Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
August 19, 2020 6:30 pm

Present:	Dale Finch,	Supervisor
	Jared Giordiano,	Councilman
	Patrick McCulloch,	Councilman
	Dawn Scannapieco,	Councilwoman
	Paul Vosburgh,	Councilman

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cliff VanKleeck of Leeds Fire Department approached the board regarding their need to increase the monetarily contracted fee. They have not been able to have any fundraising events due to COVID. Councilman McCulloch stated there is a year left on the contract. Mr. VanKleeck stated they have not had an increase in ten to twelve years. They have one of the smallest budgets for fire districts. Supervisor Finch asked if he has approached the Athens Town Board yet. Mr. VanKleeck stated that is next. He asked if he had a proposal for the town. Mr. VanKleeck would like to see an increase of $20,000. This would get them out of the red.

Councilman Giordiano entered meeting 6:37 pm.

Supervisor Finch explained the contract would be negotiated in 2021. Mr. VanKleeck stated they are looking for more money now. Councilman McCulloch read the section of the contract regarding termination. Written notice needs to be sent by August 20th of the calendar year to terminate the contract. Discussion ensued regarding amending the contract or terminating the contract. Supervisor Finch suggested Mr. VanKleeck speak with someone on the state level. Councilman McCulloch stated to ask our Town Attorney if we can legally amend the contract. Councilman Giordiano stated the Town of Athens has to be on board. Supervisor Finch will look into with the Town Attorney.

CEMETERY – Supervisor Finch stated we continue to have students working from the CGCC program. He walked through all town buildings with Central Hudson for an LED conversion. Pricing will be forthcoming and a decision will be made after the numbers are in.

The bronze markers in the Cemetery will be straightened by the group who approached the board.

AMBULANCE – The fee schedule is currently 2.75 times the Medicare rate but we wish to increase other rates not covered by Medicare. *Resolution # 38-2020 on motion of Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilman McCulloch to change the ambulance fees as follows: increase the TNT rate to $125, Oxygen rate to $75 and mileage to $17. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

PLANNING BOARD – Supervisor Finch would like the board to review amending the Planning Board fees to include an escrow fee schedule to allow a streamlined process for applicants and the Planning Board. This fee would be collected at the time an application is submitted.

A question was asked to Mr. Izzo about when an escrow is requested. Mr. Izzo stated it depends on the subdivision request and if it is straightforward or would require additional work. Not all projects require an escrow and we do not normally ask for an escrow up front. The application is filed with the CEO so it would be their fee schedule. If the board feels they want an escrow for every application, it is in your purview. The Planning Board would not make that decision.

Supervisor Finch stated he has spoken with Kevin at Delaware Engineer ("DE") and if the escrow is not used the money would be returned at the end of the project. He would like to have a complete application before the applicant goes before the Planning Board so everything moves smoothly. Councilman McCulloch stated to have set figures is fine but it should be up to the Planning Board's discretion. Mr. Izzo stated that would not work as discussed it would be collected at the time of the application. Councilwoman Scannapieco feels some people will not have the money for escrow. Supervisor Finch stated we are not asking for a lot of money. Councilman Giordiano agreed with Councilwoman Scannapieco and stated he is not ready to act on this. Supervisor Finch tabled the discussion until the next meeting. Mr. Izzo suggested sitting down with the Town Attorney, CEO, and Delaware Engineering as he is not sure who is pushing this issue and to flush out a bit more.

Supervisor Finch next mentioned the DE's fee schedule or professional services. Councilwoman Scannapieco stated it sounds like not a lot of issues with projects. Supervisor Finch strongly feels we need DE to review the applications before they are on the Planning Board agenda and he asked if all were in favor to have DE review the applications. All were in favor.

NO PARKING SIGNS – Supervisor Finch stated NYSDOT has placed No Parking Signs along Route 23A from the town line to Harding Trail. They are allowing parking in the grassy area near the parking lot at Harding Trail.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT – Supervisor Finch stated because of COVID, Town Hall employees are not taking their vacation time and to follow suit with the unions, he would like to change the amount of vacation time an employee can carry over this year to 100 hours. *Resolution # 39-2020 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Vosburgh, due to COVID-19 those employees who work in Town Hall and participate in the benefit package are allowed to carry over 100 hours of vacation time. Adopted 5 Yes.*

Supervisor Finch asked if there was any further comment. Town Clerk Izzo mentioned the need to follow-up on the changes to the governing rules of the Planning Board as they will require a public hearing. Mr. Izzo stated the Planning Board has not received the recommendations from the Town Attorney for their review.

With no further comments a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman McCulloch seconded by Councilwoman Scannapieco. Meeting ended 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk