A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday March 27, 2025 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Stephen Donnelly, Supervisor

Michael J. Stott, Deputy Supervisor Linda S. Bruno, Council Member Stephen J. Schmitt, Deputy Supervisor Ronald Hotaling, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Candace McHugh, Town Clerk

Richard Reilly, Town Attorney

Jason Chmielewski, Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer

Marc Tryon, Chief of Police

Keith Geraldsen, Chief Sewer Plant Operator

Supervisor Donnelly called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Donnelly asked that the record reflect that all members were present.

Announcements:

- Maple Weekend @ Crosstown Maple 3/29-3/30 10am-3pm
- Hatching Chicken Eggs @ RCS Community Library 4/5 10:30am
- RCS School District Spring Recess 4/140 4/21

Approval of Minutes: The following minutes were approved:

-March 13, 2025 Town Board Meeting Minutes

Council member Donnelly made a motion to accept the minutes for March 13, 2025 Town Board Meeting and Council member Stott seconded the motion.

APPROVED - VOTE - AYES 5 - NAYS 0 - ABSENT 0 - ABSTAIN - SO MOVED

Department Reports

Supervisor/NYCLASS Report – February 2025 report read by Supervisor Donnelly

Motion to Accept Report

Council member Donnelly made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Stott. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

MINUTES BOOK**TOWN OF COEYMANS

March 27, 2025 – Town Board Meeting – 6:00pm

<u>Discussion:</u> Council member Schmitt asked for clarification on the deposits and withdrawals. Supervisor Donnelly gave the dates of the transfers and stated he would need to check with the Highway Superintendent about the specific withdrawals and their purpose.

Town Clerk Report – March 2025 Report read by Town Clerk Candace McHugh

Motion to Accept Report

Council member Hotaling made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Stott. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5– NAYS – ABSENT 0– SO MOVED

Police Department Report – February 2025 Report read by Police Chief Marc Tryon

Motion to Accept the Report

Council member Stott made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Donnelly. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0 – SO MOVED

Building Department – February 2025 Report read by Jason Chmielewski

Motion to Accept Reports

Council member Donnelly made a motion to accept the reports as read, seconded by Council member Bruno. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5– NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0– SO MOVED

Sewer Department Report – February 2025 Sewer Department Report was read by Keith Geraldsen

Motion to Accept Report

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

-Discussion was had over diverting homeowner's sump pump water to the storm water drain as opposed to the sewer drain. This would alleviate some wear and tear on sewer equipment. Keith stated he would be attending a Village workshop regarding this. The Attorney is circulating lift station bid documents for approval.

Highway Department Report- February 2025 Highway Department Report was by Council member Schmitt

Motion to Accept Report

Council member Stott made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Council member Donnelly. APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5– NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0– SO MOVED

New Business: N/A

Old Business:

Council member Stott circled backed to a conversation had during the March 25th Workshop regarding moving forward on the USDA Sewer grant. He feels it is still worth moving forward with the prep work in hopes the grant does not fall through given the federal government climate. Council member Bruno is in favor as well. The attorney suggested reaching out to the company in charge of the income survey to ask how long they are considered valid and if could be useful for other grants. Supervisor Donnelly stated they had to confirm by March 28th if they wanted to move forward with the income survey.

Resolution # 062-25 Authorize Supervisor to Attend Conference						
	Present	Absent	Aye	Nay	Abstain	
Stephen Donnelly	\boxtimes		\boxtimes			
Linda S. Bruno	\boxtimes		\boxtimes			
Stephen J. Schmitt	\boxtimes		\boxtimes			
Ronald J. Hotaling	\boxtimes		\boxtimes			
Michael J. Stott	\boxtimes		\boxtimes			
Total	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>			

I. Council member Hotaling offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, the New York Association of Towns is holding a conference April 22-April 24, 2025 in Saratoga, NY; and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor is desirous of attending both trainings to receive the training opportunities the classes offer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to attend the New York Association of Towns conference in Saratoga, New York on April 22- April 24, 2025 and to submit a voucher for the registration fees, mileage, and any other related expenses.

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

Resolution # 063-25 Authorize Deputy Clerk to Attend Training

	Present	Absent	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Stephen Donnelly	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Linda S. Bruno	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Stephen J. Schmitt	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Ronald J. Hotaling	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Michael J. Stott	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Total	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

WHEREAS, the Association of Towns Educational Series is holding a conference April 22-April 24, 2025 in Saratoga, NY for the 25th Annual Town Finance School; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk is desirous of sending the Deputy Clerk to receive the training opportunities the classes offer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Deputy Clerk is hereby authorized to attend the 25th Annual Town Finance School, in Saratoga, New York on April 22- April 24, 2025 and to submit a voucher for the registration fees, mileage, and any other related expenses.

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

Resolution # 064-25 Police Officer Resignation - Fischer

	Present	Absent	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Stephen Donnelly	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Linda S. Bruno	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Stephen J. Schmitt	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Ronald J. Hotaling	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Michael J. Stott	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Total	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

WHEREAS: The Town of Coeymans Police Department has received a notice of resignation from Part Time Officer TIMOTHY FISCHER; and

WHEREAS: Officer Fischer has performed as an exemplary Police Officer serving the Town for approximately 2 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby accept the resignation of Officer TIMOTHY FISCHER effective April 9, 2025.

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

Discussion: Council member Hotaling read the resignation letter from Officer Fischer.

Resolution # 065-25 Hiring of Police Office - Bechand

	Present	Absent	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Stephen Donnelly	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Linda S. Bruno	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Stephen J. Schmitt	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Ronald J. Hotaling	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Michael J. Stott	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Total	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

WHEREAS: The Town of Coeymans Police Department has an existing vacancy for a part time Officer due to the resignation of Officer TIMOTHY FISCHER; and

WHEREAS: a suitable candidate, who possesses more than 12 years of police experience and other extensive specialized training, has been identified; and

WHEREAS: The identified candidate is currently certified as a Police Officer having completed the required basic course for Police Officer (BCPO) Training by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint DUANE BECHAND to the position of Part Time Police Officer for the Town of Coeymans Police Department effective April 7, 2025 at a starting rate of \$34.56 per hour.

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

Resolution # 066-25 Approval of March Abstract

	Present	Absent	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Stephen Donnelly	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Linda S. Bruno	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Stephen J. Schmitt	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Ronald J. Hotaling	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Michael J. Stott	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Total	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in the Abstract for March 2025, as follows:

PRE-PAID VOUCHERS - 24000091 to 24000093; 25000214 to 25000285 and from the following funds:

General	\$ 193,080.09
Part Town	\$ 24,040.11
Highway – Part Town (DB)	\$ 56,531.72
Sewer	\$ 37,953.28
Trust & Agency	\$ 52,603.90

VOUCHER NUMBERS – 24000094; 25000286 to 25000357 from the following funds:

General	\$ 201,904.34
Part Town	\$ 1,268.87
Highway (DA)	\$ 1,035.85
Highway-Part Town (DB)	\$ 24,097.16

Sewer	\$ 22,603.66
TA-Fund	\$ 215.52

TOTAL FOR ALL FUNDS - \$ 615,334.50

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

<u>Discussion</u>: Council member Schmitt asked about voucher #2400093 which was a payment made to the Village with a 10% reduction in just fuel costs. He does not remember agreeing as a board about this amount. Chief Sewer Operator Keith Geraldsen was asked to clarify. The Village had requested to not have to pay for the maintenance/fuel of the truck as its main use is outside of the gate and the cost of bottled water. The Supervisor stated the board had discussed amounts ranging from 0-25% so he chose the middle road of 10% as a decision had to be made.

* It was decided to pass the resolution with the understanding the town was not tied to that percentage at this time. *

Resolution # 067-25 Hiring of Seasonal Laborer - Radley

	Present	Absent	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Stephen Donnelly	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Linda S. Bruno	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Stephen J. Schmitt	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Ronald J. Hotaling	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Michael J. Stott	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Total	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

WHEREAS, the Parks Department is in need of hiring seasonal laborers for spring and summer; and

WHEREAS, job opportunities were posted and applications were received and reviewed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Christopher Radley to Part-Time seasonal Laborer position effective April 7, 2025 through October 1, 2025 at the rate of \$17.50 per hour.

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

Resolution # 068-25 Authorize PBZBA Training

	Present	Absent	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Stephen Donnelly	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Linda S. Bruno	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Stephen J. Schmitt	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Ronald J. Hotaling	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Michael J. Stott	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
Total	<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		

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

WHEREAS, the New York State Town Law, Section 271, requires that the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals undergo annual training; and

WHEREAS, the law firm of Tabner, Ryan & Keniry, LLP ("TRK") has in the past provided such training for the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, TRK has provided a proposal dated March 18, 2025 to provide such training services at the total cost of \$1,000.00, as provided in the past; and that training will take place on April 23, 2025 and May 12, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the proposal with TRK for the proposed training services as outlined in the March 18, 2025 proposal, and the training is approved by the Board.

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

Public Comment:

<u>Barbara Tanner</u> stated she found the remark made by the Supervisor to the Town Clerk earlier to be uncalled for and unprofessional and suggested an apology was in order. She also asked for

clarification in a letter which was read during the minutes review. The letter was to Chelsea Witroba in regards to the NY FAST grant. She asked where the board was with the town hall. The Supervisor in hoping to be able to move in this fall. She expressed disappointment in the fact the Police will still be left in the original building without mold remediation. The Supervisor explained the Police need to be in a risk 4 building and the newly purchased building is only a risk 2. He said there is hope to build new for the court and police on the same property as the new building. The board is trying to find the best way to proceed in phases.

Zachary Assael lives on Fox St. He asked who applied for the grant. It was explained this type of grant can only be applied for through a municipality. Council member Hotaling tried to clarify that Central Hudson will own the substation which will be on Port of Coeymans Property to help power potential manufacturing at the port in the existing foot print. Central Hudson will control the substation and will be able to decide if the power if used for any other purpose. Mr. Assael asked if the town had it in writing that Carver would be paying for the project above and beyond the grant. He asked if we would be able to restrict what type of manufacturing could come in. Council member Bruno stated that would have to come through the Coeymans PBZBA for approval. Council member Stott feels the code is grossly outdated and the code should be updated first. Council member Schmitt asked what the board has done to update the code within the past 15 minutes. Mr. Assael asked what is expected in return for taking the grant and how does the town benefit. He did ask if someone would get back to him.

Darlene Stott read comments prepared by Christine Primomo of Tracey Road:

"I am speaking out about the resolution passed by the Town Board to move ahead with a project to build a high-voltage 50-100MW (megawatt) electric substation at the Port of Coeymans.

I watched the March 13, 2025 Town Board meeting. The embarrassing behavior exhibited by board member Stephen Schmidt reflects badly on him as a public servant and the Town.

I was NOT convinced by the FAST NY Shovel-Ready program presentation showing how similar projects had benefited other communities. The award of \$17 million towards the cost of building this substation is just a small fraction of the total cost of \$80-100 million.

In calling for a snap vote on what I see is "The Complete Unknown" is in itself suspect. Why did Mr. Schmidt do this? The Town Supervisor, Stephen Donnelly, and Deputy Supervisor, Michael Stott, urged the Town Board to use reason and not vote until many questions on this resolution and the entire project are answered to not just the Board but to the residents of the Town. The Town's legal counsel Rich Reilly, who had not seen the resolution, warned it was unwise to pass a resolution before seeing the underlying agreements. What prudent business person does that? And why did Mr. Hotaling and Ms. Bruno vote yes? Who in the state and county are putting pressure on this Board to railroad this through?

This passed resolution turns over negotiations to the Advance Albany County Alliance. Worse yet the Town will not be involved in defining the terms of any grants. None of us as local residents can participate in a debate of the long-term consequences of the proposal, which could further harm the community.

This Town and its residents have been held hostage and harmed by Holcim International, the DEC, the Port of Coeymans and powers that be in the State and County for many years. Go to https://cleanairalbanycounty.org/ and you will find a historical record of what has happened to this Town and the Village over time.

I want answers before anything more is done:

Who will this project benefit and who will it burden?

Where will the rest of the money to build this substation come from?

Why is this power needed since large scale wind power appears to be off the table for the Port of Coeymans?

Will future manufacturing sites invade residential areas along the Hudson?

Will residents see even more industrial truck traffic through the town and village?

What will happen to our home values, health, local environment and town's population?

This project and all the others that would expand industrialization on the shores of the Hudson River has been preordained by powers outside the town for a long time. I am sure I am not the only resident who feels that we are pawns in the high stakes of tens of millions of dollars to be made for the stakeholders, but nothing for us.

I am not in favor of this project or this money flowing to the town for this project until all of the above questions are answered to the satisfaction of all of us.

I applaud and support Supervisor Donnelly and Deputy Supervisor, Michael Stott in doing the right thing."

Mr. Stewart attended the last meeting during the grant proposal. He felt the County representation was begging the town to move forward. He feels this type of project is needed to bring new members to our community. He was surprised at the lack of meeting participation considering the online comments.

Supervisor Donnelly stated he submitted an article to the News Herald. He said he spoke to Joe Navarro early on about forming a relationship with the entire board. Supervisor Donnelly asked for the number of carver employees live within Coeymans which he hasn't received. He would like to be able to support workforce development in our community. Supervisor Donnelly stated the employees he has met that work at Carver are from all over. He feels the town has to get involved in developing jobs.

Mrs. Tanner asked for a copy of the most recent mold report for 18 Russell. The Supervisor told her to email his office.

Council Member Hotaling thanked those who took the time to comment. He stated he is here to listen to everything and make a decision based on the majority of the town. He is here to represent all of Coeymans, not just a certain party. Mr. Hotaling stated he felt the Supervisor was

irresponsible for calling him asinine and irresponsible via email for his decision to move the NY FAST Grant forward. He challenged those who question his integrity to run against him.

Council member Stott questioned Council member Hotaling stating he makes decisions based on information but yet did not take the information given by the town attorney regarding the grant resolution. Mr. Stott stated there was a one percent that needs to be paid but is not in writing anywhere s to who is responsible for that. Council member Schmitt replied the resolution stated the town is not responsible for the cost of this project and it stated taxes will not be increased due to this project.

Council member Bruno stated Carver will be putting in the one percent. She emphasized that it is a utility coming in asking to expand electricity. She stated unless we become more friendly to people outside our community, we will not get new people. She stated we are here to understand the needs and wants of the town and its people and need to be more welcoming to those wishing to be here, we can't say no to everything. Council member Bruno Stated Supervisor Donnelly said he didn't want to administer this grant in which he replied he never said that. The Supervisor asked the Attorney his opinion of the resolution regarding the grant. He stated documents speak for themselves, and expressing an opinion regarding this is not constructive.

Council member Stott felt he would have had more respect for the decision if it was presented to the board beforehand for discussion. He stated another month to review this wouldn't have caused an issue.

Council member Hotaling asked if the conversation would be different if the sub station was being put on land behind the old bowling alley. They audience replied yes. Mr. Hotaling feels we are misdirecting our energy to the wrong place.

Council member Schmitt pointed out every time the town needs help Carver is usually reached out to first. Supervisor Donnelly stated this administration has never done that.

Keith Geraldsen stated we need to get the most out of what we have already in place. He called the town a bed and breakfast community. He called the board meetings ugly and similar to the Hatfield and McCoy's. He feels we have an opportunity and should take advantage of it.

Supervisor Donnelly feels we do not have as much leverage towards grant decisions due to the way it was passed on to the Advanced Albany County Alliance.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Council member Donnelly and Seconded by Council member Stott- APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED 7:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace McHugh, Town Clerk

Elist