

Catskill Town Board Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
February 3, 2009 6:30 pm

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

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

The following minutes were passed:

1/06/2009 Re-Organizational Meeting
Motion by Councilman Antonelli
Second by Councilman Smith & Councilman Walsh
Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

1/06/2009 Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Motion by Councilman Antonelli
Second by Councilman O'Connor
Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

1/21/2009 Public Hearing #1-2009 for Local Laws #1 & #2 of 2009
Motion by Councilman Antonelli
Second by Councilman Smith
Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

1/21/2009 Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Motion by Councilman Antonelli
Second by Councilman Walsh & Councilman Smith
Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

The following resolutions were passed:

RESOLUTION #10-2009 GENERAL FUND A YEAR END
BUDGET TRANSFER 2008

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the following General A Fund budget transfers for 2008 need to be made to the following accounts:

A1010.4	Town Board	\$0.52
A1110.1.1	Justice Clerks	\$5,467.00
A1330.1	Tax Collector	\$0.12
A1355.1.1	Assessor Clerk	\$2,014.00
A1420.1	Town Attorney	\$0.22
A1430.4	Personnel Contractual	\$2,455.00
A4540.1	Ambulance Administrator	\$1.60
A4540.1.1	Ambulance Supervisor	\$5,717.00
A6772.1.1	Sr. Center Employees	\$503.00
A8810.1.1	Cemetery Workers	\$1,415.00
A8810.4	Cemetery Contractual	\$773.00
A9010.9	Retirement Severance	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Total Transfer		\$28,346.46

SO, THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve the following transfers from the following accounts in the General Fund A:

A1010.4	Town Board Contractual	\$2,455.52
A1110.4	Justice Contractual	\$5,467.00
A1330.4	Tax Collector Contractual	\$0.12
A1355.4	Assessor Contractual	\$2,014.00
A1420.4	Attorney Contractual	\$0.22
A4540.4	Ambulance Contractual	\$5,718.60
A6772.1	Sr. Center Director	\$503.00
A8810.1	Cemetery Custodian	\$773.00
A8510.4	Grant Writer	\$1,415.00
A9060.8	Medical Insurance	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Total Transfer		\$28,346.46

Councilman Walsh, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #11-2009

B FUND YEAR END
BUDGET TRANSFER 2008

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the following B Fund budget transfers for 2008 need to made to the following accounts:

B4020.1	Registrar	\$0.10
B9010.8	State Retirement	<u>\$551.00</u>

Total Transfer \$551.10

SO, THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve the following transfers from the following accounts in the B Fund:

B7550.4 Celebrations \$551.10

Total Transfer \$551.10

Councilman Walsh, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #12-2009 DB FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR
YEAR END 2008

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the following budget amendment for 2008 needs to be made to account for State CHIPS money:

DB5112.2 CHIPS \$75,413.53

Total Transfer \$75,413.53

SO, THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve the following budget amendment:

DB3501 State Aid \$75,413.53

Total Transfer \$75,413.53

Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

RESOLUTION #13-2009 DB FUND BUDGET TRANSFER FOR
YEAR END 2008

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the following budget transfer for 2008 needs to be made to account:

DB5130.1 Mechanic PS \$5,705.00

Total Transfer \$5,705.00

SO, THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve the following transfer from the following account:

DB5103.4	Mechanic Contractual	\$5,705.00
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Total Transfer	\$5,705.00
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Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5,	Nays 0,	Absent 0	Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION #14-2009	ESTABLISH NEW RESERVE ACCOUNT
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Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the following reserve account needs to be established for funding of retirement severance benefits for employees,

Retirement Severance Reserve Account	\$10,000.00
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SO, THEREFOR WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby establish this account.

Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5,	Nays 0,	Absent 0	Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION #15-2009	ESTABLISH NEW RESERVE ACCOUNT
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Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the following reserve account needs to be established for funding of computer equipment and services,

Computer Equipment & Services	\$19,000.00
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SO, THEREFOR WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby establish this account.

Councilman Walsh, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5,	Nays 0,	Absent 0	Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION #16-2009	TO HIRE AMBULANCE EMPLOYEES
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Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, over the course of the past year, four existing positions within the Town of Catskill Ambulance Department have become vacant, and

WHEREAS, to maintain the level of service of the Town of Catskill's Ambulance Department these positions need to be filled, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the Ambulance Administrator to fill these positions.

Councilman O'Connor, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

Supervisor Markou asked if there was any discussion involving this resolution. He stated the reason for vacancies is because of a long term medical leave of absence of one individual and three people left to pursue other positions.

RESOLUTION #17-2009 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
WITH CSEA-TOWN OF CATSKILL HIGHWAY
DEPARTMENT & TOWN OF CATSKILL

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill and the CSEA-Town of Catskill Highway Department Employees have reached an agreement in regards to the Town of Catskill CSEA Highway Employee Contract for the year's 2009 through 2011, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve this contract agreement effective January 1, 2009 for the year's 2009, 2010, and 2011 and authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the three year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the CSEA-Town of Catskill Highway Employees.

Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

Supervisor Markou stated the negotiations took one day. He wants all to know that the Highway Department understands the financial constraints the Town is under. Their pay increased 3% for the next three years, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The following correspondence was reviewed:

Letter from Time Warner Cable regarding cable changes for two channels.
Memo from Dan Frank, Interim Greene County Administrator regarding ceasing Central Mail effective March 2, 2009 due to an effort to cut County costs.

Supervisor Markou stated that the Town would now need to establish a mail room and the options are being looked into.

Supervisor Markou then referenced new business:

Andrea Lowenthal of the Catskill Community Center approached the Board to give the Board CCC's year end report. She prefaced her report stating she understands the Board just received copies and if they would like her to come back at a later date to discuss further she will be happy to.

Ms. Lowenthal stated this is the year 2008 report which they are required to provide as part of the agreement with the Town. Ms. Lowenthal stated the CCC's financial records are now being audited for 2008 and there will be a formal review for 2007.

She thanked the Board for their continued support of the Center and stated they are hard at work trying to find other funding resources. She stated they have continued to expand the programming.

The year end summary showed a negative balance of \$12,619.

Supervisor Markou stated that this is going to be a difficult year for all. He urged the CCC to continue to expand the grant program as much as they possibly can. Supervisor Markou stated this is going to be a difficult 2009 with what he is hearing at all levels of government and has stated this is only February and he is beginning to think of the 2010 budget.

Mr. Seeley approached the Board regarding assessments. He stated he looks at property values as tools to balance taxes. He states that service providers (carpenter, electrician, and plumbers) are telling him there is no work and he is trying to think about how to get work into the Village and Town.

He is wondering how he can spawn some work for these individuals and spoke about the Town's program that is in place regarding building additions and assessments and how he would like to expand on this.

He would like to take all properties within the Village and Town who start a capital property improvement in 2009, purchase 90% of local services and products, to receive a moratorium on reassessment for up to 5 years. He stated the key to this is promotion.

Councilman Smith reiterated the concept. He stated when 90% of the work is done using local services, then it will reduce the amount of reassessment which will reduce the amount that comes to the Village or Town but will increase the gross revenue of the contractor. Mr. Seeley stated correct. Councilman Smith asked Mr. Seeley how this plan affects us as a Town and Village with our ability to pay bills.

Mr. Seeley stated that what will happen is that if we don't do something today, in three to five years, no one will build a deck or put an addition on their house because there is nothing to stimulate that to occur. Even though we would be flat for five years, after the five years, the homeowner would be reassessed and that would give us that boost that we would need.

Supervisor Markou stated there is a program in place now that reduces the assessment for 5 years but in each year there is an increase and at the fifth year the improvement is taxed at 100% of its value. Supervisor Markou asked Mr. Seeley if he is proposing no increase for five years.

Mr. Seeley stated yes, that is one proposal, and the other is promotion of the program. Supervisor Markou stated there is another side of this also, that people put decks on their homes and don't come in for a building permit. Supervisor Markou stated he wants to give this to the Assessor and ask if we have a program in place that works for this rather than inventing the wheel.

Councilman O'Connor stated we have the program in place now. He believes we need to educate the taxpayer about the program.

Supervisor Markou stated he gave a memo regarding the Quad grants and his recommendations. The grant money is still available.

Supervisor Markou polled the Board.

Councilman Walsh stated the zoning revisions are almost complete. He stated they will be sent to Mike Sterthous for review after that then a public hearing will be scheduled.

Councilman Antonelli suggested that we send a letter to all Department Heads that they cannot spend more than \$100 without Board approval for non-essential items. Councilman Smith stated we should reduce the amount to \$50. These are difficult times. He stated that we become aware of this after the items are purchased. He stated what Bob is looking to do is to approve money before it is spent.

Councilman Walsh asked about the Highway Department. Councilman O'Connor stated elected officials are out of it.

Supervisor Markou stated maybe we should set up an audit committee. Councilman Antonelli stated we could make a list of items that you would need approval for.

Councilman Antonelli also stated he would like the Board, to take into consideration in the future, to have a full-time Supervisor. He stated it is becoming clear that the Town will eventually need a full-time Supervisor. He believes that the Village eventually will be absorbed by the Town and he believes that the County will take over the Town. He states there are decisions that need to be made on a daily basis.

Councilman Antonelli also recommended that a referendum be placed before the voters to have the Highway Superintendent be an appointed position by the Town Board instead of an elected position. He would like the Town Board be more in control of the revenue that is being spent on the highways. He stated this is not in offense of Alfie, but it will need to be looked at eventually.

He believes that these are the right steps for the Town. He stated it is not a reflection of Peter. It was discussed when Joe was the Supervisor. He would have liked to have had an Administrator however that concept is unaffordable.

Councilman Smith stated that in the event that we do move onto the concept of a full time Supervisor, the appointment of the Supervisor shouldn't be a popularity contest. It should be based upon confidence and experience. This way we can look at a Supervisor that is based upon the appointment of the Town Council as opposed to an election. He stated if we are looking at an appointment of a full time Supervisor, we don't look at an election.

Supervisor Markou stated that would require a charter change. The Supervisor is always elected.

Councilman Antonelli reiterated that this is not something to look at now, but to entertain down the road.

With no further comments, either by Council or public, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Meeting ended 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk