

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
August 20, 2008 6:30 pm

Attendance:	Peter Markou,	Supervisor
	Robert Antonelli,	Councilman
	Lewis O'Connor,	Councilman
	Patrick Walsh,	Councilman
	Michael Smith,	Councilman
	Elizabeth Izzo,	Clerk

Supervisor Markou opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed all in attendance.

Supervisor Markou reviewed the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION # 100-2008

JUSTICE COURT GRANT
APPLICATION

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill Justice Court wishes to apply for a grant through the Office of the New York State Court Administration, and

WHEREAS, the Justice Court needs an authorizing resolution to apply for this grant, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board, hereby authorize the Town of Catskill Justice Court to apply for a grant from the New York State Court Administration.

Councilman Walsh & Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 101-2008

DEC REGULATIONS FOR
GAS DRILLING

Councilman Antonelli, proposed the following resolution for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, this resolution will be to urge the Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Grannis to promulgate regulations requiring that local governments be designated as involved agencies for State Environmental Quality Review Act proceedings relating to natural gas permit applications for proposed sites within the boundaries of local governments; and that local governments' views be sought and given significant weight when determinations relating to natural gas permit applications, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the geologic rock bed known as Marcellus Shale may contain up to several trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and

WHEREAS, dramatic increases in the price of crude oil and the corresponding need to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil have resulted in a tremendous increase in interest and activity relating to natural gas exploration and drilling, and

WHEREAS, municipalities in which natural gas drilling is proposed should be consulted regarding natural gas permit applications and the comments of municipalities should be considered and given significant weight when determinations relating to natural gas permit applications are made, so

THEREFORE WE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Catskill Town Board requests that the Department of Environmental Conservation promulgate regulations to require that local governments be designated as involved agencies for State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) proceedings relating to natural gas permit applications for proposed sites within the boundaries of the local governments and that local governments' views be solicited and given significant weight when determinations relating to natural gas permit applications are made; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to: Governor David Paterson, Greene County Legislature, and Commissioner Alexander B. Grannis, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Roll call vote:

Supervisor Markou	Yes
Councilman Antonelli	Yes
Councilman O'Connor	Yes
Councilman Walsh	Yes
Councilman Smith	Yes

RESOLUTION #102-2008

DONATE TO THE ULSTER-GREENE ARC
FOUNDATION

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Ulster-Greene ARC is a part of the community, which employs and services some of our residents, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster-Greene ARC Foundation does fund-raising to assist in providing for special projects that consumers may need, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board, hereby authorize \$100.00 for a half-page advertisement in their Ulster-Greene ARC Ad Journal will be distributed at

their Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

Councilman Walsh & Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Supervisor Markou spoke about the proposals for the sidewalk/paving at the Ambulance building. Three proposals were sought; two submitted. Councilman Smith wanted to know if the design was consistent with the new sidewalks along the commercial area of West Bridge St. Councilman O'Connor stated yes except for the brick part. It would cost much more to have that done. Councilman Smith wanted to keep it uniform. Councilman O'Connor stated it would probably be an additional \$3,400. Councilman Walsh wanted to know if the sidewalk is continuous. Councilman O'Connor stated that the sidewalk ends at Broome St.

Supervisor Markou stated that it is not continuous and the Ambulance Building is far from Broome St. Councilman O'Connor asked what should be done. Councilman Smith wanted to know if a grant could be obtained from the Village and if the paved area of the Ambulance building is a hazard. Councilman Smith asked for a probability of a grant next year. Supervisor Markou stated grants are crap shoots and stated that the Town had agreed to keep green space in front of the ambulance building. If brick were to be added, it would decrease the green space. Councilman Antonelli reiterated that we had an agreement with the Village for a sidewalk and green space. If we were to not accept these proposals, they would be rejected, and we would have to go out for new proposals (with the brick being added) and the Town is trying to stay within the budget for the Ambulance building. He also stated awnings have yet to be installed, as was plan.

Supervisor Markou asked if new specs would need to be drawn. Councilman O'Connor stated no.

Councilman Walsh would like to see where the new sidewalk starts and ends because in between the end of the sidewalk and the Ambulance building is residential. Councilman O'Connor stated that sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner.

Supervisor Markou tabled the discussion until next meeting.

Under New Business, Supervisor Markou has formed a Subdivision Task Force that consists of Councilman Walsh as Chair, Councilman O'Connor, Larry Federman of the Town's Planning Board, Linda Speckman of the Town's Code Enforcement Office, Warren Hart and Ed Diamante of Greene County Planning and Economic Development. The objectives of the task force are to:

1. To review the current subdivision law of the Town of Catskill to determine compliance with the New York State Codes.
2. To review and amend any inconsistencies in language currently existing in the law.
3. The Task Force is empowered to proceed as it sees fit.

Upon completion of their tasks, they will make a formal recommendation to the Town Board.

Supervisor Markou stated that at the September 2nd meeting of the Town Board, Delaware Engineering will give a project update on the Leeds Feasibility Study.

He stated that the Town is undergoing their yearly audit.

Supervisor Markou is trying to contact government sources for grant money for infrastructure needs in a number of hamlets within the Town. He also stated that Delaware Engineering is moving ahead with an application to DEC for the problems in Cementon.

Supervisor Markou scheduled a Government Operations Committee meeting for Thursday, August 28 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. There will be the first meeting of the Subdivision Task Force prior to that at 4:00 pm.

Supervisor Markou reviewed the correspondence:

Letter from Office of Community Renewal in regards to the awarding of the CDBG grant for the Community Center in the amount of \$400,000.

Letter from Time Warner regarding channel changes.

Letter from Matt Leibowitz, stating he would like to withdraw his request to attend the conference in Las Vegas in light of the projected fiscal forecast.

Councilman Smith asked about the decrease in revenue from the ambulance billing. Supervisor Markou stated that insurance companies and Medicare are taking their time paying. Councilman Antonelli believes that the billing is still behind due to the computer system being down for a month.

Councilman O'Connor wanted to know if we were still thinking of changing companies. Supervisor Markou stated that will need to be revisited as companies have provided more incentives to switch. If this is done however, he would like to wait until the end of the year to enact it.

Councilman O'Connor would like us to collect from the Village and Town of Athens the money that we bill them for ambulance coverage upfront so then we can collect the interest on it and if they go over that amount, then bill them the difference at the end of the year.

Supervisor Markou stated that ALS sent in their budget change for 2009 and it went from \$119,000 to \$134,000. He believes this is due to the rise in energy prices.

Councilman Smith spoke of a letter received from Senator Schumer regarding a Town Historian grant application. It needs to be submitted by August 27th and wondered if we should give it to the Town Historian. The funding source is the National Government of Amenities and Supervisor Markou stated that you need to register with that agency before applying for a grant and you also need a Dunn number. He stated this takes time, so does not believe that the grant will happen for 2008.

Supervisor Markou opened the meeting to public comment. Gary Kistingner thanked the Board for forming the Subdivision Task Force. He spoke about trying to increase construction projects within the Town of Catskill and selling our natural resources. He also spoke of having a tax incentive program for homeowner's who would like to improve their houses, thus increasing jobs in the area. Councilman O'Connor stated there is already one enacted; however, no one has taken advantage of it yet.

With no further comment a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman O'Connor. Meeting ended at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk