**A Town Board Meeting was held Friday March 4, 2022 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

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

Daniel D. Baker, Council Member

Linda S. Bruno, Council Member

Marisa Tutay, Council Member

**Absent:** Brandon L. LeFevre, Council Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Candace McHugh, Town Clerk  
Scott D. Searles, Superintendent of Highways

Supervisor McHugh called the meeting order and led the audience in the Pledge. Council Member Bruno led the audience in prayer. The Supervisor asked to let the record reflect that all members are present with the exception of Council Member LeFevre.

Supervisor McHugh thanked all the people in attendance for this bitter sweet occasion. The Supervisor recognized a few of the elected officials in attendance: Sheriff Craig Apple, Assemblyman Chris Tague, Alan Van Wormer the Superintendent of Highways for the Town of New Baltimore, Jody Ostrander the Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Westerlo and Gary Thorington the Superintendent of Highways for Windham and representative of the State Highway Association.

**Resolution #068-22 Acceptance of Retirement Highway Superintendent**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, a written letter of retirement was received by the Town of Coeymans on March 1, 2022 from Highway Superintendent Scott D. Searles, with an effective date of March 30, 2022 as his last date on payroll, and an effective retirement date of March 31, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the letter of retirement was delivered to the Office of the Town Clerk;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the retirement of Highway Superintendent Scott D. Searles, to be effective March 30, 2022 as his last date on payroll, and an effective Retirement date of March 31, 2022; and

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED,** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans considers it to have been an honor to serve with Scott D. Searles and we wish him the best of luck as he enters retirement after 30 years of dedicated service to his community.

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

**Discussion:** Supervisor McHugh stated he and Scott met almost every morning in his office and were in agreement 99% of the time. He stated it was an honor to work with him and he learned a lot and appreciated the level of wisdom Superintendent Searles brought to the Town. Supervisor McHugh appreciated his friendship and wished him the best of luck going forward.

Council member Baker stated this is a full circle moment for him. Superintendent Searles, Deputy Ferriero and he go way back as friends. After a time they went their separate ways but now they are all back together. He is very happy for Scott.

Council member Tutay thanked Scott for his service to the Town as did Council Member Linda Bruno.

Alan Van Wormer, Superintendent of Highways in the Town of New Baltimore: Superintendent VanWormer wished Scott well and reminded him “once you’re one of us you are always one of us”, please reach out if he ever needs anything.

Gary Thorington Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Windham and a representative for 6 counties for the New York State Association of Highway Superintendents: Thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and noted the amount of public servants and state officials in attendance. Superintendent Thorington stated Many people don’t know how many times as a Highway Superintendent you have been called in the middle of dinner and had to leave to do the job. He commended Superintendent Searles for his 30 years of service to the Town of Coeymans and he is proud to be a colleague of his. He echoed Superintendent Van Wormer’s words of “once you’re one of us you’re always one of us”, offering help whenever it is needed.

Jody Ostrander, Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Westerlo: he stated “Until you step in these shoes you’ll never know what we have to go put up with on a day to day basis”. He has enjoyed working with the Town of Coeymans and thanked Scott for the advice he has given him over the years.

Ken Burns: Mr. Burns stated he has known Scott for a very long time. He got to know him at the Ravena Fire Company and they worked together at the Village. Mr. Burns said he wondered why a guy with a brain like Scott’s would settle for that type of job. Once Scott moved to the Town he said it was the greatest thing to happen to the department and Mr. Deering. He stated whomever takes over has big shoes to fill.

Assemblyman Chris Tague: Stated every time he tried to campaign at Scott’s house it was snowing and he was never home! He asked for a round of applause for the Highway guys in attendance. He presented a citation on behalf the New York State Assembly, himself and the people of 102nd Assembly District.

Supervisor McHugh presented a plaque to Superintendent Searles on behalf of the employees, Town Board and residents of the Town of Coeymans.

Superintendent Searles thanked everyone for all they have done.

**Resolution #069-22 Accept Resignation of Council Member Daniel D. Baker**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Present* | *Absent* | *Aye* | *Nay* | *Abstain* |
| George D. McHugh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Daniel D. Baker |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brandon L. LeFevre |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linda S. Bruno |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marisa J. Tutay |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Total* | 4 | 1 | 3 |  | 1 |

I, Council member McHugh 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 Council Member Daniel D. Baker, with an effective date of March 6, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the letter of resignation was delivered to the Office of the Town Clerk;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the resignation of Council Member Daniel D. Baker to be effective on March 6, 2022; and

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans considers it to have been an honor to serve with Daniel D. Baker and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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

**Resolution #070 Appoint Special Assistant to the Highway Superintendent**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Present* | *Absent* | *Aye* | *Nay* | *Abstain* |
| George D. McHugh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Daniel D. Baker |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brandon L. LeFevre |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linda S. Bruno |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marisa J. Tutay |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Total* | 4 | 1 | 3 |  | 1 |

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans Highway Superintendent, Scott D. Searles has tendered his Letter of Retirement from his position as Highway Superintendent, effective March 31, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board is desirous of hiring a full time Special Assistant to the Highway Superintendent at the Coeymans Highway Department for the purpose of assisting with the operations and management of the Highway Department and to insure a seamless transition during the Highway Superintendent’s anticipated retirement from service;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby hire Daniel D. Baker as full time Special Assistant to the Highway Superintendent at the rate of $28.85 per hour, effective March 7, 2022.

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

**Resolution #071-22 Accept Resignation of PB/ZBA Chair**

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

I, Council member Bruno 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 Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman and member Stephen J. Schmitt, with an effective date of March 4, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the letter of resignation was delivered to the Office of the Town Clerk;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the resignation of Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman and member Stephen J. Schmitt effective March 4, 2022; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans sincerely thanks Stephen J. Schmitt for his many years of service to the Town of Coeymans, and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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

Discussion: Council Member Tutay thanked Stephen for his time on the planning board as did Supervisor McHugh.

**Resolution #072-22 Appoint Town Council Member**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy exists as Council Member on the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, New York, effective March 7, 2022, because of the resignation of Council Member Daniel D. Baker, whose written resignation dated March 1, 2022 and submitted to the Coeymans Town Board, Board of Elections and NYS Secretary of State with an effective resignation date of March 6, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Town Law § 64(5) the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans, by majority vote thereof, has the authority to appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy in said elective office, and the person so appointed shall hold office until the commencement of the calendar year next succeeding in first annual election at which the vacancy may be filled;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans pursuant to Town Law § 64(5) that Stephen J. Schmitt, a duly qualified resident of the Town, be appointed to the office of Town Council member to fill the vacancy existing in such office, effective March 7, 2022. Such appointment is effective March 7, 2022 and immediately upon administration of the oath of office and said Stephen J. Schmitt shall hold such office until January 1, 2023 which is the commencement of the calendar year next succeeding the first annual election scheduled for November 8, 2022 at which the vacancy may be filled.

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

Discussion: Supervisor McHugh stated regardless of what people tell him this is not a step in the wrong direction. The town Board has high hopes for him and welcome him aboard.

**Resolution #073-22 Appoint Police Chief**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy currently exists in the position of Chief of Police by reason of the former Chief; and

**WHEREAS**, Marc Tryon served for 32 years as a New York State Trooper, Serving with honor and distinction at the ranks of Sergeant, Zone Sergeant, and First Sergeant from 1981 up to and until his retirement in 2013; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans has vetted Marc Tryon for the position of Police Chief, together with the Albany County Civil Service, and each has determined that the candidate meets and exceeds all qualification requirements for appointment to said position;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Marc Tryon to be the Position of Chief of Police for the Town of Coeymans effective March 7, 2022 at a salaried yearly rate of $80,000.00

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

**Motion to Adjourn**

On motion of Council Member Tutay, seconded by Council Member Bruno, the Town Board Meeting was adjourned.

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

Time 6:25p.m.

***Respectfully Submitted*,**

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

***Candace McHugh, Town Clerk***