

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
March 18, 2009 6:30 pm

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

Absent: Lewis O'Connor Councilman

Supervisor Markou opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Markou reviewed the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION #25-2009 APPOINTMENT OF EMT (FULL-TIME)
CATSKILL AMBULANCE SQUAD

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Board has authorized the filling of a full-time EMT position for the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service, and

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, Ambulance Administrator, has recommended that Michael Eisshofer be appointed to said position, and

WHEREAS, Michael Eisshofer was employed as an EMT on a part-time basis for the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service and meets the minimum qualifications established for said position, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board appoint Michael Eisshofer to the position of EMT (Full-Time) effective March 10, 2009. The rate of pay shall be \$12.62 per hour and said appointment shall be subject to a probationary period of twenty-six weeks.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

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

RESOLUTION #26-2009 APPOINTMENT OF EMT (FULL-TIME)
CATSKILL AMBULANCE SQUAD

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Board has authorized the filling of a full-time EMT position for the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service, and

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, Ambulance Administrator, has recommended that Ernest Longhi, Jr. be appointed to said position, and

WHEREAS, Ernest Longhi Jr. was employed as an EMT on a part-time basis for the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service and meets the minimum qualifications established for said position, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board appoint Michael Eisshofer to the position of EMT (Full-Time) effective March 10, 2009. The rate of pay shall be \$12.62 per hour and said appointment shall be subject to a probationary period of twenty-six weeks.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #27-2009

APPOINTMENT OF EMT (FULL-TIME)
CATSKILL AMBULANCE SQUAD

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Board has authorized the filling of a full-time EMT position for the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service, and

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, Ambulance Administrator, has recommended that James Fowles be appointed to said position, and

WHEREAS, James Fowles was employed as an EMT on a part-time basis for the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service and meets the minimum qualifications established for said position, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board appoint Michael Eisshofer to the position of EMT (Full-Time) effective February 13, 2009. The rate of pay shall be \$12.62 per hour and said appointment shall be subject to a probationary period of twenty-six weeks.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Motion Carried

Supervisor Markou stated that even though there was a hiring freeze, these positions were filled because we wanted to make sure the Ambulance service was covered.

RESOLUTION #28-2009

APPROVAL OF MOBILE PARK LICENSE

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve the attached job description for Clerk for the Senior Center.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

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

RESOLUTION #31-2009

APPOINTMENT TO PART-TIME
CLEANER OF SENIOR CENTER

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Senior Center, located at 1 Academy Street, Catskill, NY, has a part-time position of cleaner, and

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Board would like to appoint Celeste Bell to such position, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve appointment of Celeste Bell effective retroactively September 25, 2005.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0 Absent 0 Motion Carried

Supervisor Markou asked if Mr. Roe would like to address the board. Mr. Roe stated he is from WGXC-FM. This is the new community radio station for Greene and Columbia County. He is hoping to be on the air by next June. He is going to start the on-line version of the station this May with radio streams. He was hoping to have a morning and afternoon news program.

He also would like to invite anyone in the Community who may be interested in helping out the station or maybe hosting a show. There was a public meeting held at the Community Center in February. One of the studios will be in the Community Center. They also will start youth workshops at the Center. They would like the youth to host an online show in conjunction with the Second Saturday.

He would like to air the Town's meetings, school plays, community events etc. He is interested in web casting town meetings first. He asked if the Town has any web connectivity or WIFI in the building. He also may be able to bring in a microphone and use it via a cell phone. This way anyone in the Community can listen to the meeting in its entirety via the web. Eventually he would like to have the meetings air over the radio. The call number will be 90.7 FM.

Supervisor Markou stated welcome to the Community.

Supervisor Markou polled the Board. No comment.

He asked for Public comment. Mr. Joe Izzo asked the Board about the Babe Ruth League and use of the field.

Supervisor Markou stated they came to the Government Operations meeting and he stated to both leagues, Babe Ruth and Little League, that they need to cooperate with each other and that the Town will not get involved in a school yard squabble. If they don't cooperate with each other though, the Town will do it for them.

Mr. Izzo asked if for now, the only function of the Town is still as lessor; that no dollar amounts are going into that. Supervisor Markou stated no dollar amounts are going into that.

Councilman Smith asked the prior Supervisor if he had an agenda. Mr. Izzo stated an agenda on what. Councilman Smith stated that you are here relative to the league and asked why. Mr. Izzo stated he is here because of the fact that individuals have come before the board and asked for financial assistance. He stated the only way the Board can or may entertain financial assistance is that the Babe Ruth league has to terminate the lease. The way the lease is written is that the league has to incur all the expenses. The Town is not to incur any expense. If it was to move forward, then in his opinion, they either have to get together and raise enough money to support both leagues, or Babe Ruth gets together and states to the Town they want to terminate the lease with the Town. That is the only way that the Town can take the ball field back over.

Councilman Antonelli stated we can terminate the lease. Mr. Izzo asked why the Board would want to do that when there are organizations that want to use the field.

Councilman Antonelli stated they haven't asked for any money. Mr. Izzo stated that if you read between the lines, this isn't something that just occurred. This has been happening for awhile. He stated that when he was on the Board they approached and asked for financial assistance.

Supervisor Markou stated the meeting tonight was how everyone can use the field. If they can't come to a compromise, the Board will take back the field by any means possible.

Mr. Izzo stated he doesn't know if the Board has a legal right to take it back but would need to defer to the lease agreement. He stated that as long as Babe Ruth is a viable organization and they haven't done anything to break the lease in any way, shape or form, there is not much the Board can do.

Councilman Smith stated that Mr. Izzo is here to support the lessee of the lease. Mr. Izzo stated he would like to see the Babe Ruth League survive. Councilman Smith stated that with that said, all of us here are here relative to this lease because it supports the kids in our Community. Mr. Izzo agreed. Councilman Smith stated that if these guys do nothing then there are not supporting the kids. He stated there are provisions in the lease that are

the requirements of the lessee. Councilman Smith stated that if the Babe Ruth league is not living up to the spirit of that agreement, then from his point of view as a Town Councilman, he will do everything in his power to terminate the lease. The lease is not about a lessee with power that doesn't take care of kids. It is about using the field for the children.

Mr. Izzo stated that is the point he is trying to make. The point is that if the Babe Ruth knows, in their hearts, that they can no longer financially run that field, then they should come to the Board and ask to be out of the lease because they wouldn't be able to do justice to the purpose of the lease. Mr. Izzo stated this would be the easiest for the Board.

Councilman Antonelli stated that pride gets in the way. Last year they had seventeen teams, this year they have four teams.

Mr. Izzo stated it is incumbent upon them to work it out, but also, if they are no longer a viable organization, to admit that and allow the field to be used for the purpose intended.

Councilman Smith stated the Supervisor made it very clear that they need to come up with a proposal that defines the position of Babe Ruth, the Little League and the High School. If they don't come up with the proposal, then the Town Board is agreeable to have the Supervisor make recommendations as to the alternative use of the field.

Supervisor Markou stated that if the Babe Ruth is in financial trouble they are not ready to admit it. Mr. Izzo stated then it is incumbent upon them to open up and say this is the situation and admit that they need community help. He believes that people misunderstand that they have a lease and under the lease they need to perform. He stated why would the Board need to take the action to try to break the lease when it should be a mutual decision. This would put the Board in a bad position and it shouldn't be placed in that position. The lease was done because previous Boards and this Board is concerned about the youth and having a baseball field. It was also thrust upon it because the cemetery association dissolved.

Supervisor Markou asked if there was any further comment. With no comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Walsh. Meeting ended at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk