

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**
September 23, 2021 – Town Board Meeting – 6:30pm

A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 at 6:30pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk
Douglas R. Keyer, Jr., Chief of Police
John Cashin, Code Enforcement Officer
Tyler Searles, WWTP Operator
Nicole Ambrosio, Grant Writer
James Peluso, Town Attorney
Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering
Traci Sousa, MJ Engineering

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 stated that as of 9/22/2021 65.2% of Albany County residents were fully vaccinated. He stated that there were 87 new positive cases since the day before in the County and that the 7 day percent positive rate was 4.0%.

Feliciano’s 3rd Annual Car Show – Supervisor McHugh stated that Saturday, September 25th would be the 3rd Annual Car Show to benefit Special Olympics. He stated that last year they were able to raise \$5,500 and this year the goal was \$10,000. He stated that there would be live music, raffles, kid’s activities and a Legal Swine BBQ.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes

Councilmember Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the August 26, 2021 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Bruno.

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

Supervisor Report

Supervisor McHugh read the August 2021 Supervisor’s Report.

Motion to Accept Report

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Councilmember Baker made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilmember LeFevre. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Department Reports

Town Clerk Report – August 2021 Report read by Town Clerk Rowzee

Motion to Accept Report

Councilmember LeFevre made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilmember Bruno. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Police Department Report – August 2021 Report read by Chief Keyer

Motion to Accept Report

Councilmember Collins made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilmember Bruno. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Chief Keyer stated that the ATV patrols were having a positive impact although there had been some complaints recently regarding Sycamore Golf Course and Greening Ln. He spoke of the Sheriff and Police pursuit of a motorbike through the streets and stated that the Coeymans policy had been updated to only pursue in case of danger to the community or if a crime has been committed or attempted by the operator of the vehicle. He stated it is now clear when they will pursue and when they will not.

Chief Keyer stated that there had been several loose dogs that month and that he felt there was a need to address the kennel fee schedule. He stated that he would like to propose a tiered schedule that has a flat fee for if we have the dog and then tiered for how long we spend with the dog. He feels that this would be fair to the Town, Police Department and individuals in the community.

Chief Keyer stated that the Village had passed the local law regarding feeding local fowl. He stated that when they receive the law back from the state they will be able to enforce it. He stated that homeowners would be provided with a warning from police or code enforcement. There was discussion related to the enforcement and Chief Keyer stated that he would work out the enforcement with the Village.

Building Department Report – July 2021 Report read by John Cashin

Motion to Accept Report

Councilmember Baker made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilmember LeFevre. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

August 2021 Report read by John Cashin

Motion to Accept Report

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Councilmember LeFevre made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilmember Collins. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Supervisor McHugh asked Mr. Cashin if the Town would be issuing the permit to Hecate in 2021 or 2022 as it would be a \$140,000 fee. They had tried to negotiate a lower fee but it didn't work.

Mr. Cashin stated that they have not submitted the application yet.

Sewer Department Report – August 2021 Report read by Tyler Searles

Motion to Accept Report

Supervisor McHugh made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Councilmember Baker. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

There was discussion about the pump that had stopped working. Mr. Searles stated that the second pump only operates in bypass mode. It is currently setup so that it kicks on at the same time as the first one.

Old Business

Park Improvements – Supervisor McHugh stated that one basketball hoop was in and one was on order. He stated that the fence had been marked off and would be installed now. He stated that they are holding off on coating the tennis court until the fence is installed and holding off on coating the basketball hoop until the second hoop is installed.

New Business

2022 Budget Update – Supervisor McHugh stated that the 2022 Budget was almost ready. He offered the following motion:

Motion to Authorize Legal Notice

Supervisor McHugh made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to provide legal notice of the following meeting dates, Special Meeting October 5th at 6pm to present the budget, Budget Workshops on October 9th and 16th at 9am, a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget on November 4th at 6pm and a Special Meeting to adopt the budget on November 10th at 6pm, seconded by Councilmember LeFevre.

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

Supervisor McHugh stated that they would likely not need the October 16th date but it was easier to cancel it if not needed than to add it later.

MJ Engineering GIGP Update – Jackie Hakes and Traci Sousa spoke about the plans for the GIGP Grant. They stated that they had been working on the design phase since late July and they had completed some tasks and were actively working on others. They gave an update on the

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current progress. Ms. Sousa stated that it would need a Phase 1A archeological report which had been started and that would be ready by mid-October. She stated that they would prepare parts 2 and 3 of the EAF during the 30 day review period. When asked if there were any surprises she stated that there was some ground water that would require linings but nothing too bad.

Grant Update – Nicole Ambrosio spoke about the grants she had been working on. She was currently working with Chief Keyer on a Railway Security Grant that would allow for more ATV surveillance of railroad passages and so they were asking for wages to help with added security. She stated that for trail grants they would need to designate separate trails for motorized and non-motorized vehicles. She stated that there should also be something to display property lines. She stated that they could pursue a grant for this soon. McHugh stated that the trails were being connected to Sycamore now. Councilmember Baker stated that the snowmobile club was on board and wanted to be part of this as well. He stated that the snowmobile club will partner with the golf course to put fencing around the greens.

Ms. Ambrosio spoke about the CDBG sewer extension grant and stated that she didn't believe it will be put forward. She stated that the area is way below the poverty level that CDBG wants. She stated that she has been looking for other grants. She stated that information about a Water Quality Improvement Grant was sent to MJ Engineers to put in for next year. She stated that she has good feelings about the sewer planning grant in order to fix what we have and plan accordingly. She stated that she was working with Carver's grant writer Christine and collaborating a lot with her for whatever grants they can find.

SEQRA GIGP Grant – Coeymans Landing – Supervisor McHugh stated that they would be doing a resolution that evening to state the Town Board's intent to declare lead agency for the GIGP project.

RCSCBA – Joy Iafallo stood and thanked the Town Board for the opportunity to be on the agenda that evening. She spoke of the RCS Community Business Association Meeting that had just been held and that the keynote speaker, Matt Avitabile, the former Mayor of Middleburgh had spoken about the need for leadership, persistence, cooperation and collaboration in order to create a vibrant community. The RCS CBA was at the meeting to reach the common goal of growth and prosperity in the community. She then turned the time over to Rebecca Flach.

Ms. Flach proposed the following questions to the Board and discussion was entered into for each.

1. Ms. Flach asked if the Town Board would commit to working with Village officials on economic development initiatives. Supervisor McHugh read a statement saying that he had sent several letters and emails to the Mayor suggesting ways to partner as well as suggesting a joint commission to share duplicative services. He read the response from the Village that said that the Village wanted to operate independent of the Town of Coeymans. He stated that there must be two willing participants. He then listed things the Town had done to encourage economic growth and spoke of the growth in the industrial areas. He gave the total assessments for the town for 2019 and 2021 to show the growth

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and stated this is why the town had the lowest town tax rate in over 20 years. He stated that they would be willing to work with anyone that wants to work with them to lay ground work for a fertile economic development area. He stated that they were willing to work with anyone. He stated that the Village can reach out to him at any time.

2. Ms. Flach stated that the Village officials had asked the RCS CBA to act as a liaison during the joint Village and Town meetings and asked if the Town would agree to allow RCS CBA to actively participate in these meetings. Councilmember Collins stated that they don't mind if the Business Association participates but they don't need a liaison. Ms. Flach stated that as long as she has been a resident there has been a lot of tension between the Town and Village and she feels that another party in the room would be beneficial. Supervisor McHugh stated that they do not need a community organization to be a liaison.
3. Ms. Flach asked what the expected time frame was to get started with collaborating with the Village and RCS CBA. Supervisor McHugh stated that if they would like to form a joint committee to study this then he asked that the School Board be included as well. He stated that the Board would want to move forward with this as of January 1st.
4. Ms. Flach asked what the plans were to pursue funding for economic development initiatives in the Town, especially those geared toward small businesses. Councilmember Collins recommended they talk to Ms. Ambrosio, the grant writer. Supervisor McHugh stated that they have pursued grants. He also stated that he feels that creating a proper environment rather than handing out money, which is a short-term solution, is better and that he doesn't think the government should give out money. He stated that he is working with Tonko's office to expand broadband. Ms. Ambrosio stated that one thing that is necessary is to get the thruway interchange to get the trucks off of the roads. She stated that for Main St. grants we need 3 contiguous blocks. She stated that Catskill is currently in the 2nd phase of the Main Street grant and it is adorable. She stated that she is working with Christine who works with Carver and that Carver would also like to see Main St. improve as the people he is bringing in need places to go. She emphasized how important the Comp Plan was. Councilmember Collins asked the RCS CBA to send over any grants that they had in mind to look over. Supervisor McHugh stated that the Town has sponsored three grants on behalf of businesses for CTI and Carver. One member of the RCS CBA mentioned making a list of grants and then creating a prioritization list.

There was discussion between attendees about other economic development issues:

- When asked if there were precedent for a thruway interchange, Ms. Ambrosio stated that there was not but that would not stop us.
- Ms. Flach asked if the Town could allocate money in the 2022 budget for economic development initiatives. Ms. Ambrosio answered that there is in a way because the grants are an 80-20 split with the Town providing 20% of the money.
- Ms. Flach asked Ms. Ambrosio if she could extend her services. Ms. Ambrosio stated that she could not but would meet with them and help. Village Trustee Warner stated that if she is paid out of the A Fund then she can help the Village. Supervisor McHugh stated that that was not what that means and that she was a Town employee and can help if the Board says it is okay. Trustee Warner stated that she does not want to see the Village not being included on things on Main St. She stated that the Village Board had closed the

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door on the idea of consolidation, not on working together. Councilmember Collins stated that they had sent the letter stating otherwise and that was where the Town Board was coming from. Supervisor McHugh stated that the Town Board cannot dissolve a Village and that consolidation can only happen if the residents want to. He stated that he does not advocate for the dissolution of the Village. He stated that he would love to work together with the Village.

- Supervisor McHugh stated that he regularly meets with Carver, Lafarge and Callanan’s and that at this point there is less than 50% of the truck traffic than there was 6 months ago because half of the trucks are being rerouted through Selkirk. He stated that they have put a plan in to DEC for a new road coming out of the quarry that will help take Carver trucks off of Main St. He stated that they are more than welcome to work with him on it without fear of losing their identity.
- There was discussion about relationships and trust. Supervisor McHugh mentioned his relationship with Dan McCoy and how that helped to get the Summer Rec kids out to Lawson Lake this summer and that he was getting Sue Rizzo to foreclose on properties and give them to the Town.
- Councilmember Baker recommended meeting 4 times a year. Ms. Flach stated that all were in agreement and would love that.

Resolutions

Resolution #164-21 – Abstract of Claims - September

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in the Abstract for September 2021, as follows:

PRE-PAID VOUCHERS –21-00704 to 21-00801 and P21-055 to P21-064 from the following funds:

General	\$223,316.15
Part Town	\$217,913.38
Highway - Part Town	\$52,749.12
Sewer	\$43,291.82
Trust & Agency	\$43,123.87
Payroll Deductions	\$7,297.78

VOUCHER NUMBERS –21-00802 to 21-00878 from the following funds:

General	\$81,422.64
Part Town	\$2,752.68
Highway -Town Wide	\$232.18
Highway – Part Town	\$12,541.75
Sewer	\$14,589.38

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TOTAL FOR ALL FUNDS – \$ 699,230.75

Resolution #165-21 – Authorize Change in Employment Status to PT - Cashin

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

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Coeymans received a written letter on September 20, 2021 from Town of Coeymans Building Code and Zoning Code Enforcement Officer John Cashin requesting to change his employment status to part time; and

WHEREAS, John Cashin has requested a twenty hour work week and will remain responsible for the duties of the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize a change in the employment status of John Cashin to part time effective October 4th, 2021.

Councilmember Baker thanked Mr. Cashin for the work he has done.

Resolution #166-21 – Initiating SEQRA Review for GIGP Grant

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

**RESOLUTION INITIATING SEQRA COORDINATED REVIEW AND DECLARING
INTENT TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE COEYMANS LANDING
RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Coeymans Town Board is redeveloping the Coeymans Landing Riverfront Park to address stormwater and water quality;

WHEREAS, the Coeymans Landing Riverfront Park project is a Type 1 action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), 6 NYCRR 917.4(b)(1) requiring coordinated review; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQRA, the Town Board has prepared Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF);

WHEREAS, the Town Board is initiating coordinated review in accordance with 6 NYCRR §617.6 (b); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coeymans Town Board does declare its intent to serve as Lead Agency for the purposes of SEQRA and authorizes the Town Clerk to transmit Part 1 of the FEAF to other involved agencies in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Resolution #167-21 – Authorize Town Clerk to Submit Roads for Speed Limit Review

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

WHEREAS, Community members of the Town of Coeymans have brought multiple concerns regarding town road maximum speed limits to the attention of the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans is desirous of lowering the maximum speed limits on the following town roads to thirty (30) miles per hour;

Blossom Hill Road
Biechman Road
Bushendorf Road

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Town Clerk Cindy Rowzee to submit New York State Department of Transportation form TE9C to the Albany County Superintendent of Highways for the review of the town roads listed above.

Councilmember LeFevre stated that as a resident of Bushendorf he was opposed at first but since some of the brush had been cleared at a turn on his road the speeding has picked up. Supervisor McHugh stated that they had asked them to review all Town roads but the county felt that was too many at one time. He stated they had picked the three that they had received the most complaints on.

Resolution #168-21 – Authorize Supervisor to Execute American Towers Consent Order

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

WHEREAS, certain petitions under Article 7 of the New York Real Property Tax Law were filed by American Towers Inc. against the Town of Coeymans (Index Nos. 904497-20 and 905793-21) concerning the 2020 and 2021 assessed value of certain property known as 667 CR 312 (Tax No. 129.-2-1); and

WHEREAS, the parties to the aforementioned Litigation are desirous of resolving said dispute pursuant to the terms of the attached Consent Order whereby the subject property shall be assessed at \$1,100,000.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor George D. McHugh and/or the Attorneys for the Town to execute the Consent Order, together with all other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement, judgment and discontinuance of the Litigation on behalf of the Town.

Attorney Peluso stated that this agreement had been reached after talking with Town expert Larry Farbstein, the Assessor, the Town and their attorneys. He stated that the Assessor and BAR

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had previously been limited with what they could do when they didn't have documentation from the property owner.

Upcoming Meetings/Workshops

Special Meeting for the Budget - October 5th at 6pm
PB/ZBA Meeting – October 12th at 7pm
Town Board Meeting – October 14th at 6:30pm

Motion to Adjourn

On motion of Supervisor McHugh, seconded by Councilmember Baker, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

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

Time – 8:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk