

**TOWN OF COVERT**  
**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**May 9, 2011**

Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Supervisor Michael Reynolds	Present
	Councilman Gary Hunt	Present
	Councilman Stephen Selover	Present
	Councilwoman Valerie Bassett	Present
	Councilman Duane Waid	Present

**Others Present:** Town Clerk, Colleen Freese  
Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey Mac Cheyne  
Town Attorney, John Sipos  
Wilfred & Diana Millard, Charles Bosman  
Robert & Linda Schoffel, Donald Kenyon

**Call to Order:**

Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Meeting Minutes:**

Hunt moved, seconded by Bassett, that the April 11, 2011 minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

**Petitioners to the Board:**

Robert Schoffel addressed the board concerning property taxes and why assessments have increased 14 1/2 percent when the housing market is declining. Is the system really fair and what does the town do in order to assure that property assessments are fair?

Wilfred Millard also stated he studied property listings and found lots listed as vacant lots that actually have homes on them. He feels assessments are completely wrong and out of line. It is hard for residents in this area to absorb the increase in property taxes.

Don Kenyon suggested that they write out their concerns and mail them to the Assessor. Supervisor Reynolds encouraged them to go and talk to the assessor and mail their concerns to the Town Clerks Office where a copy will be kept on file and he will deliver a copy to the tax assessor.

**Highway Superintendent:**

Superintendent Mac Cheyne reported that he has done interviews for the MEO position and has narrowed it down to two applicants and will be calling them in for a second interview.

**Town Clerk:**

Town Clerk Freese reported that Planning Board Member Raymond Langlois gave his resignation. He stated if others are interested in serving on the Planning Board, let's give them a chance to be involved.

**Committees:**

Councilman Selover attended the Cayuga Medical Center Corporate Board Meeting. Dr Rob Mackenzie reported on how Cayuga Medical is now able to offer interventional care to heart attack patients. They have enhanced cardiac-related services from the Emergency Department; Intensive Cardiac Care Unit to Imaging Services, the Pharmacy, and the Lab. Cayuga Medical Center has developed an Island Health

Center and the Cayuga Center for Healthy Living. Cayuga Medical Center's affiliation with Rochester Heart Institute and Roswell Park Cancer Institute means that patients in our area have access to very sophisticated care right here where they live.

**Town Attorney:**

Attorney Sipos advised the Town Board that South Seneca Ambulance contract still does not provide consideration for the town residents and advised them not to sign this contract.

Councilwoman Bassett said she does not support having a public hearing for South Seneca Ambulance contract because it is an incomplete contract and we don't have anything to go to a public hearing for.

Councilman Selover stated that when the board did the budget last year there was a certain amount that was budgeted to pay South Seneca Ambulance Corp for their services. The money budgeted was for the residents of the Town of Covert to receive ambulance service at no extra cost. Since the budget was passed and negotiation started with South Seneca Ambulance the contract is not what the money was budgeted for. If they are going to require that co-pays are made, we don't need an ambulance contract.

Councilman Hunt is concerned what the respond time will be for the residents of the Town of Covert to receive emergency medical care.

Councilman Waid stated if this contract is not benefiting the residents and if co-pays are going to be charged then we should not contract with South Seneca Ambulance.

Letters from Don Kenyon:

RE: PROPOSED SOUTH SENECA AMBULANCE CORPS CONTRACT.

I don't really want to be doing this. I wish the matter had been dealt with in the past, when it should have been dealt with, and then I wouldn't be here and you wouldn't have to listen to this.

I request this communication in its entirety be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Thank you.

First point I want to make is Attorney Sipos' professional opinion is this contract is illegal and funds already collected as taxes should be returned to the taxpayers.

Secondly, this contract results in double dipping.

Thirdly, corrective action should be taken now and not pushed off to the future when corrective action may or may not be taken.

Next I'd like to go through some things stipulated in proposed contract:

Paragraph 3. Decision as to which hospital patient will be taken to is decided by the Corps, not the patient. WRONG! Patient should be taken to one of 3 hospitals of choice where their medical and insurance networks are based.

Paragraph 6. Contractor imposes fees or charges but there is no schedule of fees/charges stated. This is a "blank check" and not the way Trumansburg is presently configured to run. Trumansburg states a fee schedule.

Paragraph 6. contd. OIG Opinion 97-4 pertaining to forgiveness of deductibles/copayments is not attached. I presume that's a copying oversight but I have no idea what it may say.

Paragraph 7. B. Annual Financial Statement. Is there such a statement presently filed with the Town Clerk for 2010 and a budget for 2011? Have copies been provided to all Town Board members for their review?

Paragraph 8. Pay the contractor the sum of \$25,522.72 [presumably already collected in 2011 property tax]. There's the obvious and illegal double dipping. Taxpayers are paying twice; first to their insurance provider and then in their tax bill AND SUCH TAX PROVIDES NO BENEFIT, SINCE THEY WILL BE BILLED ANYWAY, AND STILL PAY THE SAME DEDUCTIBLES AND COPAYS THEY WOULD HAVE PAID WHETHER THEY WERE TAXED OR NOT.

**SUMMARY:**

\*ILLEGAL.

\*DOUBLE DIPPING.

\*CANNOT BE ASSURED OF HOSPITAL OF CHOICE.

\*SUGGEST TO, AND REQUEST OF, TOWN BOARD THAT THERE BE NO PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS CONTRACT DUE TO THE REASONS STATED.

\*REQUEST TOWN BOARD TO CONSIDER GETTING OUT OF THE BUSINESS OF PROVIDING AMBULANCE SERVICE AND ALLOW THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROPOSE PROVIDING THAT SERVICE.

\*REQUEST TOWN BOARD AND SOUTH SENECA TO ATTEMPT TO RENEGOTIATE CONTRACT TO ELIMINATE UNRESOLVED ISSUES WHICH COULD INCLUDE GOING TO A FEE ONLY CONTRACT AND/OR FOR TOWN TO PLEASE CONSIDER SEEKING OTHER SERVICE PROVIDER PROPOSALS.

For "the icing on the cake" I request that the Town Board keep in mind that widely available statistics state the real property tax load in Seneca County makes it the 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the U.S. based on total taxes as a percent of property value. I would hope a priority for the Town Board would be to do what is possible to change that.

I would like South Seneca to know I appreciate their service and regret having to point out unpleasant realities here. I hope it is possible to re-engineer the present situation.

Thank you for your consideration!

Don Kenyon

**Town Supervisor:**

Supervisor Reynolds asked the board which company they want to use for mold removal.

Councilman Selover stated it would be better to have Alarmtech System take down their alarm System wires and have Mr. Freese take down the other wiring and lights and when mold removal is done put the wires back up.

Hunt moved, seconded by Waid, to have Corcraft do the mold removal in the basement of Municipal Building, with a reduction in price for the wiring being done by someone else. To have Alarmtech remove their wires and Mr. Freese remove the other wires and lights and when mold removal is done have them put the wires back in place. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION No. 05-11**

Bassett moved, seconded by Hunt, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the money for unused sick leave owed to Ronald Mc Ardle upon his retirement be credited toward his share of BlueCross/Blue Shield premium, to continue his health insurance coverage with the Town of Covert through

December 31, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Bassett moved, seconded by Waid, to accept the resignation of Raymond Langlois from the Planning Board with regrets and thank him for serving. Motion carried unanimously.

Bassett moved, seconded by Waid, that the variance requests application No. 02 for Jon & Janice Conrad, 8085 Bainbridge Beach Rd. Interlaken for a new residential building 55'x63'and, application No.03 Douglas VanBenschoten, 8206 Rt. 96 Interlaken for a 20'x18' carport be referred to the Planning Board. A public hearing will be held at the Municipal Building, June13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Waid moved, seconded by Bassett, to appoint George Richardson and Eric Spiegler to fill unexpired term to the Planning Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Bassett moved, seconded by Selover, that Highway Fund Voucher # 59-70, in the amount of \$ 16,126.35 and General Fund Vouchers #70-85, in the amount of \$ 9,170.70 be approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey MacCheyne, filed his April, 2011 written report with Board Members.

Supervisor Reynolds filed his revenue and expenditure report for April, 2011.

Town Clerk Freese filed her April, 2011 report with the Supervisor. A total of \$255.79 was remitted.

On the motion of Waid, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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Town Supervisor, Michael G. Reynolds

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Town Clerk, Colleen R. Freese