that there was a large mountain biking community within Coeymans and stated that there would be volunteers willing to help maintain the trails. She spoke of some of the area teams and that they were looking for a trail to use.

**NYSDEC Traffic Concerns** – Supervisor McHugh stated DEC had some concerns with pending permits, such as the off-shore wind permit and the permit for the William Biers property, and the traffic in that area. They said that DOT raised concerns with them over traffic on Route 144. He stated that it was a different person than who had sent the Town a letter stating there were no concerns. They are now talking about lowering the speed limit to 30 mph to just north of the conveyer belt and lowering it to 40 or 45 up to the Bethlehem town line. They also spoke of widening it for truck lanes and for a possible traffic light where the south entrance to the port and the industrial park meet. He stated that he hopes DEC can help us to get something done with Route 144 and will also bring up Bushendorf, Blossom Hill and Biechman Roads at a meeting with DEC and DOT.

**Truck Traffic – Mountain Rd.** – Council member Baker stated that he had some positive feedback from Mr. & Mrs. Jones regarding the rerouting of trucks coming from the quarry off of Mountain Rd. Ext.

Supervisor McHugh stated that the trucks are now going up Mountain Rd. Ext. and down N. Jarvis Rd. when leaving the quarry, then up to 396 and over to River Rd. He stated that there are half as many trucks on the street. He stated that this costs the industries a little more money but they are willing to absorb that hit. He stated that the long-term fix is a truck route that would use Lafarge property and would bypass all of our roads.

Council member Lefevre mentioned that he had noticed a difference in the morning on N. Jarvis as the flow of traffic was now going the same direction.

**Coeymans Recycle Day** – Supervisor McHugh stated that they had collected a little over 80,000 lbs. of waste on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that this was less than last year's 100,000 lbs. He again thanked Thiele Carting, Collins and Son and WM Biers for the donation of their services and equipment.

**Resolutions**

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**Resolution #094-21 – Accept Resignation of Dog Control Officer - Polverelli**

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**, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Town of Coeymans Dog Control Officer Luciano Polverelli submitted a written letter of resignation to the Town of Coeymans Police Department with an effective date of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the resignation of Luciano Polverelli from the position of Dog Control Officer effective May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

Supervisor McHugh thanked Luciano for his service to the Town.

**Resolution #095-21 – Appoint Dog Control Officer - Loran**

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 is desirous of appointing a Dog Control Officer for the Town of Coeymans;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Meghan O’Brien Loran as Dog Control Officer for the Town of Coeymans, at a biweekly rate of \$192.31 effective May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Resolution #096-21 – Appoint Permanent Sewer Treatment Plant Operator Trainee**

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

**WHEREAS**, a resolution was presented and passed at the July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Town Board meeting, provisionally appointing Tyler Searles as Sewer Treatment Plant Operator Trainee; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisional appointment required Mr. Searles to submit to an examination by Albany County Civil Service; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Searles has taken and passed the examination and is listed on the Albany County Civil Service list certified to the Town of Coeymans on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby permanently appoint Tyler Searles to the position of Sewer Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, effective immediately, at a salary consistent with the CSEA Labor-Management agreement.

Council member Collins stated that Tyler was a good kid and he was happy he passed his test. Supervisor McHugh stated that Tyler was the highest score on the test.

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**Resolution #097-21 – Appoint Highway Equipment Operator I - McDonald**

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 Highway Superintendent is desirous of filling the vacant position of Equipment Operator 1 in his department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Albany County Civil Service Department has confirmed this job title as a non-competitive position requiring the chosen candidate to meet the minimum qualifications; and

**WHEREAS**, the position was posted and applications were received, evaluated and reviewed by the Superintendent of Highways; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Highways has confirmed the candidate meets the minimum qualifications;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Conor E. McDonald to the position of Equipment Operator 1, effective May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at an hourly rate commensurate with the CSEA union agreement currently in effect.

Council member Baker stated that he spoke to Superintendent Searles and that he went through the vetting process and interviewed him and stated that he thought they were all good there.

**Resolution #098-21 – Authorize Paving of Town Roads (Form 284)**

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

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Coeymans Highway Superintendent is desirous of paving roads within the Town as laid out on Form 284;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorized the paving of town roads as laid out in accordance with form 284.

Council member Baker asked that the roads that were being paved were announced. Supervisor McHugh stated that they would primarily be paving 2.47 miles of Biers Rd. He stated that the bids are in the \$260,000 range. Council member Baker asked if it was the same amount every year. Superintendent Searles stated that it is a little higher this year to do the whole road.

**Upcoming Meetings/Workshops**

PB/ZBA Meeting – May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
Town Board Meeting – May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Public Comment**

**Barbara Tanner of Ravena** stood and asked for clarification on the money for the parks upgrades as she thought it was coming from a grant.

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Supervisor McHugh told her it was not under a grant. He stated that the parks need upgrades and the COVID pandemic brought to light how important the parks are. He stated that it didn't make sense to have money in the bank while we have parks that look like garbage. He stated that we will be using grant money down at the Riverfront. Council member Baker mentioned how beautiful the parks are in other communities because they invest in them.

**Mark Korzon of Coeymans Hollow** stood and spoke regarding the issues off of Lindskoog Rd.

Supervisor McHugh stated that he is going up there at 8am Saturday morning and would like to see what the issues are and talk to everyone. Council member Baker stated that he didn't know if all of it is a Town Board responsibility because there was some public and private involved. He stated that sometimes when people use property it doesn't mean they have rights to that property and we have to be civil about it and be respectful. He stated that being upset with the Town Board accomplishes nothing.

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**Motion to Adjourn**

On motion of Council member Baker, seconded by Council member Bruno, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

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

Time – 7:50pm

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk*