

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
February 20, 2008 6:30 pm

Attendance: Peter Markou, Supervisor
Robert Antonelli, Councilman
Patrick Walsh, Councilman
Michael Smith, Councilman
Elizabeth Izzo, Clerk

Absent: Lewis O'Connor, Councilman

Supervisor Markou called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was stated. He then mentioned the minutes to be accepted in the March meeting.

He reviewed the resolution:

RESOLUTION # 30-2008

A-FUND BUDGET TRANSFER

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, monies are needed for the Town Attorney's salary for the 2008 Budget, so

A1420.1 Attorney Personnel Services \$7,500.00

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board approve the transfer from the below account to coverage the salary,

A1420.4 Attorney Contractual \$7,500.00

Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 1 (O'Connor) Motion Carried

He then stated he needed a resolution to allow him to sign the Greene County Emergency Medical System contract. Councilman Smith questioned about the second year cost. Supervisor Markou stated the estimated total cost for the County would be one million one hundred thousand dollars. The Town will pick up one third of that after the County picks up a certain amount. Supervisor Markou stated he has a pretty good idea of what the second year's cost will be.

RESOLUTION # 31-2008

GREENE COUNTY EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SYSTEMS ALS
AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT
FOR JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 2009

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill would like to renew the agreement with Greene County Emergency Medical System, Inc. for Emergency Medical Services through an Advanced Life Support Program (“ALS”), for the Town of Catskill, and

WHEREAS, the “ALS” service will be for a two (2) year period commencing January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009, for the Town of Catskill, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the agreement with Greene County Emergency Medical Systems, Inc., to supply “ALS” service to the Town of Catskill, for a total cost of \$119,086 for the year 2008 only. The new figure for 2009 will be received by in September of 2008.

Councilman Walsh, seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 1 (O’Connor) Motion Carried

Supervisor Markou mentioned the County resolution #40-08 regarding closure of the Hudson Correctional Facility.

Supervisor Markou opened the floor to the Catskill Community Center. Andrea Lowenthal, Community Center member, made sure that the Board members received their proposal that was worked on in conjunction with the Recreation Commission for the Summer Recreation proposal.

She stated that the objective of the proposal is to serve the youth of the community and how to best accomplish this. The benefit of bringing Summer Recreation together with Summer Care is that there would be efficient and safe programming for youth under one umbrella. It would also serve several different objectives as a single point of contact for financial control, leverage funds, sustainable programs for youth etc.

The proposal involves the Center assuming responsibility for fiscal and operation management, personnel, payroll, administrative services and coordination. The activities conducted under Summer Recreation with its own commission for 2008 will be overseen by a member of the Recreation Commission becoming a member of the Advisory Council for the Center. This Council is in the process of being developed.

The staffing will be developed as anticipated by Summer Recreation but will be put before the Community Center board. The program manager for the Community Center will interact with the program director for the Summer Recreation program.

Councilman Smith asked if the Community Center is looking at a shortfall of \$3500.00 in their proposed budget as read in the proposal. Andrea stated yes, because in the Town’s budget, payroll taxes, workers comp, and insurance were absorbed in the overall Town

budget. Those expenses needed to be included in the proposed budget that the Community Center developed.

She then stated that the Center would be looking to the program directors to stay within the budget and also there may be some fundraising; however, in lieu of third party funds, the Community Center would look to the Town to cover this shortfall.

Councilman Antonelli wanted to clarify that the money the Town commits to the Recreation Center will be earmarked for the Summer Recreation program. Andrea stated yes.

Supervisor Markou stated he will review the proposal. The Town is under extreme financial pressure. He stated he does not like deficit budget proposals. The \$3500.00 needed to balance out the budget will not come from the Town. Andrea stated that if that is the case, then there may be cutbacks in the program, if needed, to stay within the budget.

Councilman Smith stated this will be a learning curve and to keep the Board advised as if it is positive or negative.

Larry Federman stated that the Recreation Commission does not want to see the Summer Recreation program dissolved. He recommends that this agreement be a one year trial. If it turns out that funding will be a problem then maybe the Town will need to keep the program.

Hudson Talbott stated that if it is only a trial basis than the Community Center will be more involved in the process. He doesn't want to put a lot of time into the program and then have it taken away. He recommends a two year trial basis if that is the case.

The Board will read the proposal and meet to discuss it.

Vincent Seeley, Village President, spoke to the Board regarding several items. First, he presented to the Board a set of plans from the County for the rehab of St. Patrick's School which will house the Courthouse while it is undergoing renovations.

He then spoke about the Village using the Town's Court. The Village used to use the Town's facility but there was a problem and the Village left. Councilman Antonelli stated that at that time, the courtroom took a beating.

Mr. Seeley stated that the problem with the Village courtroom is that it is not handicap accessible. He states that the Village can use tax money to install an elevator, or, he prefers, to have the relationship with the Town reintroduced and hold court in the Town's courtroom, if even for right now, for handicap cases.

Councilman Smith wants to make sure the care and maintenance of the facility is appropriately identified as well as the schedule of use for the courtroom. Then, if the

Village can work around those dates, then talk about the Village's responsibility for the care and maintenance of the room.

Councilman Antonelli stated that it should be up the Town Judges and the Court Clerk to see if it could work out.

Councilman Smith asked Mr. Seeley if he was looking for a full resolution of his situation or for handicap access. Mr. Seeley stated the immediate need is for handicap access and second to that, to talk about the possibility of the Village using the Town's court. Mr. Seeley says there is no reason why he should install the security and update of the court if the Town has already done it.

Councilman Smith stated that having handicap cases here is only a temporary solution and does not address the solution of the Village's issue. He states the broader issue is collaboration between the Village and the Town sharing access subject to the schedule's of the justices.

Supervisor Markou believes that the Village Judges would be accommodating. He believes that a schedule could be worked out with the Town Judges and the Village Judges. He would like the Judges involved in that conversation. Supervisor Markou stated that we do have conference rooms that could be utilized.

Dan Howard stated that there are other departments who use the Courtroom and the Town Clerk has their schedules so she should be involved in the discussion too.

Supervisor Markou stated a meeting will be held with all involved to work this out.

Councilman Antonelli asked if Judge Adsit is willing to come back over and Mr. Seeley stated yes. Mr. Seeley will put a proposal together to present to all involved.

Mr. Seeley then spoke about the island off of Embought Road and the possible naming of the island. At the time it was discussed, the Town Board did not believe they had the authority to name the island as there is some question as to who actually owns the island. Mr. Seeley who has been in discussions with Carol Stevens, County Attorney, stated per her, the island is in the Town's jurisdiction.

Councilman Smith stated if there was some relationship between the naming of the island and the ownership of the land.

Mr. Seeley stated that Mr. Bush established a relationship with Encon as to have eagle's nests there and to have it protected.

Councilman Walsh believes we do not own the island because it is similar to what Cocksackie went through.

Councilman Antonelli stated that he will have the Town Clerk review the minutes because he believes that the outgoing Supervisor stated we did not own the island.

Supervisor Markou stated we need to find out who owns the island first before proceeding with any possible naming of the island.

Supervisor Markou asked Mr. Seeley when he met with the County that St. Patrick's will be going back in the tax rolls. He confirmed that it is, but only the school is on the tax roll, not the gymnasium or the sister's home and the fields. The County will not heat those two buildings.

Supervisor Markou stated that the County already has an appraisal and it is not even close to the Assessor's. He also asked if the County has plans to buy the building after the renovations. Mr. Seeley stated no, that it isn't even in the lease agreement.

Councilman Antonelli asked if the County is paying taxes on the school then who will be paying for the convent and the gym. Mr. Seeley says it can't be proportioned, he believes. He says the estimated tax quote he received from the County is \$36,000.

Supervisor Markou states it can't be proportioned. Councilman Smith stated that if the Diocese is taking away the specified use for tax exemption, would that prevent them from paying taxes on the balance. If it is not being used under a tax exempt status then the whole would be taxable. Councilman Smith stated that this should be referred to council because the core of the property is no longer tax exempt use.

Councilman Antonelli stated that if the County is only paying \$36,000 then the Diocese should pay the rest. We should not set precedent and only have the one building taxed when the whole of the use of the property has changed.

Mr. Seeley stated we should speak to the County because he does not feel comfortable making this is a Diocese issue. Councilman Smith stated it is a Diocese issue because a portion of the property is being rented to the County from the Diocese and the Diocese is accountable. Councilman Smith stated that it is important to put properties that are not on the tax roll that are no longer exempt back on the tax roll.

Councilman Walsh stated that there should be a ruling on this. Councilman Smith stated we need an advice of counsel. Councilman Antonelli stated to send the bill to the Diocese and go from there. Supervisor Markou stated that this issue will be explored.

Supervisor Markou reviewed the Correspondence and the reports. He then opened the meeting for public comment.

Chris Sutherland approached the Board regarding his neighbor's property to see if any of the issues he brought to the Board will be discussed. Councilman Antonelli stated that he and Linda Speckman went to the property in question. Councilman Antonelli stated that he has barrels on this property and that Linda stated he has no violations. Chris stated

that he does and started to read from Town Code by first reading from the Code Enforcement's web page. He stated that Linda has never returned his phone calls.

Councilman Smith interrupted when he began to read and stated that the Code Enforcement Office was not present and suggested that instead of reading from Town Code to write down his position and the violations that exist based upon the code.

Chris will be emailing the information to each Councilman and the Code Enforcement Officer.

Councilman Antonelli stated a letter was sent to the property owner asking him to move the barrels to another part of his property where there is an open foundation. The barrels are not rotten or rusted. They contain stone and some are empty. We are waiting on a response.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Smith. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk