

TOWN OF COEYMANS MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2026 6:00PM

The Town Board Workshop were held Tuesday June 2, 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: Nancy Warner, Village of Ravena Deputy Mayor
Candace McHugh, Town Clerk
Richard C. Reilly, Town Attorney

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.

Old Business:

Ambulance District: Supervisor Donnelly asked Mr. Reilly if he had a chance to go through the documents provided. He stated he has started to go through the documents. Council member Schmitt was hoping to obtain an estimate from Mr. Reilly pertaining how much it may cost to finish the district. Mr. Reilly gave a rough estimate of 25-45 hours, there are some variables that could affect that estimate. Council member Schmitt stated the creation of an ambulance district doesn't necessarily demand a permissive referendum. A public hearing will need to be held. The Rescue Squad would prefer it goes on the ballot, but we may not be able to do that without going through the referendum process. This is also how Mr. Reilly felt the process worked as well. The town board would pass a resolution adopting the creation which would be subject to permissive referendum. There would be a period of time within which someone could collect enough signatures to force it to the ballot. If the signatures are not collected then the town board can proceed. The timeline may be too tight to get something on the ballot for the November election which would be the goal.

Council member Schmitt stated if a district was created the ambulance budget and the Albany County Paramedics budget would both come out of the Town budget and be collected via the special district. The Albany County Paramedics give us advanced life support at a cost of \$373,000 currently. The Town budgeted \$150,000 for the Ravena Rescue Squad. The estimated budget the Rescue Squad has given is \$350,000 if a district is created for the squad alone. If this district does not take place the town will have to negotiate a new contract with the rescue squad for next year. Currently the agreement expired in December of 2025 and the town has been extending it on a quarterly basis. Some preliminary numbers were given by the town clerk regarding the potential tax rate. The question was raised as to how PILOT programs effect the numbers the town is working with to establish an estimate.

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June 2, 2026 6:00PM

Council member Grogan asked if the Village would have to do a similar process. Council member Schmitt said yes, the town and village could join forces but both municipalities have to have a public hearing and a resolution.

Council member Stott talked of some of the pros and cons of establishing a district. Giving the Rescue squad a special district, allows them to have full control of their budget amount each year with no input from the town. Mr. Whitbeck from the Ravena Rescue Squad will be providing a detailed budget for the town to review. Council member Schmitt mentioned the increase they are looking for includes pay increases to help with retention. Supervisor Donnelly recapped that the budget was needed along with their current operational. Council member Schmitt had also asked for a 3–5-year projection from the squad. Council member Grogan brought up the need for them to have a board of commissioners. There was confusion as to whether the Town Board would have any say about the budget or would it be similar to that of a fire district in which the people could vote on it when it is presented by the squad. The report prepared by the previous town attorney gave a few different options regarding structure of the board of commissioners.

Mrs. Warner asked what the draw was if the town was still going to have control over their budget. She feels that would defeat the purpose of forming a district as the rescue squad would lose their autonomy. Council member Schmitt stated his goal was to make it as close to a wash as possible for the people. Council member Grogan stated she would like to avoid an increase in taxes as well. Council member Schmitt stated Albany County is a factor as we do not have a say in that budget either. He volunteered to reach out to other municipalities and ambulance squads to see what the cost would be if we had to contract out. Deputy Mayor Warner cautioned the board about being realistic in regards to not increasing their own budget after the ambulance line is removed. Council member Schmitt feels the intent of the prior administration was to allow for this district but still maintain some control over the cost to the tax payer.

Council member Grogan broke down how the Rescue Squads budget has suffered some serious cuts during prior administrations and is just getting back to where they were before the cuts. This is a major part of the reason the increase is so great. Albany County's Budget increased 91% in the same amount of time the Ravena Rescue Squads increased only 3.5%. The budget cap may be an issue if the town decided to just allot the increase in the next budget.

Council member Schmitt would like to narrow down what is needed to get to a Public Hearing. Council member Stott is hoping to be able to present approximate per household numbers to show the public. Council member Grogan asked if we did get this through the resolution stage when would it go into effect? Mr. Reilly feels it would be a one-year transition most likely.

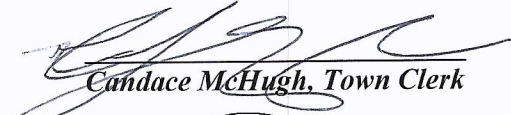
Council member Grogan suggested doing an exit survey at the November election if they are unable to have it set to be on the ballot. Deputy Warner will bring any information obtained today to the Village board and suggest having Mr. Whitbeck come to a workshop with the Village. Council member Schmitt asked if the board would like Travis to attend again or just

TOWN OF COEYMANS MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2026 6:00PM

simply have the budgets emailed. He will tell Travis it will be on the next agenda and he is welcome to attend.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Council member Donnelly and Seconded by Council member Grogan
APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED 7:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,


Candace McHugh, Town Clerk

