

Town Board Meeting
August 12, 2024

The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Cambridge was duly called, Monday August 12, 2024 at the Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler

Councilman Larry Carrino

Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Councilman Bruce Bailey

Councilman McIntosh

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Jim Buckley Jr. Highway Superintendent, Chuck Barton Chief Executive Officer of WWIDA, Laura Oswald from the County Alan Davis, Kathy Duhom

Meeting called to order and Supervisor Fedler led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Solar Pilots

Laura Oswald the Economic Developer from the County and Chuck Barton Chief Executive Officer of the WWIDA, came to the meeting to discuss pilots. Laura Oswald said would explore the possibility of the Town Pilot Agreement related to solar. She explained that in 2021 – Old Article 10 process permit solar process called ORES – Large scale renewal Solar Pro. 25 mega watts must be permitted by ORES. Community 5 mega watts. When Legislation was passed confusion on how Assessments determined. All large scale assessed at discounted cash flow model. NYSEDA has Solar Assessment calculations Pilot can't be entered into price greater than what taxes would be. Councilman McIntosh wondered if because the Town opted out of exemptions Town can't go through pilot process? Chuck Barton from the WWIDA said that IDA can process application and Town could still be involved. Chuck said that every Solar project is very different, many different credits and assessments per project. It was mentioned that the large projects should hire a professional or expert, actually won't cost anything because intervener credit \$1,000/mega watt. Councilman McIntosh asked who pays the intervener credit? They said NYSEDA did. They suggested looking to NYSEDA for samples in booklets/rules in creating the rules and regulations. Supervisor Fedler has concerns about Battery Storage: Chuck had concerns because no information or knowledge on this. Laura Oswald Legislation said rule making because of danger forbid of being on same site, however she is not for sure. Is being discussed and awareness at state level.

Laura Oswald concern renewing moratorium to many times. State is saying that if need to look at ok, at some point Dept. Sate can come after you. She mentioned that need to put the law out there and can always go back and add moratorium to put on hold and change the law.

Short discussion of what they feel needs to be addressed to shape policies that prevent abuse to the operator, needs to be the same developer (maybe 5 mega watts – not 20 mega watts ORES can determine this, they can walk right over this-especially large scale projects). Town of Cambridge needs to find ways to avoid this, Jeff Myer is a good local attorney that works with this a lot – his partner is Matt with Fuller/Myer. The best first step is education, Laura Oswald mentioned that zoning protection for community, stronger guard is zoning. Chuck mentioned even Comprehensive Plan and when it was updated? It was mentioned that this was not a good word in the Town of Cambridge.

Laura Oswald Short Term Rental Organization

Ms. Oswald mentioned that there are no state wide regulations for rentals in Washington County. The Town of Cambridge doesn't have one hotel. Legislation has altered this and this sits on the Governor's

desk and ready to be signed. This would pertain to Air B&B, Vrbo and yurt and booking platform or charges fee for short term stay. Host would sign up and register they would have evacuation plan, emergency phone number, fire extinguishers and insurance on file with the state. The enforcement for this is all at local level Code Enforcement or Public Safety will enforce this. In Washington County the Air B&Bs already have a 4% occupancy tax, 50% of the tourism budget is financed by this occupancy tax. This bill will possibly be signed in November/December any Local municipality has own local regulations in order will stand. Problem is the resource to enforce it.

Auditing of Bills

General	#117 – 131	\$1,639.37
Highway	#95 – 104	\$134,190.30

Supervisor's Report

Resolution #41

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Wilmot to approve the Supervisor's report for July 2024.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Approving of the minutes

Resolution #42

Councilman Carrino motioned, Seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the minutes from July 8, 2024.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Assessor Report

The Assessor was able to make contact with and meet the gentlemen who came to the last board meeting with concerns of his assessment of the camp on his property. The Assessor did an interior and exterior inspection of the camp with the homeowner and a new value will be assigned to the improvement for the 2025 assessment roll. The Town has one Small Claims Assessment Review and one Article 7 on an exemption for the 2024 Revaluation.

Highway Hire

There was a short discussion about lack of individuals applying for highway, the Supervisor reached out to Personnel at the County (Civil Service). Asked for all public info. Picked comparable towns Hebron, Jackson and Hartford: when comparing miles, weighted votes, similar duties, come in very close one is higher. The average was \$21.02 – 22.14, 22.08 compared and some pay 25% insurance and others pay 20%. Overall it didn't look like we were out of line with other Towns, spoke with other Supervisor's and clerks think that this is a people problem.

Jim Buckley the Highway Superintendent reported that he had hired someone Parttime without a CDL and Full time with CDL. Short discussion on how to remedy the situation. Alan Davis a resident of the Town asked how much of an issue is this, hours are not odd. Supervisor Fedler did mention that issue is also with CDL cannot train them to learn anymore.

Town Board Meeting
August 12, 2024

Supervisor Fedler did mention that getting ready to do the upcoming budget.

Highway Report

- Calcium has been put on some roads
- Graded and added gravel to roads
- Ditching
- Roadside mower has been out and so has the boom arm mower
- Changed culverts
- Spending time storm cleanup
- Hired part time and full time
- Done shim on the other half of Center Cambridge across Cty Rt. 74
- Shim part of Wright Road

Transfer of money

Money had to be transferred from A1345.4 in the amount of \$47.00 to the Town Clerk's Contractual A1410.4. This was to cover the cost of the checks for the Town Clerks account.

Planning Board Report

Planning Board meeting was canceled for August 7th due to Brian Larson not being ready with his survey yet. He is hoping to be ready for the September meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Town Clerk Report

- August 1, 2024 was the start of 2024-2025 hunting license sales, the transition to plain paper licenses seems to be going well. Have had some hunters in.
- The week of August 19th – 23rd the Town Clerk's office will be closed for vacation.

The latest update on the Software for the Clerk to the Supervisor's position is that trying to figure out were going to get the funds for this program. The more expensive program from Williamson Law is the better suited program. There was a question of whether the Town Hall Reserve money could be used towards the software purchase. This would be a matter of finding out what the designated stipulations are for the Town Hall Reserve money. Resident Alan Davis was asking was this program replacing Margaret Shaw the Clerk to the Supervisor. The Supervisor said that no it would just make the job a lot easier.

There being no further business before the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge