

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Palenville Fire House
May 16, 2012 6:30 pm

Attendance: Joseph Leggio, Supervisor; Robert Antonelli, Councilman; Pat Walsh, Councilman; Gary Carlson, Councilman; Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Absent: Kevin Lennon, Councilman

Supervisor Leggio opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. H reviewed the correspondence. He mentioned a letter from the Garden Club who plants flowers in the urns in Catskill. They are asking for a \$40 donation.

RESOLUTION #69-2012 CATSKILL GARDEN CLUB

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Garden Club helps beautify Main Street by planting spring bulbs in the urns outside of Town Hall and other Main Street establishments; and

WHEREAS, they are requesting a small donation to help defray this cost; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the amount of the suggested donation of \$40.00 be sent to the Catskill Garden Club to assist in their endeavor.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 1 (Lennon) Motion Carried

Supervisor Leggio reviewed the resolutions:

RESOLUTION #66-2012 APPOINTMENT PART TIME EMT

Councilman Walsh presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, Ambulance Administrator, has recommended appointing Kevin McGee part time EMT; an

WHEREAS, Kevin McGee meets the minimum qualifications established for said position, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the appointment of Kevin McGee EMT part-time effective May 16, 2012.

Councilman Antonelli seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #67-2012

APPOINTMENT PART TIME EMT

Councilman Walsh presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, Ambulance Administrator, has recommended appointing Ashley Rose part time EMT; an

WHEREAS, Ashley Rose meets the minimum qualifications established for said position, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the appointment of Ashley Rose EMT part-time effective May 16, 2012.

Councilman Carlson seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #68-2012

HIRE PIPE BAND FOR MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE

Councilman Walsh presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill will be participating in the Memorial Day activities; and

WHEREAS, John Gallagher of Middle Fort Pipe Band has played during Memorial Day Observances; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby hires the Middle Fort Pipe Band to play at the Village & Town of Catskill's 2012 Memorial Day Observances for the sum of \$750.00.

Councilman Antonelli seconded this motion.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

Supervisor Leggio stated a memo was sent to the Highway Department regarding summer hours. It is not part of the collective bargaining agreement. He is sending the letter because the agreement has to go before the Town Board and the bargaining agreement. A copy was given to everyone to review.

Supervisor Leggio opened the meeting to public comment. Mr. Omerod asked what the latest and greatest is regarding the road by the church. Supervisor Leggio stated he spoke with Mr. Pratorius yesterday. The road project next to the firehouse, the culvert by Goss's property, and Pennsylvania Avenue project work orders have not been finalized between FEMA and the engineers. Kevin Lennon has been handling most of that, not to throw him under the bus or anything. He has been called out of town for business tonight. Basically, what has been happening is all along with the projects is they send someone down who is their agent, so to speak, they get half way through, and then they pull that agent and a new agent comes down and the process starts all over again. This has gone on three or four times in the last five to six months. A meeting with Mr. Pratorius will be held next Tuesday night in Catskill. If all the paperwork that FEMA requires is in order we should be able to go out to bid shortly. The hang up is the engineer says it is going to cost approx. 1.2 to 1.3 million dollars to do just this project. FEMA is under the impression that they can do just the wall for \$500,000 to \$600,000. Before you can get anywhere there is a lot of negotiating and he thinks there is just not enough money to go around and maybe the same is happening in other communities, so the longer the delay the, I don't know for sure.

Mr. Omerod told the Supervisor to look into his crystal ball and what does he see as the guesstimate as a time frame. Supervisor Leggio said his crystal ball was January 1st bond money in February or March and be out to bid by June 1st and it would have been done by middle of September. I would say, Gary could probably help me out, he knows there are some requirements, and they can't go into the stream between June and August. Gary stated June 1st until September 30th but you can get a permit to go in there.

A resident asked if it was possible to get the road back to a single lane. Supervisor Leggio stated being the road is closed, the funding and, he is speaking of the cuff, if the road is open it might not be as great danger to have the repairs done. Being the road is closed, and he is unsure of the make-up, he knows it is undermined, and if it were to open we wouldn't be putting money in the road to do a temporary repair to get it open for a month or so. He doesn't know where we stand until we get the reports back from the engineers. It is not for a lack of trying it just seems to be the way the process is going. Supervisor Leggio asked Gary if he had the same problem with the county projects. Gary stated a little bit but we are progressing pretty nicely. He said the problem with this is it is a large and the town and the engineers from FEMA have to agree on the scope of the project. It is not really about the money. Because it is a large project whatever the cost is

that is the cost but they have to agree on the scope and apparently they aren't agreeing yet. That is what needs to be done.

Mr. Roberts asked if Kevin is working on this. Supervisor Leggio stated yes. He stated he has been going up to Albany. He has a ton of paperwork going back from him and highway and FEMA. Supervisor Leggio stated when he came on in January, he would have been six months out; he couldn't even get caught up in something going on like that. Mr. Omerod stated when he was working you never talk to the clerk you go to the President of the company and maybe Kevin needs to do that. He stated you need to go to the President of the company, your Senators. Mr. Roberts stated that is the way to go. Put pressure from above. Mr. Omerod stated this is an election year.

Councilman Antonelli stated Kevin has talked to the Assemblyman and has been in contact with him. Chet Garrison asked why this isn't the whole town board and not just a one man band here. It should be all of you folks to put the pressure on to get the road open. He doesn't think this is a one man show and he understands that he (Kevin) has been appointed but can't we get some push along from you folks as a group.

Councilman Carlson stated as a group we did met together and went over the various projects throughout the stream corridor. To be honest, there is a lot of different aspects going on within the township and unlike any businessman, like yourself, you divide things and you work together but also you work as individuals and this is one of the projects Kevin has taken on being he was on the board prior to himself and Mr. Leggio and this is one of his responsibilities. Although all of us are aware and assist, he is the main guy. Too many cooks in the kitchen ruin the soup. He is the head and we are aware of what is going on and we support him. He has been in touch with our local senator and congressman and they are on board and pushing things. He keeps meticulous records as far as who he has talked to. He tapes conversations. We are fully appraised on the steps he has taken and we work together as a collective board, however, just like I said, as a cook in the kitchen you can't have all of them adding spices to the soup. We are working as a collaborative group but he is the point man.

Mr. Roberts asked about Cauterskill Avenue.. Supervisor Leggio said Cauterskill Avenue and Mill Road those are not under FEMA. They are under a different agency and they supposedly are ready to go. Those two projects, as we start doing them, they will start paying us as the work is completed. We are just waiting for the final o.k. Mr. Roberts stated the creek is getting ready to get next to the road soon.

Supervisor Leggio acknowledged Mr. Dombrowski. Mr. Dombrowski is speaking before the board as a representative of Palenville the Hamlet. They are trying to reconstruct and deal with the issues surrounding the Swinging Bridge prior to the hurricane and the conditions now. He

asked the board to look over a resolution he is presenting tonight. Mr. VanAlstyne gave the board a copy. At this point he stated we are not requesting any physical or fiscal commitment from the town in support of the Swinging Bridge project. He stated there is widespread support in Palenville. It has been an important part of the fabric of the community for a long time.

Supervisor Leggio asked how long they are in the project. Mr. VanAlstyne stated both sides of the bridge are on private property owned by Mr. Rodriguez. There is a historic right of way established within that property that is a public right of way. We have spoken with one engineering firm and less formerly another so we have another idea what we are looking at structural and physically. Due to the budget constraints of Palenville the Hamlet as an entity we haven't gone too much farther down that path. We have retained legal counsel for investigation of title and right of way issues and to assuage private property concerns with regard to legal liabilities and protection from liabilities under the general obligations law. This along with building community support is where we need to look before we blast away with fundraising supports.

Councilman Carlson stated being an almost lifelong resident of Palenville and having utilized the bridge many times as a young dot, we as a group looked at the bridge a few weeks back to see the damage that had occurred and it was disheartening to say the least. He supports this resolution and the efforts of my fellow hamlet members in supporting this.

Councilman Walsh is in full agreement in supporting the resolution. He stated it is important to keep the Swinging Bridge if possible. He understands it will be tough to raise the money for it and the access may be a real problem but he supports their efforts.

Bob Malkin who owns the Waterfall House on Malden Avenue, which is a vacation rental home, believes a kick starter fundraiser on the internet would be good start to raise some money and he would be willing to contribute a weekend rental to those who contribute a certain amount of money.

Mr. Roberts stated in previous years Central Hudson donated cables and work to help re-establish. He is unsure whether they would do this now but they should be contacted.

Mr. Dombrowski provided documentation to the board. He submitted some photos that were taken. Supervisor Leggio also reiterated Mr. Carlson's sentiment about the Swinging Bridge. He stated there aren't a lot of historic places left. He applauds their efforts and doesn't have a problem supporting their efforts.

Councilman Antonelli stated we had the bridge came up when the State was going to do 23 over again. There were problems about the right of way then. This is the first issue that should be

addressed. Mr. Rodriguez owned it then and had his attorney send letters to the town and we didn't have the right and he wasn't going to let people use it and was afraid of the liability and everything else. He thinks this is one of the issues that have to be address before you move forward. He believes this is the main issue and once solved you can progress. It is a historical bridge and it should be rehabbed.

RESOLUTION # 70-2012

SUPPORT EFFORTS PALENVILLE THE
HAMLET FOR SWINGING BRIDGE

Councilman Walsh presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Palenville Swinging Bridge has been a significant cultural, historical and practical asset to the Hamlet of Palenville; and

WHEREAS, the loss of the Swinging Bridge to Hurricane Irene has been detrimental to the community of Palenville; and

WHEREAS, a restored Swinging Bridge would be a useful infrastructure improvement, a community asset and a cultural centerpiece in Palenville; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board supports the people of Palenville and its agents, especially Palenville the Hamlet, Inc., in their effort to rebuild the Palenville Swinging Bridge.

Councilman Carlson seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

Al Schneck, past President of the Palenville Cemetery, wondered if there was any talk of the town taking over the Palenville Cemetery. He is asking because the last meeting the organization had was about two years ago. We have a person who takes care of the cemetery cutting the grass but because of his age he can't weed whack around the stones. He would like to see if the town would be interested in taking it over. He stated the Town of Catskill cemetery looks beautiful and Palenville has weeds all around it.

Councilman Antonelli stated the cemetery would have to dissolve for us to take it over. There is a process. Mr. Schneck asked how you go about that process. Councilman Antonelli stated he could get the information to him. Mr. Schneck asked if Gary had anything to say about it. Gary Harvey stated he would rather not make a comment but there is a new person taking care of the lawn mowing and the weed whacking on board.

Mr. Roberts puts out the flags in the cemeteries in this area. There is a private cemetery on Woodstock Avenue. For years he has mowed the grass and picked up the leaves and everything. He can't do it anymore physically. He is wondering if the town could send a few people to take care of the whole thing. Supervisor Leggio stated the Highway Superintendent does maintain some of the "abandoned" cemeteries. We can contact him and if he isn't interested we can see if our cemetery custodian can do it once for the holiday.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was any further comment. A woman stating there was a naming of the new bridge on Woodstock Avenue and she spoke with the Keller Construction and they are interested in putting up a plaque on the County Bridge. They are willing to pay for the entire thing. It would say Tannery Brook and then the names of the people responsible for building it. Supervisor Leggio told her we would look into the process. Councilman Antonelli stated the County would take care of. Supervisor Leggio stated we can forward it to the County.

This same woman states she is still working on a grant for Rowena School. She had an agency that is offering \$200,000 which is not even a fifth of the asking price. There are issues taking it off the tax rolls. She doesn't know how the county will feel in developing a grant. The idea would be to have an art school associated with the Art Student League and Pratt College to see if they want an adjunct school here. They have one in Utica.

Her third question is if the board is making any resolutions as a town against fracking possibilities. Some other municipalities and villages who are adjacent to the Catskill's are doing that.

Supervisor Leggio stated he hasn't heard of anyone wanting to do any fracking. The audience member asked if the town is interested in doing a resolution as a matter of protection. This is very important. Supervisor Leggio stated we live in very difficult times. Just today in town hall one of the town properties had a tax certiorari case and their assessment was reduced in almost half because of flood damage and what have you. The outlook doesn't look much better for next year. As much as he would like to see someone restore the school and see someone do something with the school the actuality of it coming off the tax rolls is slim. He stated he doesn't know enough about fracking. If it becomes an issue here we would have to address it but if someone is trying to bring business in the town we should make every effort to entice them, maybe not fracking, but there is no need to address that unless it comes here.

This audience member stated it is really important to look into what our community needs for the future. We have been banking on and providing the economy on the beautiful clear water. It is essential that when you look at a few jobs for a short period of time and the damage. Supervisor Leggio stated he didn't say that. He remembers when he was a kid there were three cement plants and people had dusty old cars and there was no air quality. The audience member stated

people died young. Supervisor Leggio stated he knows quite a few people that are 94 and 95 years old and they are probably in better shape than half of us in this room. The jobs are diminishing. They are less and less to make a living and still enjoy the things we are talking about.

Councilman Antonelli stated we need to bring jobs into the community. Right now we are facing \$10 million in assessed valuation that we are going to lose. Something needs to be made up someplace. Councilman Antonelli stated there were over a thousand people who worked at the cement plant and yes it was dangerous. His father died of lung cancer but we still need to bring jobs into the community. The audience member stated to look at your budgets. The money you are putting into your insurance pool and high interest is going up and out of the county and up and out of the state and this is where we need to get it back. You need to advocate using local entities to insure your projects and handling your investments.

Councilman Carlson stated he is not informed enough to make an informed decision. An audience member stated fracking destroys wells and once they are poisoned we don't get them back. Another audience member asked the board to please take it on to become informed so if this effort becomes an issue we are not trying to get informed under the gun.

Councilman Carlson stated it gives us an opportunity to look into it. We were not prepared for this tonight. We have meetings in other hamlets and will bring the issue to them too and see how they feel about it also since it will affect the entire township. If the entire township feels the same way a resolution can be done.

William Brockway approached the board about outdoor wood boilers. He purchased property on Cairo Junction Road. He has five acres and all he smells is smoke. His question to the board is if they would consider regulating older units. He is not for banning of boilers but feels there needs to be some regulations; stack height, months of operation, setbacks. DEC has regulations on new wood boilers and hope the town will do something to regulate units already in existence.

Supervisor Leggio asked how close his neighbors are. Mr. Brockway stated the unit is about four feet off the property line. It sits about 150 feet from his house. His yard is approximately 4 acres mowed and everywhere he goes in his yard he smells smoke. He stated there is a low lying fog across his yard.

Councilman Antonelli stated this was brought up before. New York was in the process of passing rules and regulations. He will need to check with the Code Enforcement Office. He stated one of the biggest problems is he thinks people are burning everything; all their garbage. Supervisor Leggio asked him to leave a contact number.

Councilman Carlson stated he owns an outdoor wood boiler and he will remove himself from any discussion.

Mr. Brockway stated as of 2008 there are sixty towns that have ban/regulations. He is not asking for a ban but for some regulations.

Ron Dombrowski thanked the board for their support of the Swinging Bridge. Supervisor Leggio asked if there were any further comment. With no further comment a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Carlson and seconded by Councilman Walsh. Meeting ended 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk