

**TOWN OF COEYMANS MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 14, 2026 6:00PM**

*A Town Board Meeting was held Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m. at 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena N.Y.*

**PRESENT:** Stephen Donnelly, Supervisor  
Michael J. Stott, Deputy Supervisor  
Stephen J. Schmitt, Council Member  
Patricia Grogan, Council Member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Candace McHugh, Town Clerk  
Richard C. Reilly, Town Attorney  
Michael Ravalli Jr., Town Attorney

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Supervisor Donnelly opened the meeting and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked that the record reflect all board members were present.

**Announcements:**

-Public Meeting regarding truck traffic will take place on May 26<sup>th</sup> at Pieter B Coeymans School from 5-7pm, hosted by the Advance Albany County Alliance.

-Albany County Public Works announced a bridge closure on County Route 111. This will close the road to all traffic June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026- November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

**Approval of Minutes:** The following minutes were approved:

- April 14, 2026 Town Board Meeting
- April 23, 2026 Town Board Meeting

Council member Donnelly made a motion to accept the minutes listed above and Council member Stott seconded the motion.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0 – ABSTAIN - SO MOVED

**New Business:**

-Presentation by the Ravena Rescue Squad

“My name is Travis Whitbeck. I'm the Chief of Operations with the Ravena Rescue Squad.

I'm also a resident in the village of Ravena. I want to first thank you all for being here tonight and listening to me and allowing me to speak on the updates that we have for you. Before I start discussing the proposal itself, I wanted to recognize the tremendous amount of work, collaboration, and dedication that has gone into reaching this point.

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This effort has required countless hours of meetings, research, planning, discussion, and evaluation from individuals who care deeply about the future of emergency medical services in our community. On behalf of the town and the community we serve, I would like to express sincere appreciation to every member of the Ambulance District for their hard work, professionalism, commitment throughout this entire process. Each committee member, past and present, has brought valuable perspectives, thoughtful ideas, and a shared goal of ensuring that the residents' appointments receive reliable, sustainable, and high-quality emergency medical care for years to come.

Their dedication reflects genuine commitment to public service and to protecting the health and safety of our residents, visitors, and neighboring communities. Tonight's presentation is not simply about creating a new district. It's about planning for the future.

It's about building a system that is stable, accountable, responsive, and capable of meeting the growing demands placed upon emergency medical services in our community. Across New York State and throughout the nation, EMS agencies are facing unprecedented challenges. Rising call volumes, staffing shortages, increased operational costs, and the growing complexity of emergency medical care have placed enormous pressure on EMS systems like the one that we operate in.

Communities everywhere are being forced to evaluate how to best preserve emergency medical services in a way that remains dependable and, most importantly, financially sustainable. We are no different in our community. The proposed district represents an opportunity to establish a long-term solution that prioritizes patient care, stability, and community accountability.

We want to create the framework that allows EMS services to continue evolving while maintaining the level of emergency response that we know that our residents deserve. If established, the EMS district would become the entity responsible for ensuring that ambulance and paramedic services are provided to the residents of our community. Currently, that responsibility rests with the Town of Queensland, as you are all very well aware.

Under this proposal, the Town would transition that responsibility to the newly created district, allowing the district to independently oversee and manage EMS operations, service delivery, and long-term planning specifically focused on emergency medical care. This structure would create a dedicated organization whose sole mission is the delivery of such services. This proposal has been developed carefully and thoughtfully.

The committees reviewed operational data, response demands, financial considerations, regional EMS trends, and the future needs of the community. A lot of thought has gone into this proposal. Their work is focused on creating a model that balances fiscal responsibility with the necessity of maintaining effective emergency medical services.

If the Town Board or the community as a whole chooses to move forward with the proposal, the next step would include a series of public hearings to ensure residents have the opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and make sure that they fully understand the structure and purpose of the proposed district. The intent would be to place the matter before the voters during the November 2026 election, allowing the community itself to determine the future direction of

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emergency medical services and the Town's agreements. Should it be ultimately approved by the residents, or the voters, excuse me, the district would then formally stand up and begin independent operations approximately around January of 2028.

This timeline would provide the opportunity for careful planning, organizational development, budgeting, staffing preparation, and a smooth operational transition designed to support the long-term success and continuity of service. As we move forward, community input remains critically important. Transparency, public engagement, and open communication will continue to be essential to the process.

The creation of this district is a significant decision, and it is essential that the residents understand both the challenges facing the Ravena Rescue Squad and EMS hole in our community and the opportunities this proposal presents for the future. At its core, this discussion is about service, safety, and sustainability. It is about ensuring that future generations of residents have access to dependable EMS when they need it most.

Once again, none of this work would have been possible without the dedication and tireless effort of the district committee members, the members that make up the Ravena Rescue Squad, municipal leaders such as yourselves, community stakeholders who contributed their time and expertise throughout this entire process. Their commitment to the Town of Coeymans and the future of EMS deserves recognition and appreciation, and I appreciate this opportunity for you guys to let me speak on it.”

Mr. Whitbeck asked if the board had any questions for him. Supervisor Donnelly asked if there was a budget. Mr. Whitbeck stated there was a budget which is about \$725,000. This includes the Albany County Paramedics. The Ambulance District would function similarly to how a fire company does. Questions were asked on how the Village would fit into this. Council member Schmitt explained the Village has the option to opt out but then would not have the benefits of the squad. Mr. Whitbeck explained a representative has been touch with the Village and they seem responsive. The Supervisor asked if volunteers would be a part of the squad. Mr. Whitbeck stated the squad is career based, not volunteer and they intended to stay that way. Volunteers could be discussed at a later date and would change the insurance needs of the district. Mr. Whitbeck said the current \$350,000 they are estimating as a budget for the Ravena Ambulance portion does include equipment and a budgetary plan for future apparatus. He stated if they do not come up with a way to increase funds, we will not have a local rescue squad. If this did happen the town would need to contract out to a for profit ambulance or a partner agency but the town loses all ability to negotiate and the price will be the price. Mr. Whitbeck stated they currently buy used apparatus due to all it being they can afford. The funding they are working with is minimal and not comparable to other squads. He has difficulty keeping staff due to the pay level not being comparable to others. Supervisor Donnelly asked if the legal costs would be split for this project. It was clarified this is an A fund expense. Mr. Reilly stated he could give an estimate on the cost before proceeding with the legal aspect. Council member Grogan asked to have a 3-year plan/budget to present to the public when a hearing is set. She

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also suggested reaching out to the village and possibly having a joint workshop. Supervisor Donnelly said he was meeting with the Mayor Friday and would ask. It was suggested to hold the Public Hearing at a larger location. Mr. Reilly did ask for copies of the information Council member Schmitt had from the previous attorney.

**Old Business:**

-FAST NY Grant presentation was postponed to June 11, 2026.

-A formal opinion has been requested of the PB/ZBA regarding Local Law 1, they have 30 days to respond

-Rural Event Center Definition. Council member Stott and Council member Grogan did some research on the definition. The principle use of the property must be agricultural. They do not want the accessory use supersede the principle use. Mr. Reilly will create a new draft taking into consideration their comments. Council member Grogan stated she is not in favor of these alternate definitions and laws. Supervisor Donnelly feels we need to fill a few holes as they consider a complete rezoning which may take years.

-Truck Traffic. Supervisor Donnelly is hoping they receive answers at the upcoming informational session being held by the Advance Albany County Alliance. The board will hold off on the additional study until they attend the meeting.

-Summer Employment applications are coming in and will be reviewed by Council member Stott and Grogan. The application deadline is June 1, 2026.

-Gazebo 250<sup>th</sup>: Persico Ace hardware will be donating the paint for the gazebo. It has been established that volunteers are covered by our insurance. The board is looking into court mandated community service to paint. Council member Stott gave an overview of the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration being hosted by the Village and the Town.

-Farmer's Market opens June 4, 2026. There will be a ribbon cutting at 4pm and the Evening on the Green Band will start at 5pm.

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**Resolutions**

**Resolution # 081- Appointment of Equipment Operator 1**

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Stephen Donnelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael J. Stott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen J. Schmitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Grogan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>		

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Coeymans Highway Superintendent is desirous of filling the vacant position in his Department of Equipment Operator 1; and

**WHEREAS**, the Albany County Department of Civil Service has confirmed that his job title is a non-competitive position—requiring that the chosen candidate meet the minimum qualifications; and

**WHEREAS**, the position was posted; and applications were received, evaluated and reviewed by the Superintendent of Highways; and the Superintendent of Highways has identified and recommends the hiring of a candidate who meets the minimum qualifications.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby appoint Michael McCue to the position of Equipment Operator 1, at an hourly rate of \$27.13, effective May 26, 2026.

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

**Resolution #082 Authorize Deputy Clerk to Attend Training**

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Stephen Donnelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael J. Stott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen J. Schmitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Grogan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>		

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

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Tax Collectors and Receivers will be holding a conference (the “Conference”) in Niagara Falls on June 7-10, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Deputy town Clerk is desirous of attending the Conference, so that she may attend classes and participate in the training opportunities that the Conference offers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Deputy town Clerk is hereby authorized to attend the New York State Association of Tax Collectors and Receivers Conference in Niagara Falls, New York on June 7-10, 2026; and is further authorized to submit a voucher for the lodging cost, mileage, and any other related reimbursable expenses.

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

**Resolution # 083 Authorize Budget Amendment – Sewer Fund**

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Stephen Donnelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael J. Stott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen J. Schmitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Grogan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>		

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

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Town of Coeymans has determined that in order to maintain proper balances within various accounts, an Amendment to the 2026 Budget is necessary.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans does hereby authorize Supervisor Stephen Donnelly to amend the 2026 Budget, as depicted below, for the Budget Year 2026:

Increase Appropriations

(SS)8120.4 Collection System Contractual \$56,793.00

Increase Appropriated Fund Balance

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(SS)0599 Fund Balance

\$56,793.00

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

Discussion: Supervisor Donnelly stated this was for the lift station pumps. The USDA Funds have been executed. He stated he and the Chief Sewer Operator have a meeting with the Port and Industrial Park to get a better understanding of the drainage in their facilities.

Council member Grogan expressed her concern about the need of a PBZBA member. She stated the board needs to begin conversations again regarding appointing a member to avoid quorum issues over the summer.

**Public Comment:**

Henrietta Swain lives on Main Street in Coeymans. She collected signatures for a petition concerning the use of ATV's on Route 144 (Main Street) which was signed by 19 residents. Ms. Swain stated 3 houses were too terrified to sign. She spoke of the dirt bikes at 59 Main. She has been personally threatened for taking videos of their behavior. She wants to know what the board is going to do to help the police department solve this problem. The Supervisor Stated he is aware of this issue and has spoken to the Chief. He explained the longer-term things he was working on is getting a Boys & Girls Club in that area. Mrs. Swain said there aren't many patrols down there and the speed limit is not followed. The Dirt bikes are doing wheelies on 144 and kids from other neighborhoods are participating. Council member Grogan suggested talking to the SRO at school if they go to RCS. She invited Mrs. Swain to come to the next meeting to speak to the chief. Mrs. Swain is putting up signs and has developed an alert system with her neighbors in case something happens.

Francis Vitollo lives on main St in Coeymans. He stated the speed on the road is definitely a problem. His own vehicle has been totaled while parked out front due to speeding and drunk driving. He described a time 13 kids came up the road and he was in the yard and said hello but was met with vulgar language and suggestions. Mr. Vitollo stated something really needs to be done regarding this aggressive situation. He has installed cameras for his family's safety. Supervisor Donnelly was happy to see the neighborhood is coming to them. Mr. Vitollo feels social workers need to get involved. Many asked where the adults are in this situation.

Barbara Lebrecht lives on main St. She described the property damage the dirt bikes are doing to other properties. She stated she was verbally threatened along with Mrs. Swain. Mrs. Lebrecht said those using the bikes hide them so they can't be found. Council member Grogan asked if this has gotten worse since the Albany County Sheriff's have vacated the substation. Mrs.

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Lebrecht stated it has gotten worse since the sheriff left and now the kids wear face masks so they can't be identified on video.

**A Motion to Enter Executive Session** was made by Supervisor Donnelly for a legal matter and a personnel matter which was seconded by Council member Grogan, all were in favor and they will not be returning.

**A Motion to Exit Executive Session** was made by Council member Schmitt and was seconded by Council member Grogan, all were in favor. 8:08pm

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**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Council member Schmitt and Seconded by Council member Grogan- APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 0 – SO MOVED 8:08pm

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Candace McHugh, Town Clerk*

