

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
November 20, 2013 6:30 pm

Attendance: Joseph Leggio, Supervisor; Robert Antonelli, Councilman; Pat Walsh, Councilman; Gary Carlson, Councilman; Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk; Michael Smith, Town Attorney

Supervisor Leggio opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Mike Budris of Delaware Engineering was present. He stated we have a contract with an archaeologist who will start work tomorrow. There should be minimal disturbance and if anyone is disturbed they can call Mike directly. There is a contract with an aerial surveyor out of Massachusetts who has done this area before. We will be able to get the contour lines and mapping. An additional survey will be done when there is a more detailed design. He is currently working with a boring company for pricing. It came in at \$88,000 and they are working with the contractor to reduce the price. He will have more information on the boring, contour mapping and test pit/reports from the archeological firm at the next meeting. He stated during the winter they will put together a map, plan of the district, so come spring we won't be hung up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Leggio brought before the board the request of a firework display for the Day in December. The town has sponsored this in the past. It is a well attended event. He stated this is the last thing we will sponsor this year. There will be hard choices next year and we will need much more discretion. *Motion by Councilman Walsh second by Councilman Antonelli to sponsor the firework display in the amount of \$2,000 for the Day in December community event. Adopted: 4 Yes*

Councilman Antonelli stated we will need to know requests ahead of when we do our budget. The proposals should be sent to the Town. Supervisor Leggio agrees and stated we need to come up with a five year projection of where we want to go, what we want to do. There are other serious concerns with items before the board tonight. There will be a long road to haul.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #122-2013 Approving Cementon Sewer Bi-Annual Fee \$294.44. *Motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Carlson & Walsh. Adopted-4 Yes*

Resolution #123-2013 General A Fund Budget Transfers to Reserve. *Motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Walsh. Adopted-4 Yes*

Resolution #124-2013 General A Fund Budget Transfers. *Motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Walsh. Adopted -4 Yes*

Resolution #125-2013 B Fund Budget Transfers. *Motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Carlson & Walsh. Adopted 4-Yes*

Councilman Antonelli stated four RFP's were received and two didn't qualify. His recommendation is to use Sharp as they are the least expensive of the two. They will also be able to service the other copiers and they will take back the copiers being replaced. Supervisor Leggio stated the cost is less expensive then what it is now. Councilman Carlson agreed with Councilman Antonelli to have a 60 month lease as opposed to 48. Councilman Walsh stated at the end of the 36 month lease we can buy the copiers for \$1. Councilman Antonelli stated Canon bought out the company we use now. Supervisor Leggio stated if we buyout at the end of the 36 months we would have to have a service contract for the next 24. Councilman Antonelli stated this is a pay as you go monthly contract price. If you use 8,000 copies you pay for 8,000 copies. His recommendation is 60 months as the machines should last that long. Councilman Walsh stated he would go for 60 months.

Resolution #126-2013 Accept Proposal for Lease of New Copiers. *Motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Carlson to enter into a 60 month lease with Metroland Business Machines for five (5) copiers at \$658.11 per month. Adopted-4 Yes*

Joe Wolodkevich from ITS Computer Systems was present to ask about the WebJogger analysis of the Town's computer system. He asked if it was to be discussed and Supervisor Leggio stated no. Mr. Wolodkevich gave an update on the time clock. He stated the last reported incident was eight weeks ago. The settings in the software need to be modified and we had been maxing out the band width at town hall. He replaced the time clock at the ambulance building with the one from the highway department as there was a blank screen. The issues have been intermittent before that. In review with the time clock, users were getting time out errors do to the software settings needing to be changed. There were also firmware updates completed over the last three years. He stated he gave to Sandy the quotes from Mid Hudson Cable to increase the band width at Town Hall.

Supervisor Leggio stated half of what you are saying is greek to him. In review of the computer system it came down to you are left handed, he's right handed. It came down to theories and principals of doing business. If it wasn't because of Jim Planck and Bill Kemble putting an article in the paper we would still be having numerous problems and he doesn't understand why it took so long.

Mr. Wolodkevich stated we have been chasing our tail for them to review the system and they said prove that it's not your problem. They had all the information previously after the newspaper article came out. Supervisor Leggio stated the whole project of the Time Clocks was a complete fiasco. The blame should be on all involved. It was a combination of events that created the problem.

Mr. Wolodkevich stated functionally the highway department has no issues since the configuration update. The only issue was on October 30th at the ambulance department. He stated upgrades were completed to replace Windows XP as it is no longer supported by Microsoft as of April 2014. We will still be in compliance with OGS. He recommended when replacing the copiers to make sure in the contract there is a line item for a DVD wiper as the copiers are networked to the server and there is important documentation that should be wiped off of it.

Supervisor Leggio mentioned the invoice submitted by one of the judges stating the judges attend the magistrate's dinner on a monthly or bi-monthly basis and he would like the board's comments as to pay it as it is not a mandated event with their jobs.

Councilman Carlson stated he would vote no. The magistrate's dinner borders on the line of a recreational/group get together. There is a guest speaker, they eat dinner, and he doesn't believe public funds should be spent on this. There is no value. There is no accreditation from OCA. It is simply a social event and they should pay.

Councilman Walsh agrees and a policy should be established. If there is a credit involved, then submit a voucher.

Councilman Antonelli agrees with Councilman Carlson. If it is not in our policies then have Ronni draw one up. Supervisor Leggio stated there may already be a policy and he agrees with you all. If there is a class or credit then that is entirely different.

Supervisor Leggio mentioned a letter from Frank Mucich for the historic marker. It was discussed sometime ago but nothing was done as we wanted more information. They would like to mark where the Hamlet of Alsen used to be.

Resolution #127-2013 Contribution of Historic Marker for Hamlet of Alsen. *Motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Walsh to spend \$597 on a Historic Marker for what was the Hamlet of Alsen. Adopted-3 Yes 1 No (Carlson)*

Supervisor Leggio stated he received a letter from the Senior Center Director regarding Thanksgiving Day supplies. He stated he is not signing a check for \$250 as it is not a town function. He stated Sandy told him the money was donated to the town and it is in a separate account specifically for Thanksgiving.

Councilman Carlson stated Ann Marie advised us she was not going to do it this year. Mrs. O'Leary asked permission to use the Senior Center as the church was to do. There was no mention of request for funds. If the church is a private organization it borders on separation of church and state. The Center is open for not for profits without any fees. He doesn't know how we can give money to a private organization if the money was sent to the town. He applauds Ann Marie for her dedication to the community in helping but it is wrong to use town resources above and beyond the facility. If there is leftover money then it should be returned to the people who gave it.

Councilman Antonelli stated everyone has lost sight of the Thanksgiving dinner and when Mr. Izzo and Elizabeth started it, it was all volunteers. The only thing the Town did was to offer use of the center. Over the years we never put a halt to it as the town became more involved and he doesn't feel the town should be involved. Ann Marie wanted to order the food from Sysco and he agrees with Gary but the money was donated for the Thanksgiving dinner and we should send a check to Rita as a donation. Ann Marie has gone above what she was supposed to be. Rita should be here. His recommendation is to make the donation and zero out the account.

Councilman Carlson feels it is a violation of church and state as it is a donation to a church based organization.

Michael Smith stated it is a simple question with a complex answer but his understanding is the money contributed for the Thanksgiving festival is money donated with the understanding it is no longer a town event and is sponsored by other than the town. Councilman Antonelli stated it was never a town event. Councilman Carlson stated it gives the appearance of impropriety as a different denomination would be appalled. Supervisor Leggio stated the issue is we have the \$200. Mr. Smith stated you can return the funds to the donors. Councilman Walsh stated the first step should be to contact Mrs. O'Leary and talk to her as this is all coming from a third person. The money should be put into the dinner

Councilman Antonelli stated he understands what Gary is saying but to make it simple, technically the \$250 belongs to the town. Councilman Carlson stated doing the right thing is not always the easy thing. He stated not to donate the money.

Supervisor Leggio stated there are three options. One is to leave it for the general fund, send the money to the soup kitchen or purchase products. *Motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Walsh to give the money to the Lion's Den Soup Kitchen for the Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Adopted 3-Yes 1 No (Carlson)*

Supervisor Leggio stated he hopes the comments will show spending will be more scrutinized. As a group/organization we have to be more careful and look at the minutia to make sure it is fair to all the townspeople.

Supervisor Leggio stated the ski program has been run through the Town for the last 50 years. It has been a joint event with the Town, Village and Hunter Mountain. The Recreation Commission is defunct. A previous board member took over the running of the program. In the past, three quotes were given for busing, there would be the quote from Hunter Mtn, and whatever extra costs may be were presented to the town. The School District contributes x amount of dollars. The school paid for the years 2012 and 2013 and the balance is a couple thousand dollars. The first sign up was last night. The Town Board has had no oversight into the cost of the program last year or this year. We are not involved in soliciting bids for fixing the prices. We are only the depository.

He stated the people who use the program pay for x number of dollars to ski. When the school paid, that money should have been refunded; same with 2013. We have \$3900. The purpose was to help keep the costs down. It is not our money and we are running the program and again and when we get audited.....

Councilman Antonelli stated any recreation should be run through the Community Center. This year, fine, but next year let the Director know the Town will not be involved again. Supervisor Leggio stated if the school contributes again this year...currently there is no agreement.

Councilman Walsh stated the account is there so if we run short it's there and next year you can reduce costs. Councilman Antonelli stated when we end the program, any money left over give to the ski program. Councilman Carlson agrees with Bob. We are ending our participation with the program but not the program.

Supervisor Leggio stated some of this stuff is housekeeping. Councilman Antonelli stated it was discussed, it's over, make a motion. Supervisor Leggio agrees when the program is over this

year to sit down. Councilman Walsh stated to discuss in March. Councilman Antonelli stated the Town Clerk is the liaison with the Ski Club.

Councilman Antonelli stated we need a committee to discuss what to do with the Senior Center and Community Center as recreation is recreation. There should be two people from each entity, the village and then outside persons.

Supervisor Leggio stated the property on West Main Street; the board received a copy from the Code Officer. The gentleman wants an extension. The status is we received quotes to clean it up. We have to wait the 20 day grace period, which is up the 25th, provided he doesn't clean it up, there will be no extension.

Councilman Antonelli stated to close it out after the deadlines and move forward. Supervisor Leggio stated four quotes have been received and is the board in favor of cleaning up the property and not giving an extension. Councilman Walsh stated upon advice from John Cashin, if no demo permit was issued, then to move forward. *Councilman Antonelli presented and Councilman Walsh second to award one of the quotes received to clean up the property after the deadline when a demolition permit may be obtained. Adopted-4 Yes*

Supervisor Leggio read a "press release". He stated some topics discussed tonight are the tip of the iceberg. There are a lot of tough choices that will need to be made. We will have to project out into the future the expenses and costs. It won't be liked by the general public. We should invest in the community to attract more business. In Palenville there is a new restaurant and a liquor store. The Chamber of Commerce doesn't ever call us to get us involved. There is someone investing into the community and we should stand behind them. There are too many vacant stores on Main Street. We are working with the infrastructure to Leeds. Palenville is having a rebirth. There is an attempt. We don't put money into advertising and am not sure it is government's job to promote businesses but we should make it our job. He stated he is not sure what it takes to get a better economy but it is our obligation to find out. Jared is the new member and a lot of it will fall on his shoulders and there will be a lot of gray hairs trying to get things accomplished. We have a Highway Department and Code Department. The Village has a Highway Department and Code Department. We need to get departments to consolidate. We have a lot of Chiefs and not enough Indians. There is a better way to structure and we need to look toward the future. Things are getting more technical. People do a good job and he is not criticizing people but we need to work together to get somewhere. We need a plan. We need to get the public involved.

Councilman Antonelli stated we need to start changing the way of doing things. The past is gone. In these modern times we need to act with how society is today. We need to work together, work closely, with the Village. We need to work to consolidate the Highways. We

need more intelligent people working for us. Not to insult anyone but we need people to handle the jobs we have. We have a lot of good people but we need to come up with something to try to fill Main Street up with businesses. We need to have publicity to get people to believe us. We need to work to promote Catskill and getting it going again.

Supervisor Leggio stated the single biggest employee is the County and we can't afford to keep going at that rate. Councilman Antonelli stated Catskill is not what it used to be. Kids today think nothing of getting in a car and driving to work. We are becoming a bedroom community.

Councilman Carlson agrees with Bob. The time to make the hard decisions, the hard choices, is here. He stated why is his tax dollars going to the Community Center or the Senior Center and he uses neither. It is time to downsize government and we need to cut back at the local level. There are no options at the County, State or Federal level.

Supervisor Leggio stated it is time to run the town as a business and we may not be the best businessman but it is time to try.

With no further comment a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Carlson. Meeting ended 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk