**A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday March 10, 2022 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

**PRESENT:**

Daniel D. Baker, Deputy Superintendent

Linda S. Bruno, Council Member

Brandon L. LeFevre, Council Member

Marisa Tutay, Council Member

Stephen Schmitt, Council Member

**Absent:** George D. McHugh, Supervisor

**ALSO PRESENT:** Candace McHugh, Town Clerk

Deputy Supervisor Baker called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge. Council Member Bruno led the audience in prayer. Council Member Stephen J. Schmitt was sworn in as Town Council member by Justice Thomas Frese. The Deputy Supervisor asked to let the record reflect that all Council members are present, Supervisor McHugh was absent.

**Announcements:**

Albany County numbers are as follows:

\*7 day average new positive cases are up 41.5

\*Albany County’s most recent 7 day average COVID cases per 100,000 are down 10.3 (average positive rate 2.6%)

\*5 new COVID hospitalizations since 3/7 4 currently in the ICU, up 2 from 3/7

\*The Ravena Coeymans Historical Society is pleased to present its first program this year.

You can join them at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 13 for a presentation by Susan Gade, President and Principal Archaeologist at Landmark Archaeology, Inc., regarding her work on the Crabapple Prehistoric Archaeological Site. The Crabapple Site was discovered as part of routine archaeological testing for the Town of Coeymans’ new stormwater system upgrades in the hamlet of Coeymans.

An intensive archaeological survey of the site was conducted by Landmark Archaeology in 2016. This careful investigation excavated 430 square-foot area reaching 6-feet down to bedrock. The resulting survey uncovered more than 10,000 artifacts associated with an unbroken chain of human activity at this location.

**Old Business:**

Playground Equipment: Deputy Supervisor Baker announced the Playground equipment has arrived and is at the Highway garage, we are waiting on a confirmation on the install date.

Riverfront Park GIGP Bids: Deputy Supervisor Baker announced that bids will be accepted until the end of March. In order to bid you must register with MJ Engineering to receive the plans. Information on how to become a registered bidder is available on our website and the notice board at Town Hall.

**New Business:**

Brush/Leaf Pickup: starting Monday (weather permitting) the Town Highway Dept. will be going out on Mondays and Fridays to pick up leaves and chip brush. The Department asks that nothing bigger than 6 inches be put out and all debris should be placed out by the road neatly.

Recycle Day: May 14, 2022 from 8am-4pm Coeymans will host a free recycle day. 2 stations will be open for drop off, one at the Coeymans Highway Garage and one at the entrance of WM. Biers property across from the North entrance of the Port of Coeymans. It is free to all Coeymans residents.

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8:00am – 4:00pm

**WHERE:** Two convenient locations:

1. WM Biers Property – Route 144, Coeymans (across from Port of Coeymans)
2. Coeymans Highway Garage – 1305 Route 143, Coeymans Hollow

**WHAT:** Please see list of acceptable items for recycle

**WHO:** All Town of Coeymans Residents **(must show proof of residency)**

**COST:** **FREE TO ALL TOWN OF COEYMANS RESIDENTS!**

**Town of Coeymans**

**2022 Recycle Day**

**ALLOWED ITEMS**

Appliances (No Freon)

All Furniture, Sofas, Chairs, Tables

Paint (Latex Based Only)

Uncontaminated Bricks

Concrete & Masonry Materials

Uncontaminated Soil & Rock

Roof Shingles and Roof Coverings

Land Clearing Debris

Wall Covering

Drywall

Plumbing Fixtures

Non-Asbestos Insulation

Wood (Incl. painted, treated, coated wood)

**Resolutions**

**Resolution # 74-22 Appointment of PB/ZBA Chair**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Present* | *Absent* | *Aye* | *Nay* | *Abstain* |
| George D. McHugh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brandon L. LeFevre |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linda S. Bruno |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marisa S. Tutay |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stephen J. Schmitt |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Total* | 4 | 1 | 4 |  |  |

I, Council member Schmitt offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

**WHEREAS,** a written letter of Resignation was received by the Town of Coeymans on March 1, 2022 from Stephen J. Schmitt as Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals member and Chairman, with an effective date of March 4, 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** this resignation has created a vacancy in the Chairman position on the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Robert Nolan as Chairman of the Town of Coeymans Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals, effective immediately.

Seconded by Council member Tutay, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

Discussion: Council member Schmitt stated he has the utmost confidence in Mr. Nolan as he becomes the Chairman of the PB/ZBA. Deputy Supervisor Baker concurred.

**Resolution # 75-22 Appointment of PB/ZBA Member**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Present* | *Absent* | *Aye* | *Nay* | *Abstain* |
| George D. McHugh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brandon L. LeFevre |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linda S. Bruno |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marisa S. Tutay |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stephen J. Schmitt |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Total* | 4 | 1 | 4 |  |  |

I, Council member Tutay offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

**WHEREAS,** a written letter of Resignation was received by the Town of Coeymans on March 1, 2022 from Stephen J. Schmitt as Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals member and Chairman, with an effective date of March 4, 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** this resignation has created a vacancy on the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Patricia Grogan to fill the remaining term of outgoing member Stephen J. Schmitt, effective immediately.

Seconded by Council member LeFevre, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

**Resolution # 76-22 Appointment of Alternate PB/ZBA Member**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Present* | *Absent* | *Aye* | *Nay* | *Abstain* |
| George D. McHugh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brandon L. LeFevre |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linda S. Bruno |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marisa S. Tutay |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stephen J. Schmitt |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Total* | 4 | 1 | 4 |  |  |

I, Council member LeFevre offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

**WHEREAS,** a vacancy currently exists in the Alternate position of the Town of Coeymans Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town Board has vetted potential candidates to fill this position;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Melissa Stanton as Alternate Member of the Town of Coeymans Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals, effective immediately.

Seconded by Council member Bruno, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

**Resolution # 77-22 Authorize execution of Youth Services Contract**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Present* | *Absent* | *Aye* | *Nay* | *Abstain* |
| George D. McHugh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brandon L. LeFevre |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linda S. Bruno |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marisa J. Tutay |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stephen J. Schmitt |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Total* | 4 | 1 | 4 |  |  |

I, Council member Bruno offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans has applied for a grant from Albany County Office of Children and Family Services for the Summer Rec and Food For Thought programs; and

**WHEREAS**, a new agreement is needed with the Albany County Office of Children and Family Services for the Period of January 2022 through December 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount is not to exceed $1,000.00 as stated in said contract;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans hereby authorizes Supervisor George D. McHugh to execute the contract for services to youth as provided in the Summer Rec and Food For Thought programs with the Albany County Office of Children and Family Services

Seconded by Council member Schmitt, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

**Resolution # 78-22 Authorize the scheduling of a Public Hearing for Water District Extension**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Present* | *Absent* | *Aye* | *Nay* | *Abstain* |
| George D. McHugh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brandon L. LeFevre |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linda S. Bruno |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marisa J. Tutay |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stephen J. Schmitt |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Total* | 4 | 1 | 4 |  |  |

I, Council member Schmitt offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans (Town) is proposing that the Town of Coeymans Water and Sewer Districts Extension #2 and associated improvements (Projected), located in the Hamlet of Coeymans, Town of Coeymans, Albany County, New York be undertaken; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Town Board to schedule a Public Hearing to discuss the same; and

**WHEREAS**, this extension district and improvements will serve the Hamlet of Coeymans, Town of Coeymans, Albany County, New York.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs that the Town Clerk publish a notice of a Public Hearing to be scheduled to discuss the community development needs and to discuss water and sewer district extensions on April 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Coeymans Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue Ravena, New York 12143; and

Seconded by Council member Tutay, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

-A roll call vote was taken; all were in favor as displayed above.

Public Comment: William Stewart who resides on McCulloch Ave came to the podium with some questions:

Mr. Stewart asked for a status on the Solar Farm on CR 101. Deputy Supervisor Baker stated it was approved and set to go but at this time we do not know what the delay is but everything is set on our end. Council member Schmitt stated that he is of the same understanding as Deputy Baker.

Mr. Stewart asked if there was anything going on with the transfer station. Deputy Baker stated he believes they are working with DEC and working on the permitting process. Mr. Stewart asked if the residents were going to be able to use it. Deputy Baker stated he believes that is the case and from his understanding it should function the same as the other transfer stations near us. Deputy Baker stated he thinks household garbage won’t be allowed just C&D and recyclables.

Mr. Stewart asked why the Coeymans Landing Bathrooms were being placed in the hill rather than the Substation. Deputy Baker stated the plans the board had seen it was a better place for the water sewer hookup and it fit nicely in the bank making the roof grade the same height as the road. While the Substation was a potential location, the location was not ideal for handicap access. Mr. Stewart wondered if it was because of a cost standpoint. Deputy Baker stated it wasn’t a cost issue however local companies such as Carver and LaFarge will be donating services/materials towards the construction.

Mr. Stewart asked about a potential thruway exit. Deputy Baker stated Nicole our grant writer is working on it and has made contact with the state. Council member Bruno mentioned Nicole has also been reaching out to the Town of Bethlehem which would make the grant stronger. Town Clerk Candace McHugh stated that this is a new venture for the Thruway so they aren’t sure how to go about it either. There will be a lot of red tape but as Mrs. Bruno said it will be much more possible if we can work with another Town Such as Bethlehem to make it beneficial for a larger group. It is a long way off due to the process and studies needed. Deputy Baker stated we can aske Nicole for an update.

Mr. Stewart said he is asking these questions because he has seen a lot of people on social Media saying some rough stuff on the screen and seem to have concerns but he never sees them at the meetings, he figured he would ask the questions to be better informed. Deputy Baker stated that the council tries to not discuss Town Business on a social media platform, things tend to get misconstrued. The Board really would prefer emails, phone calls, or attendance at the meetings. The board encourages people to come in and ask questions. Mr. Stewart is wondering if people are so concerned why they aren’t here to talk about it. Council member Tutay stated sometimes in writing tone can be misunderstood and actual attendance makes it must easier to understand where people are coming from.

Mr. Stewart asked about the budget and the police budget. He stated he moved here right before there was a large fight in Town. He came to the meeting after that fight and remembers when the Supervisor brought in the Albany County Sheriff and Mr. Stewart stated nothing like that has happened since and feels as though the board handled the situation. Deputy Baker stated some of the talk about the budget dated back from years ago. When the Sheriffs came in we were able to move resources around and maintain community policing and also maintain a budget. Deputy Baker stated the Coeymans Police are going nowhere. The Town has hired a very qualified Chief, new cars have been purchased, the overall police budget went up 4.5 % from last year and they are currently in the process of potentially hiring another full time officer. Council member Tutay stated the board’s job is to have a Police force that can financially be supported by the taxpayers. Council member Tutay also stated the Police Force is going nowhere. Deputy Baker stated he spoke with Sheriff Apple on Friday and learned that Coeymans has the lowest crime rate of all the Towns the Albany Sheriffs help cover.

Mr. Stewart was surprised at the level of anger online but yet no one was in attendance. The Board thanked him and appreciated him coming in to ask questions and get answers.

Deputy Baker thanked the Village of Ravena DPW Department who have been hit with a lot of breaks lately. He thanked them for their hard work.

Mrs. Tanner asked who plows Main St. (Ravena). This is a County road; therefore the county is responsible for the maintenance.

Deputy Baker also mentioned a comment online in regards to the Coeymans Post office. Again this is a county road; the Town does not plow it, however the Town will try to help clear the area during snow. Deputy Baker mentioned a meeting that the board held two years ago in regards to the Post Office. Supervisor McHugh sent 2 letters to Washington D.C about the issues with this post office but the Federal Government does not want to hear it and has no plans on changing anything.

Council Member Tutay asked if the Snow Emergency will be put into effect. Most likely it will be in effect.

Council Member Tutay announced the RCS High School is putting on a production this weekend. “Newsies” will be performed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Council Member Schmitt thanked the board for this opportunity. Council Member LeFevre congratulated Council member Schmitt

**Motion to Adjourn -** On motion of Council member Tutay, seconded by Council member Schmitt, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

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

**\*\* This is a draft which has not been approved by the Board, only reviewed at this time””**

***Respectfully Submitted*,**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Candace McHugh, Town Clerk***