

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Leeds Fire House
June 20, 2012 6:30 pm

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

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

RESOLUTION #81-2012

APPROVE CEMENTON SEWER BI-
ANNUAL FEES FOR 2012

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the bi-annual Cementon Sewer User fees for second half of 2012 will be due commencing July 1, 2012; 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, 2012 through December 31, 2012 in the amount of \$294.44 per unit.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 Absent 0

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 82-2012

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR SIGN
AMBULANCE CONTRACT WITH
TOWN OF ATHENS

Councilman Lennon presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill and the Town of Athens have been in negotiations in regards to ambulance service to the Town of Athens; and

WHEREAS, an agreement has been reached; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract and submit to the Town of Athens for their signature.

Councilman Carlson seconded this motion.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 Absent 0

Motion Carried

Supervisor Leggio stated he wanted to begin having Department Head meetings on a monthly basis with the Committee Chair and himself and the Department Head. The Committee Chair will schedule with the Department Head the individual meetings and time.

Supervisor Leggio mentioned people asking about CPR classes. The Ambulance Administrator offered to set up a program to have a class(s) as a public service.

Supervisor Leggio wants to discuss at the next monthly meeting finalizing the hardship/write off for the ambulance.

He next mentioned he had conversations with the Zoning Board and Mr. Monaco's project in Jefferson Heights. There is some confusion as to Planning Board Zoning Board and a meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday with all the boards.

Councilman Lennon mentioned needing a title search done in regards to FEMA related work from damages suffered with Hurricane Irene/Lee.

RESOLUTION # 83-2012

AUTHORIZE PERSON TO DO TITLE
SEARCHES

Councilman Lennon presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill is in need of having title searches done on properties within the Town of Catskill as a requirement for FEMA in regards to work that needs to be remediated from Hurricane Irene; and

WHEREAS, Susan Hicks performs title searches for a fee of \$130.00; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board authorizes Susan Hicks to perform the title searches.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 Absent 0

Motion Carried

Councilman Lennon stated the PW has been signed off for the Kaaterskill Creek work in the amount of \$234,338.60. We will be reimbursed 75% from FEMA and 25% from the State. An amendment was signed for \$7,550 for the culvert on 23A. We have a completed PW and scope of work so the engineer can go out and develop the specs. Total cost is approximately \$93,000.

Councilman Carlson mentioned the board is moving forward on the sewer project. There was a meeting earlier this month where the engineers presented some options. It is moving forward but it is a slow process. We are not sure where the funding will come from or the exact scope of the project at this point.

He also mentioned the issue of fracking. A person mentioned it in their meeting in Palenville and he indicated to her he would bring the subject up in the various meetings in the other hamlets for public input. Dave Brockway stated it will probably not happen in Greene County. Another audience member stated you need to have a geological area where the shale is holding the oil and natural gas and we do not have that around here.

Councilman Lennon stated he had attended a seminar this weekend regarding this. What people are concerned about is because we are on the Utica line which is 2,000 feet down and once the Marcellus shale is finished they might go to the Utica line.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was public comment. Marge Riley approached the board regarding their use of the Ricky Cramer Field. She stated Catskill Little League has not honored their agreement with them. They would like to make a \$500 one time donation to the Town. She believes Catskill Little League refuses to open the concession stand to Legion. She stated on the first practice the bases were missing which made the field on safe. She stated there were nine bases in sheds that they couldn't use. She stated they are threatening to take out home plate. They have four games scheduled and they continue threatening to bump the dates. She stated they are not comfortable giving money to a non-profit organization so they are giving it to the town.

Councilman Carlson stated they did not have a contract with Little League. Little League has a contract with the Town of Catskill where they have primary usage of the field. When they are not using the field it was indicated it is available to you. As far as the other issues, you have no agreements with Little League. No binding agreements with Little League. It is, we are trying, to work things out where it is mutually beneficial to all parties involved and it seems to be difficult.

An audience member asked why it is difficult with four games. Councilman Carlson stated when one party is not willing to work it becomes difficult and one that party happens to have the agreement it makes it more difficult. It was a good faith agreement when that agreement was

signed they would work with other teams and other people and they have taken the mindset that it is their field and theirs exclusively. From his personal perspective, they don't want American Legion to exist, never mind utilizing the field.

Dave Brockway asked who owns the field. Supervisor Leggio stated the Town of Catskill. Mr. Brockway stated then the taxpayers own that field and asked who maintains that field. Councilman Lennon stated Catskill Little League. Supervisor Leggio stated the Little League maintains inside the fence. The Town has been maintaining pretty much everything outside. Mr. Brockway asked if Little League gets paid to maintain. Councilman Carlson stated Little League does it because it benefits them and it is to their specifications. It is not being done out of the goodness of their heart. Mr. Brockway stated the Town of Catskill owns the field. It is being maintained by Little League because there is an agreement for that. Are they being subsidized in any way with taxpayer dollars? Councilman Carlson stated no. Supervisor Leggio stated no. They are using the town's equipment and they are mowing the lawns. Supervisor Leggio asked Stanley if he had to mow the infield. Councilman Lennon stated or the outside. Supervisor Leggio stated he has down the outside. Councilman Lennon stated he knows the Catskill Little League has been mowing the outside also. Stanley stated so have we and we have also cleaned out behind the back fence and took everything off the fence and weeded everything inside and outside the field.

Mr. Brockway stated his question is still not answered. There needs to be some clarity. The Town owns the field and Little League has an agreement to cut the grass but the Town owns the equipment of which they are cutting the grass with. Supervisor Leggio stated they have a license agreement with the Town to use the field for x number of games. There is a schedule provided. Mr. Brockway asked for a yes or no to his question. Councilman Carlson stated true. Mr. Brockway stated then the equipment is owned by the Town which is paid for by the taxpayers. His question to the board is then whomever uses the equipment or whatever the agreement, it is still a taxpayer funded property, so then why isn't anybody in the Town of Catskill that are taxpayers who have a team not allowed to use it without having a great big fuss. If the field is supposed to be shared then that person needs to be addressed. Supervisor Leggio stated they know that. He stated the bottom line is he doesn't want anyone else to use the field. Councilman Lennon stated that is an incorrect statement. Mr. DuPont cannot be here tonight because he is out of town.

Supervisor Leggio stated Mr. DuPont put a lot of money in the field. Councilman Carlson stated not Mr. DuPont, the Little League. Supervisor Leggio stated his feelings are if anyone is using the field they should help offset the cost. Mr. Brockway stated the town should reimburse him because you shouldn't accept money if he is going to hold you hostage. Councilman Lennon stated that is correct. Supervisor Leggio stated we didn't receive any money from him. He did work on the field. Councilman Carlson stated if Dave goes down and decides to mow the field,

are we obligated to pay you? Dave stated no, if you are volunteering your time, no. Councilman Carlson stated that is the understanding we had and then all of a sudden when things start getting testy for him he pulls out a bill.

Councilman Lennon stated it is miscommunication by everyone how the whole project started. There are incorrect facts going around. On May 14th there was a meeting. There was a meeting behind that they can actually go back in there. At that point in time, at that meeting, it was decided that the American Legion would fund \$500 and Mr. Seeley... Councilman Carlson stated he was at that meeting and Councilman Lennon wasn't. He stated there was an offer from American Legion to help pay for the funding of the field and it wasn't to give to Little League it was to give to American Legion so they could fix the field, so they could mow the field, so they could help pay for equipment and stuff. Little League had said we would do the field and just transfer the money to us, basically cutting out American Legion. The agreement wasn't automatically the money was going to Little League. Councilman Lennon stated that is the documentation and facts that have been written in emails by American Legion and also by Mr. DuPont sent to the Supervisor. Councilman Carlson stated he was in the room. Mr. Brockway stated he has a bigger problem for you all to think about. You are all saying that everyone is chipping in and this one guy is getting huffy and puffy about what his obligation is or his agreement is but maybe you should whisper in his ear that if one of those kids gets hurts he will be named in the suit because he is making public claims that he maintains the field. If the guy thinks he runs the park and owns the park then the Town Board needs to address it.

Supervisor Leggio stated he doesn't run the park. It doesn't matter whether it is Little League, Pop Warner, it doesn't matter what group it is, over the years there has always been people who belong to these organizations and they put time and money in, they volunteer a lot of time and effort and they take it personal. That is part of it.

An audience member stated the American Legion was never approached to help them with that field and they had a number of kids that would have helped them. Eighty percent of the kids on Cocksackie American Legion are from Catskill. Councilman Lennon stated as the parents of those kids you stood on the hill watching also. Mr. Sira stated he was one of those parents who had back surgery and he keeps hearing he was one of those parents who stood up on that hill and his son was done there and he drove three other kids from Catskill High School and JV/Varsity down there. Councilman Lennon stated the problem is because of lack of communication and incorrect facts. How this all started, if the information came from Mr. Martin, from American Legion, he is a Commander up there; of Cocksackie Post 166. His mission is to promote health and safety and community activity for the children which is a mission under American Legion is baseball. He spoke with the regional vice president of NYS in Buffalo and confirmed all this information. He had a sit down meeting with Mr. Martin and asked him what his aspects where and that is the case. Cocksackie based 166 Post sponsored the team. When they filled out their

application to the big divisional aspect that was set up as Catskill as their home based team. Mr. Sira stated home based school. Councilman Lennon stated home based school where they could pull the children out of. If some of the information would have made its way through the proper communication gap then a lot of these issues and stuff like that would of not of happened or occurred. Mr. Sira stated he doesn't mean to be disrespectful what is the proper information gap? Are you talking with us with you or... Councilman Lennon said just everything. He spoke with Mr. Martin and he feels that he did not receive all the communication when he sat down and talked with him. He also sat down with Mr. DuPont to get his facts. He looked at all the information. He listened to the audio tapes and looked at the minutes of everything and the factual information is not totally correct.

Mrs. Riley stated Kevin was invited to a meeting of theirs that they invited way back in the winter and she tried to talk to Ed and her husband was down there begging them to talk to her and they don't want us on that field and miscommunication, Ed knows exactly what is going on. Councilman Lennon stated he asked at the last meeting if there were any concessions or agreements made and you said no; any aspect of funding available and you said no. Mrs. Riley stated she doesn't know what you are talking about. Councilman Lennon stated when he looks at the emails and stuff and this dispute going back between Mr. DuPont and yourself it clearly states there was an agreement of \$750; five hundred dollars from American Legion and two hundred fifty from Vincent Seeley. Councilman Carlson stated that is wrong. He was at the meeting. There was no tape. It was a backdoor meeting. It was a closed door meeting. It was two representatives from Little League, two representatives from American Legion, me, and Vincent Seeley. We were trying to work out a playing schedule. American Legion is not required to do anything with Little League. They don't need to talk to them. They don't need to compare notes to them. They don't need to have any contact with them at all. They are coming to the Town of Catskill requesting use of a field. Why do they need to have any contact with Little League and on the other side of the coin, why would Little League be required to deal with American Legion? They are two separate entities. We own the field. We were simply trying to have both parties utilize the field to the satisfaction of both. One side was not willing to give any satisfaction. Because they did have a signed agreement, we backed ourselves in a bit of a corner.

Tim Burch asked Councilman Antonelli if he is in charge of the field. He stated he is Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Burch asked what he thought of all this. Mr. Burch stated this is like generals not leading their soldiers. The person who needs to be here isn't here again. He is running rogue. The American Legions' position is to not cause trouble. They sponsor two teams from Coxsackie. We do stuff for the community. We do not want to fight with the town boards. Mr. Burch stated a lot of the misinformation is from Councilman Lennon. Mr. Brockway concurred. Councilman Lennon stated that is incorrect. Mr. Burch accused Councilman Lennon of lying to him three separate times. He questioned his veracity. He stated he couldn't even get kids involved to play ball. Mr. Brockway stated people hear a lot of stuff and it gets turned and

turned and turned. It sounds like there is a bad communication issue here. It is property owned by the town and maintained by tax payer dollars.

Supervisor Leggio stated he doesn't know what happened last year or the year before but the Town didn't own that ball field six or seven years ago. It was always property belonging to the cemetery. Now the town owns it and we have a responsibility and when we sit here and do our budget and if we put money in to improve the field comes budget time, it is the first thing that gets axed. Now that the Little League wants to make improvements, so we say we don't care what you are going to do as it will better they town. They feel that they have a commitment and involvement and they take it personal. No one is attacking them or what they did. They did a good job but you can't exclude anyone else from using the field either. We were just trying to work this out. The school district uses the field and they contributed nothing. We will have to go back to the drawing board. Maybe we will need to put some money in the budget and the town maintains the field and has everyone submit their schedule in the beginning of the spring and maybe we can lease out the concession stand. He is unsure of what we need to do but we need to come up with a plan.

Supervisor Leggio stated the American Legion was saying they want to use the field and if Little League is down there mowing the field and costs attributed to the field, they were more than willing to give that money over to Mr. DuPont when we met, then Mr. DuPont stated you can't use the bases and American Legion said they will buy bases and every time we get just about where something is worked out something else comes up. It is a bigger deal than what it needs to be.

Mr. Sira thanked the Town Board for sending out a letter stating the last three dates are our dates. He also wanted to say two years ago when his son was in the junior division of Little League and Babe Ruth was on its way out, Ed DuPont had an agreement with Hank Myers that we had use of the field Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We had our games and practices. There was no issue. He is unsure how we got to this point.

Supervisor Leggio stated no one is bad mouthing or criticizing the American Legion on a board level. We all just wanted the kids to play on the field.

Stanley Dushane stated when Babe Ruth had the field they did nothing. Little League came in and they addressed the field with the town and upgraded the field so everyone can use it, at that time. This time it is working out an agreement with the adults. As a board, you do not know who the person in charge is. When it first started, Kevin was in charge and as the board changed people changed around. It should have been looked at and addressed. Kevin is two steps behind everything that is going on because he is not informed. The board is three steps behind because you aren't informed of what happened or who took care of this. As far as Little League redoing

the dug outs, they did a great job. As far as them putting the sod in and the infield, it is the best it has ever looked. As far as them cutting it, they are cutting the inside of the field. It was also an agreement that the board had with the school. Little League should police the concession stand. It used to be whomever was the home team of the field, they lined it, they worked the concession stand, and they picked up after themselves to make sure the bathrooms were cleaned, the garbage's were emptied; preparing for the next game. Any money made had gone back into the field. It was a community effort to take care of the field. That is where we need to get back to and remember.

Councilman Carlson stated everything you say is accurate. Councilman Lennon put in a tremendous work and effort into it. Workers from the Town did. Little League did and everything was working until certain members of Little League took issue with the fact that American Legion was pirating their children. This is where the problem is. They took it personal and this is the backlash of that perspective of one entity having an issue with another entity. American Legion has no issues with Little League. This is 100% Little League, the top of Little League, not the parents, having issue with them pirating Little League children. That issue is not a board issue. The field should be available to everybody.

Supervisor Leggio stated when we get this season over with and behind us we will sit down with everyone and try to work out all the bugs. An audience member asked about the dates and if they are cast in concrete. Supervisor Leggio stated we said those three dates are your three dates. He stated he is unsure what is going on between last week and this week. Mr. Sira stated if the team shows up on the dates and if they show up and someone comes down from the League and saying we can't play. Ms. Hiatt stated we have it in writing that those dates are ours. The only concern would be the plates. Supervisor Leggio stated he couldn't believe that the plate would disappear. He would be appalled if anyone would stoop that low and take the plate off the field.

Supervisor Leggio stated if there is a problem, he will give you our cell numbers. Someone asked if there was a chance of someone coming down from the board on those dates to see if everything gets started all right.

Marge Riley stated we have the letter that went to Mr. DuPont about the dates. Come Sunday when we have a game down there and if there is an issue with Mr. DuPont we will be calling the State Troopers. She will not get into a fighting screaming match with him. She will not want to call and it is ridiculous even if she has to call but she has been dealing with this since last August and it has not changed. She has tried to talk to Mr. DuPont, Mr. Lennon and she has been getting bad mouthed every time there is a meeting or we have a meeting, she hears a lot of stuff about herself and it is wearing on her a little bit. We tried to schedule days back in January. As far as the cleanup day. He knows her. He knows her husband. Their kid came up through Little League. They donated money to Little League. They still do. Her husband did until Ed decided

he couldn't be on the board anymore but what she is asking of the board, as this is ridiculous, she needs to know, because next year they want to play on Ricky Cramer, she needs to now because she can't go through this again and you can't schedule games and live feeling threatened all the time and that is how she feels. She feels like she has been threatened for months now. Her child asked if he and Nate can go down there and practice grounders and wondered if Mr. DuPont would come down there and yell at them.

Supervisor Leggio stated he doesn't believe any of this will happen. Ms. Riley stated she hopes not.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was any further comment. Dave Brockway stated the Leeds War Monument is in extensive process of being renovated. There will be a rededication on July 4th at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. He believes the only two people on the monument who are still alive are Charlie Daucher and Warren Sheridan.

An audience member asked about the meeting last night on the consolidation. He wanted to hear the board's true feelings as ninety percent of the audience were firemen. Supervisor Leggio stated the town board tired to consolidate ten eleven years ago and we started an ambulance service instead. The reason why is for better controls with auditing and everything if the department where a district and getting it out of the Village's hands. We negotiate a contract with the Village of Catskill and if it is a fire district the tax rate is set by law.

Mr. Brockway stated the Town has a rope around its neck with a contract with the Village of Catskill and whatever the Village chooses to do with that money that they are getting from the town for fire protection services, they can put it in their general fund. There is nothing in writing that they have to give them a set amount but that they keep the fire company going. The idea is a district will be controlled by the commissioners in the district and the taxpayers will be paying a set rate for village and town fire protection combined and the money will go to operate the district and pay for the equipment.

With no further comment a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Carlson and seconded by Councilman Walsh. Meeting ended 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk

