

CATSKILL TOWN BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

April 15, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Catskill held their committee meeting on April 15, 2015 at Town Hall at 6:30 pm. The meeting was opened with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present:

Joseph Leggio, Supervisor
Robert Antonelli, Councilman
Pat Walsh, Councilman
Gary Carlson, Councilman
Jared Giordiano, Councilman

Also Attending: Michael Smith, Town Attorney

Supervisor Leggio stated the first order of business is the discussion on the proposed local law. Most of the people in the room were at the meeting last night. The basis of the public hearing was to provide information so the residents/taxpayers have an opportunity to vote on the issue. The general public elects us to do what they think are right and it is not always easy with public opinion, peer pressure. Either we adopt the local law and have a vote or we drop it and move on. Supervisor Leggio asked if there was any comment. He stated this proposal was not about any individual but came from trying to find a better way to spend taxpayer's money. The services we provide and the amount of money to provide those services is limited.

Ms. Young asked if the board could legally vote on it tonight without public notice. Mr. Smith stated the board stated last night they would be considering it at tonight's meeting. Ms. Young stated she went to the BOE and they stated they are not participating in the election and the brunt of the election would fall on the town clerk such as needing the list of registered voters, absentee ballots, decision on where to have voting. Mr. Smith stated the information the BOE gave her is incorrect. Under State Law a referendum can be held putting forth to the voters by special election or at general election. There was a meeting with the BOE three weeks ago and we have received a letter stating the BOE is there to assist us. Ms. Young stated she was told the opposite; that the board received a letter stating they would not be running the election. Mr. Smith stated that is incorrect. Ms. Young stated the BOE will set the regulations such as where to vote. Mr. Smith stated the BOE is chosen by the town board. The town board selects the date of election, the content of the proposition and the county provides the voting machines, ballots and supplies a list of electors.

Mr. Schmatz asked who pays for this. Mr. Smith stated the town board determined to use ballot boxes as opposed to voting machines which would reduce the cost. He stated the BOE would oversee the paper ballot and there would be two people from each party to oversee the ballot process. Supervisor Leggio stated the total cost of the election would be between \$12-13,000.

Councilman Carlson stated he was vehement to have an elected highway superintendent in the beginning but the discussion wasn't should it be elected or appointed. The discussion was does the public have a right to vote. That was the paramount issue. At the public hearing there were people who didn't live here, village officials who don't have any say with this, a Greene County Legislator who only wanted to bash the board. The individual last night presented the other side of the story; to show the benefit or not. The majority of the board is to put to a referendum and have the community have the right to vote. Mr. Schmatz stated it is working as is.

Mr. Izzo had a question stating the money for the community center and senior center has nothing to do with the highway budget. They are in the a-fund. The highway is in the outside fund. If the highway department is accountable outside the village, would only town residents vote? Supervisor Leggio stated everyone would vote; town and village.

Mr. Schmatz asked what the salary would be for an appointed person. Supervisor Leggio stated they have just started down this road. Mr. Schmatz stated the board is not telling the taxpayers the total truth. Supervisor Leggio stated if the local law is passed people will have 60 days to make an informed decision.

Councilman Giordiano stated he has spoken with a lot of people. Everyone wants an elected person. The gentlemen last night presented the opposite of elected. It comes down to a person's ability to vote. There is a shrinking tax base. If we can get more money from the Governor...Supervisor Leggio stated municipalities contract their road services to the county. Consolidation doesn't necessarily mean the Village.

Supervisor Leggio asked what the pleasure of the board is in regard to the local law. Supervisor Leggio stated he will vote no as there are numerous other things going on and he doesn't have the time to deal with this. *Resolution #34-2015 with motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Walsh to adopt local law abolishing the office of town superintendent of highways and establishing the office of appointed town superintendent of highways with said appointment being made by the town board of the town of Catskill. Failed Roll Call Vote: 1 Aye (Antonelli) 4 Nay (Carlson, Walsh, Giordiano, Leggio)*

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Alan Tavenner updated the sewer project. He stated he has a meeting with Mrs. Fagan tomorrow at 1 pm to discuss the easement. Supervisor Leggio told Mr. Tavenner to send an email with the dates and times of meetings and to also send everyone an eminent domain letter. Mr. Tavenner stated the first step in that process is to have an appraisal done to establish fair market value of the property. Mr. Tavenner stated he will send a letter to Abel and Birnbaum.

He also stated we need more test borings. H2H did the first round but he will be back next month with more quotes. He also stated he will get a price for appraisals but will hold off doing appraisals for now.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Supervisor Leggio stated the brush dump is set to open Saturday and who would they like to work there. Councilman Walsh and Councilman Giordiano stated to keep the person the same as last year, which is Peter.

Supervisor Leggio stated we need a resolution to transfer money from the landfill account for the administration of the landfill for the year 2014 & 2015. *Resolution #35-2015 with motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Walsh to transfer \$10,768 total, which is the salary and social security for year 2014 & 2015, from the landfill account to the landfill administrator. Adopted 5 Ayes*

Supervisor Leggio stated there are applications coming in for seasonal help. If anyone knows someone who is looking for part time seasonal help to reach out. We have tried in the past to hire college students for minor work. This is not part of the bargaining agreement so management has the right to set salary. *Resolution #36-2015 with motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Walsh to create a line item in the budget for seasonal employees at a rate of pay of \$12.50 per hour. Adopted 5 Yes*

Supervisor Leggio stated he has a memo from the Code office regarding the local laws to relevy fines. He would like the board to review and it will be discussed at the next meeting and a public hearing will be scheduled.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. June stated a representative from the EMS task force had talked to the board. The Supervisor asked him to re-evaluate the cost estimate to advance the town to paramedic level. In order to accommodate the current full time staff, as there are not enough hours on the schedule for the fulltime obligations, the addition of a third crew will accomplish this to get the number of shifts needed to not lay anyone off.

He stated it is just under \$85,000 in gross payroll and adding everything else it is \$112,607 final. The cost of the medications required to carry will significantly increase. The total equipment expense is \$54,000. The first year start up is \$166,607. We are paying GCEMS \$189,533. This would be a cost savings of \$23,000 in year one. It would be \$40,000 in year two if everything

stays the same. He stated the net effect is if we look at the overall system, if GCEMS has four paramedics and we add two, there would be six in the county. If staff reduces to three, we would now have five in the county. We have heard their presentation, we have the updated information, now we can evaluate.

Supervisor Leggio asked if the task force has any more meetings. Mr. June stated he is not aware of any as the pace of the work has slowed. They are meeting with individual towns to see how many communities will sign onto the program.

Supervisor Leggio asked about the mountaintop. Mr. June stated he can't speak to that as he has no idea. Councilman Carlson stated Mr. June is familiar with the system as he sat on the task force board and asked what his recommendation is. Mr. June stated since he has been hired, he has been told this is the route the board wishes to follow. It is feasible. We will need to work with GCEMS for mutual aid but it won't create a large division. Councilman Giordiano stated it is a better level of service for our town residents.

Supervisor Leggio stated we told Ron Rouse we would get back to him and asked George to set up a meeting and we will address it at the next meeting. Mr. June stated the longer we wait the longer it takes to implement. Supervisor Leggio asked how long that would be. Mr. June stated four months. We need approval from REMO and they do not meet in July or August. Councilman Carlson stated he believes a motion was set and when he is ready, the motion has been voted on to move forward. Mr. June stated there will be an expense. We need to get a letter of intent to REMO for their May meeting so they can act on it and we are ready to move forward. Councilman Giordiano stated let's go. Councilman Carlson stated go. Councilman Walsh stated to go but questioned the budget. Mr. June stated we are looking at a \$54,000 expense. Councilman Carlson asked about the notice for GCEMS. Mr. June stated it is 90 days. *Resolution #37-2015 with motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Antonelli to proceed with advancing the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service to an ALS Service. Adopted 5 Yes.*

Supervisor Leggio asked if anyone had any further comment. With no further comment a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Walsh second by Councilman Carlson. Meeting ended 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk

