

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
April 16, 2025 6:30 pm

PRESENT:	Patrick McCulloch,	Supervisor
	Jared Giordiano,	Councilman
	Dawn Scannapieco,	Councilman
	Steven Espel,	Councilman
	Brain Kozloski,	Councilman

Supervisor McCulloch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING – Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC

Supervisor McCulloch asked the clerk to read the notice.

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Catskill. For the approval of a Cable Television Agreement between Spectrum Northeast LLC and the Town of Catskill.

Please take notice the Catskill Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on April 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm at Town Hall, 439 Main St., Catskill, NY regarding renewal of the cable television franchise agreement by and between the Town of Catskill and Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications.

A copy of the agreement is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Town Clerk's Office, 439 Main St., Catskill, NY and the Town of Catskill's website www.townofcatskillny.gov. At such public hearing, all people will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written and oral statements will be taken at that time. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement if necessary. By Order of the Catskill Town Board, Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk, April 2, 2025.

Supervisor McCulloch asked if anyone had any comment regarding the agreement. With no comment being heard, a motion to end the public hearing was made by Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilwoman Scannapieco. The public meeting ended at 6:31 pm.

The regular meeting was reconvened.

Supervisor McCulloch reviewed the following resolutions:

Resolution # 41-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Kozloski authoring the Supervisor sign the franchise renewal agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 42, 43, 44-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Kozloski approving the hiring of Alana Columbus, Cameron Sossa, and Jennifer Joannette as EMT's on the recommendation of George June, Ambulance Administrator, effective April 20, 2025 at a rate of pay of \$21.55 per hour. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 45-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Espel authorizing the expenditure of \$3,500.00 as part of the upgrades to the elevator as presented by Doyle Security. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 46-2025 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, seconded by Councilman Espel updating the smoke-free policy for all town parks to include cannabis and vaping and the installation of signs at town parks. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 47-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Espel approving the hire of Bill Oettinger as seasonal cemetery help effective April 17, 2025. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 48-2025 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, seconded by Councilman Espel to advertise for seasonal cemetery help. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Supervisor McCulloch stated Pat Esposito would like the board to budget for tree replacement in the cemetery for next year. Councilman Giordiano would also like to work with the cemetery custodian about having memorial trees in the cemetery.

Supervisor McCulloch stated he and Councilman Espel met with the commissioners of Palenville Fire Department to review issues they have in the hamlet. They would like to have signs placed in vacant buildings and signs placed in buildings that are Airbnb's.

Supervisor McCulloch stated the Highway Superintendent wishes to purchase a 2012 2500 Chevy 4 x 4 truck from Henderson Oil in the amount of \$11,000.00 with monies coming from the equipment line. Resolution # 49-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Espel authorizing the purchase of a 2012 2500 Chevy 4 x4 truck in the amount of \$11,000.00 for the Highway Department. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Supervisor McCulloch stated the town is in the process of enacting a local law for wireless facilities (cell towers) and this local law requires SEQRA review and the town wishes to be lead agent in the SEQRA process. Resolution # 50-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Kozloski declaring the Town Board as lead agent for SEQRA regarding the establishment of Local Law 4 of 2025 and the personal wireless facilities overlay district.

Resolution # 51-2025 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, seconded by Councilman Kozloski to schedule a public hearing for Local Law 4 of 2025 amending the code of the Town of Catskill to include a new chapter on personal wireless facilities, amendment to the solar energy use law and subdivision and zoning chapters for Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:30 pm at Town Hall. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Supervisor McCulloch asked Alex of the New York Energy Alliance (“NYEA”) to present his thoughts on the Hudson Valley Power Authority (“HVPA”) proposal and why the town should not be in favor of it.

Alex stated that the New York Energy Alliance is a statewide group who advocate reliable energy for families and industries in NYS. He stated they are present tonight to discuss the risks associated with HPVA’s proposal to take over Central Hudson and their strong position the town should say no to their proposal.

HVPA’ s proposal does not know if it would lower energy bills. He reviewed why energy bills are increasing which has much to do with state mandates with climate control being passed onto payers. He stated Central Hudson spends \$75 million to meet the climate mandates.

He reviewed the system costs if HVPA took over and the breakdown per Central Hudson user which would be \$39,000 per household or \$1,300 per year for 30 years.

He stated HVPA is going town to town and demanding a resolution from them to present to the state and he needs towns to be more skeptical and not accept their proposal and demand a sensible energy proposal.

Pat Whalen, VC Local 320, stated HVPA would have to buy Central Hudson and the expense would be passed on to the taxpayers. There are 83 municipalities Central Hudson is a part of and there would be more cost for the taxpayers.

Supervisor McCulloch stated the biggest concern is the relationship we have with the local workers at Central Hudson and he does not want the town to lose that. The board appreciated them speaking on this topic this evening.

Public Comment:

Joe Izzo asked if the town was aware of the study being done by the county in Cementon to provide economic development. Supervisor McCulloch stated he is aware and he and Councilman Espel had a meeting with the county about it.

Mr. Izzo asked if there was an update on the county’s ambulance study. Supervisor McCulloch stated it is being worked through. The Town’s stance is still the same and no proposal has been submitted yet.

Supervisor McCulloch asked if there was any further comment.

Councilman Espel stated the Use and Occupancy Permit has been signed by all parties regarding the pocket park in Palenville and Supervisor McCulloch stated before any work can commence, the town will need a permit from the state.

With no further discussion, Supervisor McCulloch asked for a motion to enter an executive session to discuss ambulance employees inviting County Legislators Luvera, Bulich and Lanuto. A motion was made by Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Espel. The executive session began at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk

As told by Councilman Giordiano, a motion to exit executive session and end the meeting was made by Councilman Espel, seconded Councilman Kozloski. The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.