

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**
October 14, 2021 – Town Board Meeting – 6:30pm

A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, October 14th, 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
Tyler Schwabrow, RCS Student Representative

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

Councilmember Baker introduced Tyler Schwabrow, RCS Student representative from Mr. Sutton's Government class.

Public Announcements

COVID-19 – Supervisor McHugh stated that there would be a Pfizer Booster Clinic on November 10, 2021, 1-4pm at the Senior Center. This was on a walk-in basis and to bring proof of your previous vaccine. He stated that 66.1% of Albany County residents were fully vaccinated and 72% had received the first dose. He stated that there were 28 cases in the school district.

Coeymans Hollow Volunteer Fire Company Haunted Hayride Cancelled – Supervisor McHugh stated that Haunted Hayride was cancelled due to COVID. He stated that hopefully next year it would happen.

NYSERDA Offshore Wind Announcement – Port of Coeymans - Supervisor McHugh stated the Port of Coeymans had been awarded the largest contract in New York State, an \$86 million supply chain contract to construct wind turbines at the Port of Coeymans. He stated that this would create 230 family sustaining jobs and would help with port infrastructure for long term benefits in the area. He stated that 115 local union workers would be based at the port to help create the foundations for the wind turbines.

Eagle Scout Project – Flags Disposal (Ryan Leonard) - Supervisor McHugh stated that local Boy Scout, Ryan Leonard is collecting flags to make sure they are properly disposed of. There is a collection box here at Town Hall as well as at the VFW, New Baltimore Fire House and New Baltimore Town Hall.

Lawson Lake Park Fall Festival – October 23, 2021 – Supervisor McHugh stated that the Albany County Fall Festival would be held from 11-4pm at Lawson Lake Park. He listed the activities that would be available and stated that a vaccination clinic would be available.

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Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes

Councilmember Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from the September 9, 2021 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Bruno.

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

Department Reports

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

Town Clerk Rowzee stated that DEC had made a manual adjustment to the August amount that was discovered during account reconciliation that month.

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

Old Business

Joralemon Park Trail System Update – Supervisor McHugh stated that he had met with the Highway Superintendent and they were putting in posts where the Joralemon trail hooks to the Sycamore Country Club and then that trail is done. He stated that the posts will keep anything besides skiers and snowshoers from going through to the Country Club property. He stated that our part is done and Sycamore will do the rest on their property.

Park Improvements Update – Supervisor McHugh stated that the fencing was 95% done and that Copeland had put a final seal on the tennis courts. He stated that they are still waiting for the second hoop that should be in later that month and then they would put on the final coat and stripe the basketball court. He stated that they are looking for the playground equipment to arrive in the middle of November.

2022 Budget Update – Supervisor McHugh stated that the Board had met that Saturday with the department heads to discuss the budget. He stated that they had been able to meet with all department heads so the budget workshop that had been scheduled for the next Saturday was cancelled. He stated that they are making some adjustments and expect to put the preliminary budget out in a couple of weeks.

New Business

Permanent Lavatory Construction Plans – Riverfront/Joralemon – Supervisor McHugh stated that they were going to use ARPA money for the bathroom facilities at the two parks. He stated that they are going to use the Tighe & Bond plans that were drawn up for Coeymans Landing out at Joralemon Park. He also stated that plans were donated by the engineer, Dave Ingalls, for the Riverfront Park. He stated that Carver Construction has agreed to donate the site

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work including excavation and such and that Lafarge was donating the concrete for the footings and walls. He stated that they would have a public hearing to get feedback from the public and then they hope to put the projects out to bid and begin work in April. He stated that they would likely have a public hearing in November.

Coeymans Landing Park Construction Plans – Supervisor McHugh stated that the plans for the GIGP grant are at 50% and MJ Engineering will be at the meeting on October 28th when the SEQR review will be done. He stated that they will make sure that the Riverfront lavatory facilities fit in with the plan.

Local Law Sample – Opt out of on-site cannabis consumption premises – Supervisor McHugh stated that the Town Board was looking at a local law from Colonie as a model to opt out of on-site cannabis consumption premises in the Town, outside the Village. He stated that they did not want to lose revenues from the sale of cannabis but were concerned about public safety because there are no reliable tests for police to use to see if someone is under the influence. He stated that they will do something by November. There was discussion about what this would prevent. Supervisor McHugh stated that it would prevent a smoke room in a shop that sells it but they would still be able to sell it to use elsewhere. It was stated that you can use marijuana anywhere you can smoke a cigarette.

Tyler Schwabrow stated that he thinks they should allow sales because a lot of people will buy it. He stated that this is a compromise that makes sense.

Street Lights – Route 144 – Supervisor McHugh stated that he had received an e-mail from Mr. Evans who would like to see streetlights on SR 144 at the 5 roads that intersect with River Rd. Supervisor McHugh stated that he would speak with the streetlight people to see the breakdown. He stated that it would need to be a district and he would get the breakdown for the residents in the area.

Broadband Internet – Supervisor McHugh stated that he had spoken to Mark Evans from State Telephone about getting broadband internet to the Bushendorf, Hannacreek and Macintosh area. He spoke of using some of the rescue money from the ARPA to expand the broadband. He stated that it is about \$40,000 a mile. Supervisor McHugh stated that he is going to get an estimated cost and have the information at the Oct. 28th meeting.

Deer Mountain Village Trail – Councilmember Baker stated how COVID had shown how important the parks are and that he had walked the Deer Mountain Village Trail and had done some light clearing and tree cutting with Lafarge. He stated that there will be more to come as Lafarge gets the funds to clean up and reinvigorate the trail.

Resolutions

Resolution #169-21 – Appoint Sewer Treatment Plant Operator Trainee - Gillespie

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

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WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans is desirous of hiring a full time Sewer Operator Trainee in the Waste Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, all interested candidates have been vetted by Supervisor George D. McHugh and Sewer Plant Operator Keith Geraldson to find the best fit for the Town of Coeymans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESLOVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the hiring of Tyler Gillespie as a provisional Sewer Plant Operator Trainee effective October 18, 2021 at a rate of \$20.59 per hour.

Supervisor McHugh stated that Mr. Gillespie was one of five candidates and that he was a licensed operator in Colorado with a large plant. Supervisor McHugh stated that Mr. Gillespie is very well qualified and he has every confidence he will pass the New York test.

Resolution #170-21 – Appoint PT Police Officer - Romano

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

WHEREAS, The Coeymans Police Department is desirous of hiring a part time officer to maintain proper safety patrols within the Town of Coeymans; and

WHEREAS, all candidates have been vetted by Chief of Police Douglas Keyer to find the most qualified fit for the Town of Coeymans Police Department; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize the hiring of Officer Louis P. Romano as a part time Police Officer for the Town of Coeymans at a salary of \$24.62 per hour, effective October 18th, 2021.

Supervisor McHugh stated that Mr. Romano is an experienced officer with other departments and we are lucky to have him.

Resolution #171-21 – Budget Transfers

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans has had unforeseen expenditures in the following 2021 accounts; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Fiscal Officer is desirous of transferring funds to those accounts to maintain proper accounting

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESLOVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize George D. McHugh to transfer the following funds:

GENERAL FUND (A)

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<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>To Account</u>
\$ 508.06	(A) 1990.4 Contingency	(A)1430.2 Human Resource Equipment
\$2,028.22	(A) 1990.4 Contingency	(A)1670.4 Central Printing and Mailing
\$ 62.02	(A) 1990.4 Contingency	(A)5010.4 Highway Administrative
\$1,756.69	(A) 1990.4 Contingency	(A)7989.4 Other Cultural Recreation Contractual
\$7,131.00	(A) 1990.4 Contingency	(A)9040.8 Worker’s Compensation

PART TOWN FUND (B)

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>To Account</u>
\$ 32.48	(B)8140.4 Storm Water Contractual	(B)1660.4 Central Store Room Contractual
\$ 751.43	(B)8140.4 Storm Water Contractual	(B)1910.4 Insurance Contractual

HIGHWAY FUND (DB)

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>To Account</u>
\$1,340.68	(DB)5110.4 General Repair Contractual	(DB)1910.4 Insurance Contractual

Public Comment

Robert Rayow of the Hamlet of Coeymans stood and spoke about his concerns that restrooms at Coeymans Landing Park built on top of the hill would cut off the view of the river from his house.

Supervisor McHugh stated that they would be built into the hill with seating on the top with the ground at the same level it is now. His view should not be affected.

Mr. Rayow stated that he felt that restrooms would be better near the soccer fields.

Supervisor McHugh stated that the Town does not own the area near the soccer fields and that the restrooms would need to be near water and sewer connections.

Mr. Rayow also recommended a new picnic area. Supervisor McHugh stated that was part of the plans.

Brad Winne of the Hamlet of Coeymans stood and spoke about the proposed restrooms and his concerns about children crossing the street to get to them from the playground. He recommended that over by the Sheriff Substation would be a safer location for the restrooms and a pavilion. Supervisor McHugh stated that was if they were going to keep that road.

Mr. Winne gave suggestions to how the road could be redone to make it better for the traffic and boats in that area.

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Councilmember Baker stated that they had little time after they had been awarded the money from the AG's office and had met down by the river. He stated that things were thrown together quickly and no one was being excluded on purpose and that there would be a public hearing.

Mr. Winne stated that by the time this gets to a public hearing all the decisions are made. He stated that residents should be involved in the planning process. He stated that to put the bathroom where kids are crossing the street baffles him. He stated that no one does the 5mph speed limit down there and also asked for a stop sign coming out of Yanni's.

He also mentioned that the proposed hill is the only one that the area children have to sled down in the winter and roll down in the summer. He asked why they would take away from kid's enjoyment.

Mary Driscoll of Coeymans stood and spoke about how inadequate some of the handicap parking and ramps are in the area. She encouraged plans for improving the park and for making sure new facilities were handicap accessible and asked them to go another step further with an extra railing or something like that.

Upcoming Meetings/Workshops

October 16, 2021 - Town Board Workshop – Cancelled

October 27, 2021 – PB/ZBA Meeting – 7pm

October 28, 2021 – Town Board Meeting – 6:30pm – Supervisor McHugh stated that he hoped to have Mr. Evans there to speak about broadband internet and the engineers regarding Coeymans Landing renovation plan.

Additional Comments

Councilmember LeFevre mentioned that there would be a fundraiser held out at the Sycamore Golf Club for the family of Tyler Lane the following week.

Councilmember Baker thanked Tyler Schwabrow for attending the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

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

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

Time – 7:39pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk