

Town Board Meeting  
November 4, 2024

The Regular Town Board Meeting of Town of Cambridge was duly called, Monday, November 4, 2024 at the Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Catherin Fedler

Councilman Larry Carrino

Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Councilman Robert McIntosh

Councilman Bruce Bailey

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Alan Davis, Jonathan Shambo, Gerald Skiff

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

#### **Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override Local Law 2 2024**

Public hearing opened at 7:35 PM

The Supervisor explained that Tax Cap Override is put in place to go over the tax cap. The Supervisor called 3 times if any public comment. With there being none the Public hearing was closed at 7:36PM

#### **Public Hearing 2025 Budget**

Public Hearing opened at 7:37 PM

The Supervisor asked if there were any questions about the 2025 Budget. The Supervisor mentioned that there had been a question about raise for the Board and the Supervisor. The Supervisor mentioned that these salaries could not be increased after they were published in the paper.

Alan Davis had comments on page 8 of the budget on the unexpended budget. He wondered if could change DB5110.4 back to the 2024 budgeted amount of \$100,000 rather than \$110,000. The additional increase was requested in order to cover increased costs. He said this would keep the budget under the cap. Tried to explain to him that some of this unexpended is not money left over from last year it is interest that was earned from the investment accounts (NYCLASS and ICS accounts). Because open employee positions, salary and benefit monies remain, not everyone takes insurances. This also caused there to be unexpended dollars. Alan Davis had concerns about the town is holding on to many trucks with 2 pickups and also 6 plow trucks. He wanted to know why they needed so many.

The Supervisor said that the Town has 5 snow plow routes and keeps the 6<sup>th</sup> for a spare because it is hard to get parts now. Many Towns keep a spare truck now. Approximately 10 years ago the decision was made to keep a spare a pickup truck. The reasoning behind this is so the Highway Superintendent has a truck and the men have a truck to use around town: hauling trailer with lawn mowers to mow cemeteries, fill pot holes, haul the hot box and save miles on the big trucks.

Jonathan Shambo a resident of the Town was at the meeting and had concerns that the pickup was only plowing the intersections and not the roads in between. It was suggested that he contacts the Highway Superintendent when this occurs. Also, a question of why when a property changes hands they can't take the lane off the route for plowing. The Supervisor said that they have tried but there are laws that don't allow the town to drop road. The Town can ask new landowners to give up the lanes but they have the right to say No!

After calling 3 times for comments on the public hearing for the 2025 Budget the Public Hearing was closed at 8:11 PM.

<https://www.townofcambridgeny.org>

Gerald Skiff was at the Town Board meeting to let the town Board know that he would not be interested in being on the Planning Board for another term. He is officially resigning from the Planning Board as of December 31, 2024. He did mention that Scott Clark and Dorothy Yurschak are both a big asset to the Planning Board.

### **BAR Reappointment**

#### **Resolution #56**

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Wilmot to appoint John Hommel to Board of Assessment Review for the term of 10/01.2024 to 9/30/2029.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

The Supervisor mentioned that Planning Board position would need to be advertised for and interviewed for if had interested individuals.

There were questions of why the Eagle had not been coming to the meeting, the Supervisor mentioned that they had staffing issues. Ashleigh has told Supervisor that they have hired someone and will be covering the meetings soon.

### **Auditing of the Bills**

|         |            |             |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| General | #163 – 178 | \$ 5,855.09 |
| Highway | #131-142   | \$38,684.07 |

Every year the county reconciles with the towns, the term is county due. This year we have a bill to pay the voucher will go through audit tonight. For example: tax bill errors or exemption corrections.

### **Approving/Corrections of the minutes**

#### **Resolution #57**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2024 minutes with many corrections on page 1middle of the page where the health insurance will utilize a big part of allowed cap. On page 3, where mentioned about the new Highway hire it should read younger than the rest of the crew. Under the 2025 Budget on the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence it should read that That the only current change of the health insurance is preferred pharmacy program. Then on the last sentence in the same paragraph should read that haven't decided on a good comfortable figure for mortgage tax dollars amount.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

### **Supervisor Report**

#### **Resolution #58**

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to approve the Supervisor Report for October 2024.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

### **Highway Report**

- They have been ditching and cutting shoulders around Town

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- Filled in some washouts along roads
- They have continued getting trucks ready
- The final CHIPS reimbursement forms for the year have been sent to NYSDOT

### **Planning Board Report**

Planning Board meeting is not until November 6, 2024 – no report

### **Town Clerk Report**

- The Town Clerk reported that needed to run another notice for Spectrum and a new Public Hearing with resolution because the date of the Public Hearing in the notice did not match the Date the Pubic Hearing was held due to the change of the date of the meeting in October.
- Williamson and Law Payroll paperwork has been filled out and sent in
- Hunting Licenses are still going well and many hunters in.

### **Fuel Oil Bids**

#### **Resolution #59**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey to give Jim Buckley the Highway Superintendent permission to go out to bid for fuel oil.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

The Supervisor reported that Assessor will be mailing out exemption forms soon.

### **Town Board**

Councilman Carrino asked about the house on Academy St that has fell in and what they are doing with it. The Supervisor did mention that there are grants that can be applied for that.

### **Tax Cap Override Local Law #2 2024**

#### **Resolution #60**

Councilman Carrino motioned, seconded by Councilman McIntosh to adopt the Tax Cap Override Local Law No. 2 of 2024.

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes - 0

### **Adopting the 2025 Budget**

#### **Resolution #61**

Councilman McIntosh motioned,

Seconded by Councilman Bailey,

Be It Resolved and Determined, that the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge adopts the 2025 Budget as presented at the Public Hearing as the Annual Budget for the Town of Cambridge beginning in January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025 with the budget figures of \$1,518,601 for total appropriations less \$499,587, less estimated revenues less \$170,500 unexpended balance resulting in \$848,514 to be raised by taxes.

Be it further Resolved, that the Cambridge Town Board accepts the fire contract with the Village of Cambridge Fire Department for year of 2025 \$41,790, the Easton Fire Department \$9,250 and the Buskirk Fire Department \$19,841.

<https://www.townofcambridgeny.org>

Vote:                      Ayes – 5                      Noes – 0

**Privilege of the Floor**

Resident Gerald Skiff asked how things were coming with the Solar Law.

Councilman Carrino said that they are slow moving and cautious when it comes to Solar. Councilman McIntosh said that they have submitted concerns to NYSERDA and she has responded and some issues are up in the air. Landscape is changing everywhere and trying to keep up with that. Councilman McIntosh did say that he was hoping that by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year NYSERDA have a better idea on how to proceed. A lot of the Towns have put a moratorium in place. Councilman McIntosh mentioned that no one has approached to put in larger solar farms.

Councilman Carrino said that there was that big solar fire in Castleton and waiting to see and hear back about what happened.

The Supervisor mentioned that County Fire Dept. has a lot issues with solar farm especially with fire road access part of it.

The Town Board thanked Gerald Skiff for his service on the Planning Board.

There being further business before the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge