Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
May 18, 2011 6:30 pm

Attendance:	Pat Walsh,	Acting Supervisor
	Robert Antonelli,	Councilman
	Michael Smith,	Councilman
	Kevin Lennon,	Councilman
	Elizabeth Izzo,	Town Clerk

Acting Supervisor Walsh opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The following resolutions were reviewed:

RESOLUTION #36-2011 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 Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #38-2011 APPROVE CEMENTON SEWER BI-ANNUAL FEES FOR 2011

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the bi-annual Cementon Sewer User fees for second half of 2011 will be due commencing July 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the user fee for the second half of the year will be $294.44 per unit; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board approve the Cementon Sewer User fee for July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in the amount of $294.44 per unit.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #40-2011 EMERGENCY REPAIR TOWN HALL FAÇADE

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, part of the cement cornice on the façade of the Town Hall building, that spans the length of the building, has deteriorated, fell off and landed on the sidewalk in front of the Town Clerk's office; and

WHEREAS, Dimensions North Ltd. was contacted to review the cornice and found that the cornice is cast in place and incorporated in the main structure of the building; and

WHEREAS, Dimensions North Ltd. stated the past winter's freeze-thaw cycle compromised the integrity of the cornice substrate and patching would not be recommended due to the severity of the corrosion(s); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill contacted Clough Harbour Associates for an engineer's review; and

WHEREAS, Clough Harbour recommended removing the deteriorated section of cornice and replacing to better insure public safety; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the public work due to an emergency situation to protect the public's safety as well as the Town's employees.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0 Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #39-2011 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CATSKILL AND GREENE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill wishes to enter into an agreement with the Greene County Council on the Arts regarding community-centered events, "Sprouts" program for the Summer of 2011 and the annual Youth Arts Exhibit for Spring 2011; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the relationship created by this agreement shall be of independent contractor and contractee; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill has agreed to supplement funding for these events by providing $1,000.00 to the GCCA to be used for these activities; and

WHEREAS, each signatory to the agreement understands the terms outlined and agree to execute their responsibilities; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the Supervisor to sign the aforementioned agreement with the Greene County Council on the Arts.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #37-2011 SMOKE-FREE PARK

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, smoking is responsible for the premature deaths of over 430,000 Americans each year from lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, children exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to have reduced lung function and symptoms of respiratory irritation, like coughing, excess phlegm and wheezing; and

WHEREAS, children with asthma who are exposed to secondhand smoke are especially at risk for having their condition worsened by secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is responsible for over 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, accidents, fires and AIDS combined; and

WHEREAS, 80% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 12 years old; and

WHEREAS, everyday an estimated 3,900 young people under the age of 19 try their first cigarette and one-third of these children will die prematurely from tobacco related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the help role model non-smoking behavior to children and youth; to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, smoke-free environment; so

THEFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board resolves that in park areas within the Town of Catskill, where children play, appropriate signage will be posted designating tobacco-free zones.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

Councilman Lennon will get in touch with Linda to order the signs.

Councilman Lennon stated Jim drew up a contract for Merritt Construction. Councilman Smith stated he looked at the draft and made some modifications. He looked at it again today and would like to incorporate the language that is in the Little League agreement regarding insurance into the Merritt agreement.

Acting Supervisor Walsh stated this will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Acting Supervisor Walsh polled the board. Councilman Lennon mentioned the procurement policy and to have the board review at the next meeting to see if any changes need to be made.

Councilman Lennon next mentioned the Little League agreement. The board was given a copy of the agreement. Councilman Antonelli would like to review it before voting on it. Councilman Lennon would like to authorize the Little League to begin cleaning/preparing the concession stand before they start games. Councilman Smith was uneasy about allowing the Little League on the grounds without an agreement. He asked if a meeting could be scheduled before they start practice.

It was decided to schedule a government operations meeting for Wednesday, May 25th at 6:00 pm.

Councilman Lennon next mentioned the representative for GCEMS board.

RESOLUTION #41-2011 GREENE COUNTY EMS REPRESENTATIVE FOR TOWN OF CATSKILL

Councilman Lennon presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Greene County Emergency Medical System is governed by a board of directors, the county, the EMS Council, the Rural Health Network, and a representative from each Town; and

WHEREAS, yearly appointments are made to this board; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, the Town of Catskill Ambulance Administrator, has been the representative; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Catskill would like to reappoint Matthew Leibowitz to such board; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board reappoint Matthew Leibowitz to the Greene County EMS board.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Absent 0, Nays 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #42-2011 HIRE PART TIME EMT

Councilman Lennon, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, Ambulance Administrator, has recommended filling a part time vacancy in the Ambulance Department to; and

WHEREAS, he has recommended John Greco be hired to fill this position, and

WHEREAS, John Greco meets the minimum qualifications established for said position, so THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the hire of John Greco to position of EMT part time effective May 18, 2011 at a salary of $13.39 per hour.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #43-2011 HIRE PART TIME EMT

Councilman Smith, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, Matthew Leibowitz, Ambulance Administrator, has recommended filling a part time vacancy in the Ambulance Department to; and

WHEREAS, he has recommended Kiera Mollet be hired to fill this position, and

WHEREAS, Kiera Mollet meets the minimum qualifications established for said position, so THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorizes the hire of Kiera Mollet to position of EMT part time effective May 18, 2011 at a salary of $13.39 per hour.

Councilman Lennon seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

Acting Supervisor Walsh asked if there was public comment. Steve Nicholas, who lives on County Route 23, approached the board. He stated he has spoken with an attorney regarding his problem. Councilman Smith asked where he lives on 23A. Mr. Nicholas stated across from the Town Highway Department.

Mr. Nicholas stated his problem is flooding on his property due to the Town Highway Department. He has spoken with Mr. Beers. He stated Mr. Beers refuses to talk to him. He stated he spoke with Mr. Walsh twice and he agreed with Mr. Beers, which he figured he would since it is Town property, but he refuses to speak to me in person with the pictures. He stated here are the pictures he has. He stated he has a list of people who have lived on his property in the last for several years that would testify in court. He stated he also has a secondary list of people who may or may not be able to attend if it comes to that.

He stated the photos he is showing show approximately 5 feet of water in his backyard. There used to be trailers on his property. He has put his camper back in this backyard as he stated he cannot have everything in his front yard.

Councilman Smith asked who owns the property and suggested if he is asking the Town to come in and fix it. Mr. Nicholas stated he owns the property and he wants the Town to fix their end.

Councilman Smith stated the photographs that he is showing is water on property that he owns. Mr. Nicholas stated correct.

He showed a picture of where the fill is going. He stated it is piled up sky high. He stated there is a four foot culvert that leaves his property. He stated the fill that is pushed up in front of the culvert is slowing it down. Acting Supervisor Walsh asked if that was State DOT. Mr. Nicholas stated it is your property causing the problem, He stated it is the Town Highway Department pushing the dirt over and under the culvert. Acting Supervisor Walsh asked the culvert under the road. Mr. Nicholas stated correct. He stated without this dirt here, on the old town maps, it is a straight run. Mr. Nicholas showed more pictures.

Councilman Lennon asked if there was any documentation when the fill was there. Mr. Nicholas stated the photos were taken in November. He stated if you go to the Highway Department now you can see there is no grass growing. Councilman Smith stated the structure that he is speaking of is 1000 to 1500 feet away from 23A. Mr. Nicholas stated the structure is but the dirt from here is blocking the culvert. Mr. Nicholas showed a picture of the culvert the Town put in. He stated if you look at the other pictures, there is on that leaves his property.

Councilman Antonelli stated we are looking at a road that separates you from us. Mr. Nicholas stated correct. Councilman Antonelli asked if the line is running under the highway. Mr. Nicholas stated no. The culvert is on Tool House Road that they put in.

Councilman Lennon stated the water is coming off your property, going through the culvert across the State DOT road is being possibly hampered by the fill. Mr. Nicholas stated it is being hampered by the fill. He stated you cannot push dirt up against a culvert pipe and have it not be hampered. Councilman Antonelli asked who put the culvert in, the State. Mr. Nicholas stated the Town did. He stated you cannot dump all this dirt in there.

Councilman Antonelli asked that there is a highway between all this. Who put that culvert in to go under the road? Mr. Nicholas stated this is the culvert the Town put in. He stated it runs from his property through the Town property. Councilman Smith asked how long he has owned the property. Mr. Nicholas stated 15 years. Councilman Smith stated when he purchased the property none of that was there? Mr. Nicholas stated no.

Councilman Lennon stated Mr. Nicholas also brought fill in on his own property that changed the flow of the system. Mr. Nicholas stated he had permission to put that there and it doesn't block the water. He stated the water starts at the culvert pipe. Mr. Nicholas stated he had to remove the grate from the culvert to allow the water to settle a bit. He would like to have the grate removed. He stated the grass grows up into the grate. Councilman Lennon stated you cannot take a grate off as that is State DOT.

Acting Supervisor Walsh stated he spoke with Gary Harvey, as he told Mr. Nicholas he would, and he went out and checked the maps, and he is having DOT look at the situation. He is unsure when they may be there but he stated the DOT engineer will look at their end to see what can be done.

Acting Supervisor Walsh stated this is an exceptional year with the big snow pact. Mr. Nicholas stated this happens in the summer. Acting Supervisor Walsh asked if it was flooding right now. Mr. Nicholas stated no as it is not raining that hard yet. Acting Supervisor Walsh stated we are looking at it.

Mr. Nicholas wanted to show how much water is in here and how high it gets to the guardrail when it floods. Acting Supervisor Walsh stated to look at the topography and how much the level of that is much lower than his property. Mr. Nicholas stated three or four feet at the most. He stated he has water coming up to his deck now.

Councilman Lennon stated we have had an excessive snow fall and the amount of rain we have, all places are flooding that normally haven't flooded.

Mr. Nicholas stated he has spoken with Mr. Beers and has asked if the grating can be moved and he doesn't even want to do that.

Acting Supervisor Walsh stated DOT will look at it. Nothing will be done until they look at it.

Acting Supervisor Walsh asked if there was further comment. Mr. Burnett asked if the board spoke with the Sheriff regarding the noise ordinance.

Councilman Lennon stated yes and the Sheriff will attend the government operations meeting on the 25th.

With no further comment a motion to enter into executive session to discuss union negotiations was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Smith. Executive session began 7:15 pm.

A motion to exit executive session and end the meeting was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Smith. Meeting ended 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk