

March 8, 2022

**Public Hearing**  
**Of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba**  
Held at the Cuba Library, 39 E. Main St. Cuba, NY 14727

Supervisor James called the Hearing to order at 6:45pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. James stated that the Hearing was to hear comments on the renewal of the franchise agreement between Spectrum Northeast, LLC and the Town of Cuba. J. James motioned to close the Hearing. This motion was seconded by Farwell, all in favor, motion passed at 6:59pm.

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba**  
Held at the Cuba Library, 39 E. Main St. Cuba, NY 14727

**Present:**

Supervisor: Lee James

Council Persons: Melodie Farwell, Michele Conklin via zoom, Jacob James via zoom,

Also Present: Allesia Heslin, Town Clerk, Dustin Burch, Police Chief, Ryan Reed, Assessor, Code Enforcement Officer

Absent: Daniel McGraw, Aaron Appleby, Ambulance Administrator, Chad Smith, Highway Superintendent

Supervisor James called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comments:**

Tom Taylor donated a photo book of Cuba's early days to as part of the celebration of Cuba's bicentennial.

**Board Comments:** Conklin thanked everyone for a successful opening celebration for the bicentennial, the fireworks were enjoyed by all. Farwell commented that the bicentennial committee is doing an outstanding job and that she was pleased to see the great turn out for the Cuba Chamber of Commerce dinner.

**Supervisor Comments:** James also thanked the committee for recognizing members of our community that make Cuba a viable place to live.

Librarian Tina Dalton presented the Library's 2021 annual report. 2021 was a much better year for the library than 2020. The library was able to collaborate with the school for many programs. Circulation of books was up 12.9%. Visits to the library were up 14% and the library was able to offer 490 programs in 2021.

**Minutes for 02/08/2022, Supervisor's Report for February & General & Highway Abstracts for March:**

When asked, board members responded yes, they had reviewed the minutes, reports and abstracts.

**The Supervisor's Report** showed the general fund received \$1,469,564.83. The highway fund received \$629,857.38. Disbursements include \$371,338.54 for general and \$37,353.65 for highway.

**The March Abstract #03** dispersed \$77,824.38 from the General Fund and \$18,271.40 from the Highway Fund. On the motion of Conklin and seconded by Farwell the reports were accepted as presented.

**Clerk Comments:** Mackenzie Keiser  
4027 Haskell rd  
Cuba, NY  
(585) 610-0798  
keiser.mackenzie00@icloud.com

March 8, 2022

06 March 2022  
Cuba Town and Village Board Members  
15 Water Street  
17 East Main Street  
Cuba, NY 14727  
(585) 968-1690  
(585) 968- 1560

Dear Cuba Town/Village Board Members,

My name is Mackenzie Keiser, I'm a senior at Cuba-Rushford and I would really like to make a new legalization for our community. As you probably remember, several Cuba residents have been pushing for the legalization of ATV/side by sides on certain town and village roads for the past few years. My goal is to provide enough information to make the legalization possible. I believe many residents would enjoy this legalization, old, young, and middle aged. There would, of course, be laws involved to keep traffic safety and pedestrian safety a top priority. But with your help, we could make this community more enjoyable for everyone! These Cuba residents have done many things to show awareness to this conflict. For example, they've had an informational tent to distribute information for what they're looking to do, and they also have gotten signatures many different times. The residents received a ton of signatures both times, so this means that they've had a lot of residents who support this idea. The signatures are only from the people who live or own property in Cuba, NY, and if they show support of our ideas. At the informational tent they also divided the signatures between the town and village. Residents got the chance to discuss topics with organizations who support our ideas. NYSORVA is an advocacy group that focuses on issues affecting ATV's and side by sides and helps create local private clubs. A few Cuba residents got to talk to the president of NYSORVA at the informational tent to discuss how to create a club. The president stated that forming a local private club would help provide insurance for the club, just like our local snowmobile clubs. But without the support of our town and village members, there will be no reason to open local clubs. The president informed the Cuba resident that creating a club would be very simple and possibly the easiest route to gain support from our board members. Also, if there are any issues with town funding there are grants through YAMAHA and Polaris for signage. Several residents also have mentioned adopting similar laws as Friendship, NY. An officer in the police department has even stated that they've had minor issues with riders on roads because they don't use the roads to joy ride, they just go onto roads for the purpose of getting onto their own private trail systems. With that being said, the statistics of deaths on roads has been very, very slim nationwide. Most of the deaths are due to not wearing helmets, and a law would state that every rider needs to maintain the use of their helmets and seatbelts for safety. Our main reason for wanting this legalized is so we can get from one private trail to the next. My family is very big into riding because it's enjoyable and this is how we like to spend our time together as a family. The idea of this also helps our small community in the economy aspect. If ATV/side by sides could gain access roads in the town and village then this would mean that riders could get gas, snacks, groceries, essentials, etc. from our local businesses. This would help the owners in a tremendous way especially since the pandemic hit. Cuba residents would greatly appreciate the legalization of ATV/side by sides on certain town/village roads. I understand the process of this legalization is dense, but a start would be appreciated. Even just talking to other towns about their laws and writing a paragraph in a local newspaper to get Cuba residents educated on our ideas. I strongly believe this would be a great update to our community and many residents would use this with respect. Please write back to me with your opinions and ideas, or please explain why you wouldn't like to pursue this idea!

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Keiser

Heslin presented Stewart Freeman's junkyard permit letter to allow him to continue to operate the junkyard located at 9807 Route 446. A motion was made by Farwell, seconded by J. James. All in favor, passed

Heslin presented a letter from the Cuba VFW requesting permission to have open containers for their horseshoe league which runs April 1-September 30, 2022. A motion was made by J. James, seconded by Conklin. All in favor, passed.

**Assessor's Comments:**

- Has received about 85% of senior exemptions

- Agricultural exemptions are set
- Have 35 new enhanced stars
- The tax roll will have more solid numbers by the end of the month to prepare for tentative roll

**Police Department Comments:** In the month of February the department conducted 18 traffic stops, 6 in the Town, 3 in the Village, 7 on the Lake, 1 on I-86 for a total of 17 uniform traffic tickets issued. 13 motor vehicle accidents occurred, 1 in the Town, 8 in the Village, 1 on the Lake, and 4 on I-86. There were 139 calls for service.

The department completed their blood born pathogen training, work place violence training, sexual harassment training and continuity of operations training.

Chief Burch asked for approval to hire Steve Keir part-time. On the motion of Conklin, seconded by Farwell. All in favor, passed.

Chief Burch asked for approval to change Officer Kendra Water's status from part-time to part-time competitive to allow her to work more hours. On the motion of Farwell, seconded by J. James. All in favor, passed.

Chief Burch would like to designate the police department's Facebook page as non-formal traditional communication in order to turn off all comments on their page. Counsel has deemed this to be legal. The discussion was tabled for further consideration by the Board.

**Ambulance Comments:**

The Cuba Ambulance Service responded to a total of 10 calls to service in February of 2022. 5 of those calls were taken to Olean General Hospital, 2 were taken to Jones Memorial Hospital and 3 were sign offs, 0 were mutual aid, 0 were standby, 0 were taken by Mercy Flight and 0 were DOA. 3 of these calls were critical care with Cuba handling 2 and Olean 10/MTS handling 1. 6 of these calls were in the Village of Cuba, 3 were in the Town of Cuba, 0 were on the lake, 0 was mutual aid to Friendship, 0 was mutual aid to Clarksville, 1 was to New Hudson and 0 were on I-86.

- Cuba 8 passed its inspection
- Request permission to hire Charles Hamer as a driver for the ambulance. On the motion from Farwell, seconded by Conklin. All in favor, passed.
- The state has added one year on all EMT expiration dates

**Highway Comments:**

- Plowed twelve days in February
- Cold patching pot holes
- Working on washed out shoulders
- Cutting brush

**Equipment Repairs:**

- Replaced spinner and auger valves on 2015 freightliner

**Sewer Committee:** none

**Facilities:** Door locks have been completed, so far there are no issues.

**Dog Control Comments:**

- Justin was given all the equipment
- The old phone number should be up and running
- Justin will create an email account

**Code Enforcement Comments:**

- 1 permit for a shed
- Upcoming permit for a new build on the lake
- Still reviewing Walter Putt's files to see what needs to be wrapped up

**New Business:**

James asked for a motion from the board to accept the Spectrum Northeast, LLC franchise agreement. The board agreed to accept the agreement as written on the motion of Farwell and seconded by J. James. All in favor, passed.

Conklin presented the Town of Cuba Bicentennial Plans

Donations as of 3/8 - \$825

Working on a Calendar of Events

Historical Walking Tour of Churches – Theresa Heinz & Council of Churches

Historical Tours of Cemetery – Tom Taylor, Wendy Sprague, DAR, Drama Clubs

Ghost Tours – Being researched

Web Page – [www.cubany.org](http://www.cubany.org) please check for updates Tom Taylor and Sarah Phearsdorf

Comem. Beer – Eagle Rock and Rohrbach – Steve Raub working on legalities and logo and souvenir pint glasses

Community Picnic – July 24<sup>th</sup> Empire City Farms: Box Lunches, Blessing by Council of Churches, Horse & Wagon Rides, Music (Rushford Town Band), antique games (Cake walk, Croquet, Watermelon Seed Spitting, Sack Races, etc. Visit by George Borello

Bake/Cook Off – Brian Learn, Richard Graves – Deb Burch & Alfred Culinary

Ice Cream Social – Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> at Inlet Pole Barn/Boat launch by DAR, Mary Lindquest, Mary Raymond, Martha Nenno & Connie Wolfinger

Antique Boat & Bicentennial Parade – Connie Wolfinger & Martha Nenno – July 4<sup>th</sup>

Mike Randall 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Mark Twain May 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm

Event in conjunction with 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cuba Library July 15 & 16 Block Party -more details to follow

Historical Vignettes – Palmer Opera House (Connie Doyle & Nettie White)

Historical Cuba Bicentennial Scavenger Hunt – Palmer Opera House

May 15<sup>th</sup> 2 yr. Anniversary Kelly's One of A Kinds & Bicentennial Event

Drift Busters Chicken BBQ in conjunction with Flag Day BBQ -June 12<sup>th</sup>

STARS – Fun Fly & Car Show (Kite Making and Flying Contest) -Steve Raub

Seneca Oil Springs -Waiting to hear

Lions to hopefully hold beard growing contest

Wreaths Across America Event

Dairy Week and Garlic Fest Events TBA

**Old Business:** none

With no further business to discuss, Farwell motioned to adjourn, seconded by J. James. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Allesia A. Heslin, Town Clerk