

Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
November 19, 2025 6:40 pm

PRESENT: Patrick McCulloch, Supervisor
 Jared Giordiano, Councilman
 Steven Espel, Councilman
 Brian Kozloski, Councilman

Absent: Dawn Scannapieco, Councilwoman

Supervisor McCulloch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – Local Law 7 & 7a of 2025 Senior Citizen & Low-Income/Disability Tax Exemption

The clerk read the notice. Supervisor McCulloch asked if anyone had any questions. With no response, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Espel; carried. The public hearing closed at 6:41 pm.

Supervisor McCulloch asked for a motion to adopt Local Law 7 & 7a of 2025. Resolution # 128-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman Espel, adopting Local Law 7 and 7A of 2025 Senior Citizen & Low-Income Disability Tax Exemptions. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Cemetery - Supervisor McCulloch asked Mr. Carr to address the board about his issue with a cemetery fee. Mr. Carr buried his mother and he wished to have his brother's remains placed in the same grave at the same time as his mother's interment. He was required to pay for both interments and feels since the grave was opened for his mother's interment, he should not be required to pay the full price for interning his brother's remains in the same grave.

Supervisor McCulloch stated there is no stipulation in our fee schedule and feels we should review the rules and regulations as this issue may repeat itself. Councilman Kozloski stated this is a case-by-case situation at the Town Board's discretion.

After some further discussion, a motion was passed. Resolution # 129-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman Kozloski approving the refund of \$600 to Mr. Carr. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Preliminary Budget – Supervisor McCulloch stated the public hearing on the 2026 preliminary budget was closed November 13th and before adoption of the budget, he reviewed the needed amendments, specifically the late notification of monies being received by the County for ambulance services. The following amendments were made to

the preliminary budget: Increase A Fund Revenue by \$342,000, increase 1410412A (Software from \$2,200 to \$7,000, increase 4540467 Medical Supplies from \$104,000 to \$140,000, Decrease Appropriated Fund Balance in the A Fund from \$414,000 to \$195,000, Decrease Appropriated Fund Balance in the B Fund from \$180,000 to \$130,000, Change the 2026 Tax Levy Limit to \$4,637,225.

Supervisor McCulloch stated Councilman Giordiano will no longer be a board member and he had Kirsten run the numbers removing the benefit line. This would not drop the tax rate as it is a minor change and the preliminary budget will remain as it is.

Supervisor McCulloch stated we are under the tax cap with the money given to us by the County and we will also be able to purchase two Lucas machines for the ambulance department.

Councilman Kozloski thought there would be no increase. Supervisor McCulloch stated that it is not in the plan. As painful a budget it is, aside from the Lucas machines and the purchase for central garage and cemetery, there is nothing left to cut.

Resolution # 130-2025 on motion of Councilman Kozloski, second Councilman Giordiano adopting the 2026 Preliminary Budget with amendments and using \$431,000 in fund balance, as the 2026 Final Budget and instructing the Town Clerk to submit the Final Budget to Greene County as required by law. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Supervisor McCulloch reviewed the following resolutions:

Resolution # 131-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman Espel authoring the Supervisor sign the renewal agreement with CHA for GIS Mapping for the year 2026 in the amount of \$6,500. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Resolution # 132-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman Kozloski authorizing Cementon Sewer Relevies in the amount of \$16,060.42. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Resolution # 133-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman Espel authoring the following Water and Sewer Relevies: Leeds Jefferson Heights Water \$71,269.82, Post Avenue Water \$24,698.43, S. Cairo Water \$7,816.12, Leeds Jefferson Heights Sewer \$33,152.76, Post Avenue Sewer \$1,189.20. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Palenville Pocket Park – Councilman Espel reviewed the quotes for the purchase of playground equipment. The fence has been installed at the site. Supervisor McCulloch likes the idea of the playground equipment and fully supports it but would like to do our due diligence before purchasing and installing the equipment. We do not own the property, the state does. We should check with our insurance carrier and he would like to have a second

person review the site who has worked with the other playground installations in the other parks to get his opinion. Councilman Giordiano stated the money is set aside and we would need to wait until the spring for installation so having the exact layout and placement of the equipment and benches and signage is a good idea.

Supervisor McCulloch will reach out to his contact and see if they can do a site visit in December. He stated this will be huge for Palenville and gave JR and Jay a lot of credit for all their work on this project.

Energy Choice Act – Supervisor McCulloch stated the town received an email from Congressman Nick Langworthy regarding the Energy Choice Act and opposition of the state mandated natural gas ban. Councilman Giordiano views natural gas a clean energy and regulations are making the price increase. Supervisor McCulloch fully supports the resolution. Resolution # 134-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman Kozloski supporting the Energy Choice Act. Adopted Vote 4 Yes 1 Absent

Ambulance UPSEU Agreement – Councilman Giordiano stated the proposed contract will place the town in a competitive market and he would like this on the agenda to ratify at the December 1st meeting.

Supervisor McCulloch mentioned a letter he received from Delaware Engineering regarding the proposed housing development on Cauterskill Avenue in the Village of Catskill. They are asking the town to make Highland Avenue more accessible as the road from 9W to Cauterskill is owned by Price Chopper and is a private road and they are threatening to restrict access to emergency vehicles only.

Dan Ward, a Village Trustee, stated the Village is trying to work with Price Chopper to have it become a village road and he will have more insight at their next meeting. Supervisor McCulloch stated there is not anything the town can do with Highland Avenue.

Mr. Ward also stated they are looking at a new bridge over the old CSX rail crossing.

Public Comment:

Joe Izzo inquired about the county agreement and if there was a time commitment. Supervisor McCulloch assumed it was for one year but was not told otherwise. Mr. Izzo stated then the 2027 budget will increase without the funding and asked if you were allowed to have money in a reserve fund for future equipment purchases.

Supervisor McCulloch stated we will encumber what we can and will have to ask our accountant how to earmark it. Mr. Izzo stated the board can restrict it and change it at any time. He thought at the county meeting they decided to commit money for five years as it would give enough time to create a county-wide ambulance service.

Mr. Izzo stated when he was on the Village Board, the bridge over CSX railway was supposed to be repaired by CSX but they refused to then.

Mr. Ward asked about the two newly elected officials and insurance. Supervisor McCulloch stated they are not entitled to health insurance.

Mr. Ward then asked if the town has other people do their minutes as the village is having issues finding a person to do minutes. Supervisor McCulloch stated we made the Planning/Zoning Clerk full time. Councilman Giordiano stated the position used to be part-time but now it is full-time and both planning/zoning and code cover one another.

Mr. Ward asked if it was possible to have a second key to the Senior Center as access to the key in the clerk's office is sometimes difficult. Councilman Kozloski stated to keep the key with the police department and have whoever needs the key to sign it out like the gym key.

Mr. Ward passed around an old photo of an Honor Roll which showed service members serving at that time and he would like to reestablish this for those serving in the Village and Town and is wondering if someone from the town would like to help with this project.

Mr. Ward discussed the potential reopening of the trail from Dutchman's to the RVW Bridge as there is funding to help facilitate connecting the trail. Mr. Izzo stated you need access from the property owners. Mr. Ward stated the Village Attorney is working on this. It used to be the Greenway Project and is wondering if the town had any interest as a liaison.

Councilman Espel would like to have the high school students who are part of Questar's heavy equipment program help with some of the park work at the pocket park. Supervisor McCulloch stated this would be valuable experience for them. Councilman Espel will reach out.

With no further business, Supervisor McCulloch asked for a motion to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter and include the Town Clerk. Motion made by Councilman Giordiano, seconded by Councilman Kozloski. The executive session began at 7:46 pm.

Motion to exit the executive session and end the meeting was made by Councilman Espel, seconded by Councilman Giordiano. The meeting ended at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk