

Town Board Meeting  
September 9, 2024

The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Cambridge was duly called, Monday September 9, 2024 at the Cambridge Town Hall, at 7:30 PM the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler

Councilman Larry Carrino (arrived at the meeting at 8:00 PM)

Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot

Councilman Robert McIntosh

Absent: Councilman Bruce Bailey

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Jim Buckley Jr. Highway Superintendent, Alan Davis, Zeph Davis, David Hamilton, Arek Gordon Town Assessor

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

**Auditing of the Bills**

|         |          |             |
|---------|----------|-------------|
| General | #132-145 | \$1,842.89  |
| Highway | #105-114 | \$72,305.35 |

**Supervisor's Report**

**Resolution #43**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to approve the Supervisor's Report from August 2024.

Vote:                      Ayes – 3                      Noes – 0

**Approving of the minutes**

**Resolution #44**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to approve the minutes as mailed for August 12, 2024 meeting.

Vote:                      Ayes – 3                      Noes – 0

**Assessor's report Phone/Internet**

Arek Gordon the Assessor was at the meeting to report on the phone and internet possibilities.

With the phone bill steadily going up the Assessor Arek Gordon offered to investigate other options for the Town. The voice over the internet protocol is an option through Verizon, 200 mega bit line \$79.00/year. Would need a dynamic IP address change. If there is a contract then would need \$10.00 per month more.

Pantera Network best phone lines in the US based on own equipment, they do not lease out. 4 lines – less than \$100 per month. \$155 estimated include taxes and fees. Business phone company (they do a lot of gov't) switch main phone number and have separate options for lines 1, 2, 3, 4. Caller ID option would be accessible which would be nice and could transfer calls, voice mail would go right to emails. Also, could have an option of app cell phones. Town can buy the phones and \$295- or 3-year contract all are free. All existing numbers can be ported over with it. Multiple calls come in people will not get a busy signal will go directly to voicemail.

Councilman McIntosh agreed that this was a no brainer go ahead with the 3 yr. contract.

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>

Councilman Carrino arrived at this point in the meeting at 8:00 PM.

**Resolution #45**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to grant permission to move forward with Verizon FIOS for the Town Hall and Pantera as presented by Arek Gordon the Assessor, decided to go with a 2-year contract with Verizon FIOS and Pantera a 3-year contract.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

**October and November Town Board Meetings**

It was decided that the October Town Board meeting would be held on October 7, 2024 and the November meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>, both meetings the first Mondays of the month due to Columbus Day and Veterans Day.

**Resolution #46**

Councilman Carrino motioned, seconded by Councilman McIntosh to set the Public Hearing for Spectrum for the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting due to the issues with the Affidavit and the Public Hearing mix ups Spectrum requested a new Public Hearing be held and new paperwork signed.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

**Tour of the Battenkill**

There was a short discussion about the Bicycle race and whether to support it. Dieter Drake had been in contact with many different Towns, Supervisor's and clerks to get the support for the Tour of the Battenkill. He has even put an article in the newspaper which has upset many. The Town Supervisor's of other Towns (Whitcreek, Village of Cambridge, Cambridge, and Jackson) have not even spoke with Dieter Drake yet. He is saying that he has their support. The Supervisor reported that when moved to the fair grounds did not go well. Dieter is being presumptive and adamant that this race is happening. The Supervisor said that she is not comfortable bringing the race back into the area and she does not think that some of the others are either.

Councilman McIntosh said that he wondered if conditions could be put in writing for them.

Councilwoman Wilmot said that we did not do the race last year in the Town of Cambridge, no one else wants it and it does not give anything back to the Town. Supervisor said that the Village has concerns with the Road closures, Dieter says Village on Board but the Supervisor says they are not.

**Resolution #47**

Councilwoman Wilmot motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to after a discussion of the Town Board about Dieter Drakes bicycle race, the Town of Cambridge decided not to entertain to support Dieter Drakes proposed bicycle race.

Vote:                      Ayes – 4                      Noes – 0

**Purchase of the Computer Software for Clerk to Supervisor**

The Supervisor reported that nothing specific on where the Town Hall Reserve money came from and what it is designated for. Supervisor Fedler said that she spoke with Frank Ziehm who was on the Town Board previously and he thought that this purchase of software was a good investment for the Town. He said that this improvement for the Town hall would fall in line for this description. The Supervisor

said that she was not sure if a Permissive Referendum would be required for the spending of money. She has been in touch with other Town Supervisor's and the Town of Argyle is looking for part time so she thought this might be an option for someone to take on both positions. The money could possibly be taken out of the Fund Balance and then later replaced by the Town Hall Reserve money.

#### **Resolution #48**

Councilman McIntosh motioned, seconded by Councilman Carrino to purchase the software program from Williamson Law, to sign the proposal that was already received from Williamson Law which was received on July 8, 2024 and is good for 90 days.

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

#### **Budget**

There was a short discussion about the other towns and raises and that they were anywhere from 3-5% increases or union which is \$1.00. It was mentioned that would have to hold the Budget hearing and the Tax cap override at the Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. In comparing the Highway to other Towns Population and evaluation of properties, say that Easton is way higher per hour \$26.00. White Creek has higher benefits, Alan Davis says that need to look at neighboring Towns such as Easton and White Creek.

#### **Highway Report**

Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley mentioned that starting as of the first of the year Vehicle Manufacturer, 1 electric will be for every 6 regular trucks.

- Have fixed washouts and cleaned up trees after last month's storm.
- Have been mowing roadsides
- Have been grading and graveling roads
- Have been ditching along various roads
- The new plow has been installed on the new pickup
- Our new full time, team member Cody is working out
- New Dump truck cab chassis at Delurey's/ Wed/Thurs. might know whether the body in Stephentown or not

#### **Planning Board Report**

Planning Board meeting was September 4, 2024 with all members present

- Brian Larson – Preliminary survey reviewed for Tax Map #280.-2-32 65 King Rd. Subdivision of acre lot for his son. The Planning Board reviewed the survey and the only issue that they had was that the original lot would be consider a flag lot. They had concerns that the driveway for the original lot would only have 27 ft road frontage. The new lot created would have 145 ft. The Planning Board secretary and Chair were both going to reach out to Eric Pearson for suggestions.
- Patti Krause (Donald English Trust) presented a sketch plan for a minor subdivision of property located at 128 English Rd. Tax Map #262.-2-1. The property has 205 acres and they will be

Town Board Meeting  
September 9, 2024

subdividing off the 40 acres that are cut by the road. Planning Board gave permission to move forward with the survey.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 2, 2024

#### **Town Clerk Report**

- Selling many 2024-2025 hunting licenses, the transition to plain paper licenses seems to be going well still.

#### **Town Board**

Councilman McIntosh reported that he had sent a copy of the Solar questions and concerns that they had about writing the Solar Law to Camille Warner at the State. She included some of the links that support her answers, her comments are in Yellow. Camille helped Williamstown, NY with Solar Law and they have no zoning or Comprehensive Plan there.

Major concern that Councilman McIntosh has is the change of ownership in regards to Solar Farms. Solar Developers are known to sell the lease. Word Decommissioning Plan properly can make that kick in and adhere to terms of special permit. Also, a concern that when the Town Board met with the Planning Board, they are reluctant to take on responsibilities. It was suggested that invite the Town Attorney to a meeting. However, it was also mentioned to remember that they charge \$250/hour. It is too much to ask from the Planning board members that only get paid \$20-25 per meeting to take on the responsibilities of Solar permitting. Councilman McIntosh did mention that not proposing just submitting as feedback.

#### **Privilege of the Floor**

Alan Davis was at the meeting and he was questioning whether the Loader could be operated without the CDL. Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. said as long as not union is fine.

Councilman McIntosh questioned whether Grants, FEMA Grants are available Fund disaster and projects TOC culverts would be eligible for that. Jim Buckley already works with FEMA to do that.

Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt reported that annual Highway Inventory has been finished.

There being no further business before the Planning Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt  
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge