

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS**

**April 27, 2023 – Public Hearing – 6:00pm**

**A Public Hearing was held Thursday April 27, 2023 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

**PRESENT:** George D. McHugh, Supervisor  
Brandon L. LeFevre, Council Member  
Marisa Tutay, Council Member  
Linda S. Bruno, Council Member  
Stephen J. Schmitt, Council Member

**Absent:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Candace McHugh, Town Clerk  
Daniel D. Baker, Superintendent of Highways  
Marc Tryon, Chief of Police  
Keith Geraldson, Chief Waste Water Treatment Operator  
Jason Chmielewski, Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer

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Supervisor McHugh called the meeting order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Council member Bruno led the audience in prayer. Supervisor McHugh asked that the record reflect that all board members were present.

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Supervisor McHugh opened the Public Hearing and asked the clerk to read the notice:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TOWN OF COEYMANS  
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2023**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans will hold a Public Hearing on April 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to consider adoption of Local Law No.3 of 2023. The purpose of said local law is to amend and restate Article I and Article II of the current Chapter 16 of the Coeymans Town Code entitled “Code of Ethics”.

The hearing will take place at the Town Hall, 18 Russell Ave, Ravena, NY 12143. A copy of the proposed local law is available for public inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office during normal business hours. At the above date, time and place all interested persons are welcome to attend and will be heard.

Town Clerk

Candace McHugh

A motion was made by Council member LeFevre to open the public hearing and was seconded by Council member Tutay, all were in favor.

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### Public Comment

Thomas Mahaffey lives on Lindskoog Road: Mr. Mahaffey pointed out a numbering issue with article two, Supervisor McHugh agreed. Mr. Mahaffey questioned why the board of ethics doesn't appear clearly. Supervisor McHugh believes this may have been an oversight. Currently there are 3 on the Board of Ethics. There were some discussions on making it a 5-member board. Mr. Mahaffey asked if the Board of Ethics would be investigating the recent allegations made in the Times Union. Council member Bruno stated she was on the Board of Ethics the first time George was a supervisor and that board always checked but never found anything.

Cindy Rowzee lives within the Village: Ms. Rowzee questioned as well why there wasn't a Board of Ethics mentioned. Town Attorney James Peluso clarified that the current Board of Ethics clause is in article 3 and would remain unchanged. The articles that will be changing are 1 and 2. Ms. Rowzee feels there should be a way for the public to bring things to the attention of the Board of Ethics. She asked where the public should bring their concerns and Supervisor McHugh said the Bureau of Public Integrity. Ms. Rowzee also was displeased that financial disclosure records weren't added into the new code. She feels an annual financial disclosure could make people more aware of life changes that may affect their conflicts of interest.

Stephen Donnelly lives in the Town of Coeymans: Mr. Donnelly asked who was on the Board of Ethics. The Town Clerk named the board members. He also asked who the director of Human resources was. Supervisor McHugh clarified we do not have a director but Linda Ziegler is the human resource clerk. Mr. Donnelly questioned some items on the first draft compared to the most recent. He asked why conflicts with outside employment, future employment and official duties is not in the most recent draft? Mr. Donnelly said the New York State Comptroller's office does recommend it. Mr. Donnelly was curious if the meeting packets could be posted sooner than the day before. Supervisor McHugh stated his office puts it out as soon as they can, the process takes time.

Sara Pruiksma lives in the Hamlet of Coeymans: Ms. Pruiksma had a question unrelated to the public hearing regarding the ARPA fund transfers. She feels that using ARPA funds for new restrooms is a misuse of the monies and is not a high priority. She presented giving the money to the Senior Projects of Ravena or to other not for profit organizations in need within the community. Ms. Pruiksma felt the Ethics law was pretty solid but felt grandfathering in those who fall under the definition of nepotism should be removed. She also asks what the accountability is in regards to the ethics law. Supervisor McHugh offered the Bureau of Public Integrity as an option.

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**Motion to Close the Public Hearing** was made by Supervisor McHugh and Seconded by Council member Bruno- APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSTAIN 0 – SO MOVED

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Candace McHugh, Town Clerk*

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