TOWN OF COEYMANS MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2026 6:00PM

The Town Board Workshop were held Tuesday September 1, 2026 at 6:00p.m. at 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena N.Y.

PRESENT:	Michael J. Stott, Deputy Supervisor Stephen J. Schmitt, Council Member Patricia Grogan, Council Member
ABSENT:	Stephen Donnelly, Supervisor
ALSO PRESENT:	Candace McHugh, Town Clerk Regina Bryant, Business Office Manager

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

This workshop will focus on 2027 budget discussions by going through page by page.

Town Council: It was discussed that at this time, raises for Town Council will not be given. The amount needed to cover training conferences was discussed along with the different options there are to receive training throughout the year.

Justice Department: The Justice dept. would like their own postage machine. The Business manager explained the monthly cost. It was explained most of the business handled by the courts is via mail. The board would like to be able to provide this to the courts. The judges asked to be considered for raises if the rest of the elected officials are given them. The question was asked if an additional court clerk was needed. It was suggested the Supervisor reach out and asked the judges to come to the next workshop. Additional monies were added to cover the court officer costs and the language interpretation line. Mrs. Bryant said the court was on the path of self-sustaining for this year.

Supervisor: The Supervisor has not requested a raise. Council member Grogan requested there be transparency in the Supervisor pay and budget officer pay. It was explained the Association of Towns suggested keeping the amount separate but posting both in the mandatory posting of salaries. Council member Schmitt stated that raises have been given based on union rates but he feels raises should be merit based. He feels the Supervisor has to give guidance on a raise for the confidential secretary. The expenses for Nearmap will be redistributed between 3 departments instead of 4. The floater rate was discussed and will be adjusted for new floaters. The accountant tentatively will receive a $1,000 raise.

Assessor: The assessor would like to extend her floater hours for the year to continue work on the digital update project. Mrs. Bryant stated there is room within the floater budget for this. It was stated a resolution should be drafted to transfer the funds properly. It was suggested to raise the assessor and her clerks accordingly. There was a request for an increase in the attorney fees due to some pending legal matters.

Records Management: An increase was requested to preserve some vital records books and digitize them.

Town Clerk: Deputy Supervisor Stott suggested granting the requested raise to the salary by $1,000 and giving the deputy a dollar. The Town Clerk asked for her raise to be given to the deputy in addition to the $1 raise the board suggested. The board was okay with this option.

Attorney: This line item has gone overbudget the last 2 years. Council member Schmitt gave two suggestions. His options were raising the budget and/or review the retainer with more detail in hopes to have a better hold on costs. Deputy Supervisor Stott would rather go high and hope it is not used. Deputy Stott stated he is confident in the advice given by our lawyers and understands that comes with a price. It was suggested to raise it to $100,000 tentatively.

Humas Resources: The Business manager would like to increase HR hours and increase the hourly rate by $1. A File cabinet is also requested

Town Hall: It has been suggested to increase this line by $10,000 due to inflated utilities.

Central Garage: Due to gas prices this line has been suggested to increase by $12,000.

Digital Media: Mrs. Bryant suggested lowering this as new vendors are being interviewed.

Insurance: A Slight increase is expected

Law Enforcement: Documentation the Chief prepared was given out to the board. A clearer understanding of the hours and shifts needs to be obtained. A potential chief raise was discussed. Mrs. Bryant broke down the numbers submitted by the chief and gave suggestions on how to modify them. The new union contract did significantly increase the cost.

CodeRED was discussed briefly and the board was hoping to hear from Mr. Bruno on the effectiveness of the system. A decision needs to be made by September 30.

Highway: Mrs. Bryant explained her breakdown of the highway payroll. A raise is being requested by the Superintendent of Highways in the highway budget and in the parks budget. Council member Schmitt reiterated his belief that raises should be based on merit. Council member Grogan asked how our salary is compared to other towns.

Ravena Rescue Squad: Council member Schmitt stated the squad will be looking for an increase if the special district is not in effect, which it will not be. Mrs. Bryant mentioned the squad is behind on handing in ALS paperwork. She has had a difficult time contacting them.

Parks: A raise is being suggested for seasonal laborers by $1.25. Deputy Supervisor Stott feels a raise is in order as does Council member Grogan. Council member Schmitt feels these are hard positions to fill.

Concerts: Attendance is low during concerts. It was suggested minimizing the number of days we hold it. Council member Grogan suggested talking to the Village and trying to make it a combined event and shortening the time frame. The vendors at the farmer's Market were discouraged this year. Deputy Supervisor Stott suggested putting this money towards a yearly bigger event.

Grant Writer: Will be held at $20,000 in the event it is needed to help with the current grants we have.

Cemeteries: Money will continue to be placed in here for the preservation of grave stones in the older sections of the cemetery. Council member Grogan brought up this year's project. 3 additional stones were discovered under a pile and the cost will be $1,000.

Legal Services (B Fund): A slight increase is expected in attorney fees due to current matters before the PBZBA.

Pool Payment: This item was put on hold for further discussion with the Supervisor.

Building Department: Contractual raises will be given. The Building Inspector has asked for a $3 increase. $1 increase was suggested at this time.

Sidewalks: Mrs. Bryant will check and see how much has been spent. Deputy Supervisor Stott did remind the board the sidewalks near the Civil Senior Center are in need of replacement.

B Fund: Mrs. Bryant suggested the board start to think about how the B fund will be funded going forward. Currently it is funded only through fund balance which is getting low.

Machinery (DA Fund): This line is going down due to the inflation of last year being for a down payment on the plow truck.

SS Fund: The Chief Sewer Operator is requesting a $3. Mrs. Bryant asked if there has been any progress on deciding the cost split with the Village. There has not been. The Town is trying to implement the rate increases for commercial and industrial properties which were passed via resolution in 2022. Mrs. Bryant stressed the importance of working out the split with the Village. The question was asked if this position would be better as a salaried position.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Council member Grogan and Seconded by Council member Stott APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 3 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT 1– SO MOVED

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace McHugh, Town Clerk