

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting – February 2, 2021

Catskill Town Hall 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Dale Finch, Supervisor
 Jared Giordiano, Councilman
 Paul Vosburgh, Councilman
 Dawn Scannapieco, Councilwoman

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res 6-2021 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, second by Councilman Giordiano appointing Gary Harvey as Chair of the ZBA and Ben Decker as Vice Chair of the ZBA with the term ending December 31, 2021. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (McCulloch)

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Contract Renewal EAP - *Res 7-2021 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second by Councilman Vosburgh authorizing the Supervisor sign the renewal agreement with EAP of the Mid-Hudson Valley for employee related services. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (McCulloch)*

Cares Act 3 – Supervisor Finch stated the town received \$100,696.90 from Cares Act 3 for ambulance revenue loss and eligible Medicare reimbursement. First six month loss of revenue was a combined \$183,000; expenses \$61,000 higher and revenue loss due to COVID \$122,000. Hopefully there will be another Cares Act.

Court – The court submitted their annual report. There was a shortfall in revenue but expenses were down so the net is \$34,647 lower than anticipated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Champlain Hudson Power Express – Rick Chase gave a brief presentation to the board and discussed the project and the areas of the town which will be impacted. He also submitted a draft resolution for the board to adopt which authorizes TDI to install a transmission line cable where it crosses railroad tracks on Embought, Browns Crossing and Alpha Rds. It also authorizes the supervisor to enter into an agreement for road use and crossing agreement. It establishes a fund if the town where to incur costs to review the project i.e. engineer. The plans have been submitted to the state and have been approved. The project is a 335 miles underground and underwater transmission high voltage cables with two to three converter stations which will allow hydroelectric power generated in Quebec run to NYC. It is the largest single renewable energy project in the state and it plans on investing \$178,000,000 in Greene County; \$56,000,000 in Catskill alone. Construction will begin 2022 and go to 2025. There will be one to two construction cycles in Greene County. The company anticipates one thousand jobs within the project and are looking to use local workers and companies. Councilwoman Scannapieco asked about the project's lifespan. Mr. Chase expects it to be at least 40 years if not 60 to 70 years. Councilwoman Scannapieco asked if the primary purpose of the project is to supply NYC. Mr. Chase stated as approved it is a direct line to NYC from Canada and they have applied to NYS Independent

System Operator, who controls electrical in the state, for a potential station in Albany County. It has not been approved yet.

The direct benefit to the town will be taxes. They are asking for a PILOT with GCIDA. The potential first year tax amount is \$120,000 with each year increasing. There are different options to discuss. Supervisor Finch asked if the town could ask for a community benefit on top of the PILOT such as for parks. Mr. Chase stated they do not have a community benefit program but part of the PILOT can be designated for that purpose.

Councilman Giordiano asked where the line will run. Mr. Chase stated under the road shoulder. Councilman Vosburgh asked about utility lines and the line. Mr. Chase stated it depends where the right of way is. He asked the board to consider passing the resolution at their next meeting. If anyone has any questions to please contact himself or Jen. Supervisor Finch stated he does not see an issue with the resolution but would like the Town Attorney to review.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Public Employer Health Emergency Plan – Supervisor Finch stated there were good templates. This has to be presented to the unions before it can be adopted. It needs to be done by April 1st and believes it is a pretty good plan.

Planning Board – The board would like to make some changes to the town code. Ted Hilscher, Town Attorney, has reviewed those changes and recommends the town board schedule a public hearing. *Resolution # 8-2021 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, second by Councilman Giordiano to schedule a public hearing for Local Law 1 of 2021 Amendments to Town of Catskill Code Sections 140 and 160 for Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:15 pm at Town Hall. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (McCulloch)*

ZBA – Supervisor Finch stated he has received interest from people to serve on the board and will have an interview process.

BOARD COMMENT:

Councilman Giordiano commended the Town Highway for a great job with the recent storm.

With no further business a motion to end the meeting was made by Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilman Giordiano. Meeting ended 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk