Budget Workshop Meeting IV
Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
October 20, 2021 6:00 pm

PRESENT:	Dale Finch,	Supervisor
	Jared Giordiano,	Councilman
	Patrick McCulloch,	Councilman
	Dawn Scannapieco,	Councilwoman
	Paul Vosburgh,	Councilman
Also Attending:	Kirsten Bulich,	Finance
	Michael Torchia,	CPA

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed all in attendance and proceeded with the budget meeting stating this is the final meeting.

Community Center – Margaret Tomlinson of the Community Center gave a synopsis of the Summer Recreation Program stating it was a very successful event. The cost was near $50,000 with the largest expense being staffing due to the minimum wage increase. They struggled with financing and received support from a grant as well as using close to $5,000 in reserve funds of the center. She is asking the board to appropriate $50,000 in next year's budget for Summer Rec. She also stated they are hoping to collaborate with Catskill Wheelhouse for administrating the program and also to increase enrollment and eventually funding will go to Catskill Wheelhouse.

Councilman Vosburgh asked what the Center is using the proceeds of the sale of the building for. Ms. Tomlinson stated an endowment fund. No decisions have been made yet about the future but the center is thinking of being more of a grant organization for other programs with similar ideas. Councilman Vosburgh stated he had reservations giving more money with not having any information from the proceeds of the sale and questioned the need. Ms. Tomlinson explained if they used the money and didn't set aside an endowment, the funds would be gone. Mr. Torchia spoke about the money received in regards to investment dependent on how the endowment is set up and invested. Ms. Tomlinson stated they are working with the Bank of Greene County hoping to maximize the return.

Supervisor Finch asked if the fee will stay the same in 2022. Alaina Navitski of Catskill Wheelhouse stated they are using one model of the Wheelhouse taking on the day to day and the Center for transportation. Councilman Vosburgh stated he had some concern about transferring Summer Rec to an unknown entity. Supervisor Finch stated he would like to have conversations and look into it further. Ms. Navitski stated she can bring her financials but this is just the first discussion. Ms. Tomlinson stated the Center has a strong interest in the successful running of the program with Catskill Wheelhouse. Ms. Navitski gave a brief synopsis of her organization. *Councilwoman Scannapieco entered the meeting 6:21 pm.* Ms. Tomlinson reiterated they are in the very early stages of discussion. Supervisor Finch asked if anyone had any other comment. He thanked them for coming in. Ms. Tomlinson thanked the board for their consideration.

Conversation about Highway Equipment line. It was decided to change line DB5130.2 to $52,500 and put the debt line DB9785.62 back to $63,000. All were in agreement.

General Fund conversation regarding fund balance. Apply $40,000 in General, $40,000 Outside Village and $6,000 Highway Townwide. The tax rate was discussed. Mr. Torchia stated the A Fund balance is $650,000 which is less than his rule of thumb. Some revenues are coming in a little higher so that money can be moved to fund balance. Use the $40,000 to balance the budget but believes the revenue number will be higher than what is budgeted so you won't have to use that money.

Expenses for the court were discussed. Mr. Torchia stated they should be watched since the Town took over the Village court. Supervisor Finch stated right not revenue is lower and the added cost is $30 to $35,000.

Supervisor Finch stated we are 10 over the cap. Mr. Torchia stated if it is over it is over. Councilman Vosburgh stated it is more the perception of being over. Councilman Giordiano wants to use less fund balance and increase. Mr. Torchia stated after a discussion today, you can change the DB by 10, increase A by 40. Councilman Giordiano stated it is less of a zing if a little each year. 1.67 makes more sense. Mr. Torchia suggested moving the A Fund to 20 and that would push it to 1.7. Councilman Giordiano stated the A fund is anemic. Mr. Torchia stated by using fund balance you are pushing the problem down the road for someone else. Supervisor Finch stated revenue was brought up but we can't maintain that. Mr. Torchia stated COLA is going up. You can take the 40,000 out and go back up to 2, 2.1 number. Ms. Bulich mentioned the one-time $100,000 for Justice. Mr. Torchia stated to not take that out and put on a different line and put money into contingency. Councilman Giordiano would take out the 40. Bonds were reviewed. Discussion continued about fund balance amounts. Supervisor Finch does want to see an increase in the Village.

Councilman McCulloch asked for an explanation why the sewer district counts toward our cap. Mr. Torchia stated fire districts are their own taxing authority and we only collect the money for them. The sewer district is town run so it affects the tax cap rate.

Councilman Giordiano stated to change the A Fund to 20. Councilman Vosburgh and McCulloch were not in favor as were Supervisor Finch or Councilwoman Scannapieco. Mr. Torchia stated his opinion on how the General Fund balance should be is $1.6 million and we have $650,000. It is possible to add 100 this year, possible to get to 850 but that is a long way from 1.6. This amount is for potential emergencies. We would need to add for the next five or six years $100,000 to get to where we should be. Supervisor Finch stated he is comfortable but it is good to have money to weather a storm. Mr. Torchia stated putting $40,000 there helps taxes but doesn't believe we will need to spend 40. The mortgage tax amount is conservative.

Discussion regarding the need for a reserve account for equipment. Mr. Torchia mentioned looking at shared services as it becomes budget neutral. Supervisor Finch stated he liked were we are now. No other changes were made and everyone was ok. The Fund balances were kept at $40,000 General Fund, $40,000 Outside Village Fund, $6,000 Highway Townwide Fund and $40,000 Highway Outside Village Fund. Supervisor Finch thanked Mr. Torchia for attending.

The Town moved directly into their Committee meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution # 99-2021 on motion of Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilman McCulloch amending resolution # 85-2021 authorization of an application for the JCAP grant by the Town Court. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 100-2021 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco scheduling a public hearing on the Malden West-Camp fire protection contract for Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:10 pm. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 101-2021 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco second by Councilman McCulloch adopting the 2022 Tentative Budget as the 2022 Preliminary Budget and scheduling a public hearing for said budget on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:15 pm at Town Hall. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Supervisor Finch reviewed an email regarding ARPA funding and wishes to know the boards' thoughts on sending a letter to Congressman Delgado supporting the bill. *Resolution # 102-2021 on motion of Supervisor Finch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco instructing the Town Clerk to send a letter to Congressman Delgado supporting the bill in how towns can expend funds of ARPA monies. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Supervisor Finch reviewed an email from Webjogger for the quote to replace the computer at the Senior Center. After discussion, it was tabled until the next meeting.

Supervisor Finch mentioned a proclamation for the Veteran of the Year, Tom Andreassen.

Councilman Giordiano asked about the ambulance sign. Supervisor Finch spoke with George and he wants to go back to an aluminum board. Approval of sign will be at the next meeting.

Supervisor Finch pulled the board for comment. With no further comment a motion to end the meeting was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh. Meeting ended 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk