

TOWN BOARD MEETING: February 4, 2014

The Town Board Meeting of the Catskill Town Board took place on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at Catskill Town Hall at 6:30 pm. The meeting was opened with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present:

Joseph Leggio, Supervisor
Pat Walsh, Councilman
Gary Carlson, Councilman
Jared Giordiano, Councilman

Absent: Robert Antonelli, Councilman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Councilman Carlson second by Councilman Giordiano to approve the minutes of the Government Operations Meeting January 3, 2014; carried.

Motion by Councilman Walsh second by Councilman Carlson to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting January 3, 2014; carried.

Motion by Councilman Carlson second by Councilman Giordiano to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting January 7, 2014; carried.

Motion by Councilman Walsh second by Councilman Carlson to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing #1-2014 held January 15, 2014; carried.

Motion by Councilman Carlson second by Councilman Giordiano to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing #2-2014 held January 15, 2014; carried.

Motion by Councilman Walsh second by Councilman Carlson to approve the minutes of the Town Board Committee Meeting held January 15, 2014; carried.

Motion by Councilman Carlson second by Councilman Giordiano to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting #1-2014 held January 23, 2014; carried.

COUNTY RESOLUTIONS:

Res 29-14

**Approving Reimbursement Comm. Colleges
(Catskill's share \$271.07)**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Catskill and CSEA Highway Unit. *Supervisor Leggio stated everyone has a copy of the proposed highway contract. He asked for a motion to accept the contract. Resolution #6-2014 with motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Walsh to accept the collective bargaining agreement with the CSEA Highway Unit. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli)*

Memo from Ed Ferratto, Code Enforcement Office, requesting a public hearing for a non compliance of junk law violation & unsafe building on property owned by Diane Berg, 2 Pine Drive, Leeds. *Resolution #7-2014 with motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Walsh to schedule a public hearing for said violations on March 3, 2014 at 6:15 pm at Town Hall. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli)*

Letter forwarded by Planning Board Chairman Joseph Izzo from Kevin Conklin asking to sit on the Planning Board. He is an Architect by trade and lives in Catskill. *Resolution #8-2014 with motion by Councilman Carlson second by Councilman Giordiano to appoint Kevin Conklin as an alternate to the Planning Board. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli)*

Email to Town Clerk from Ryan Osswald, Scoutmaster Boy Scout Troop 44, stating they have secured a permanent place for their troop meetings at the Elks Club and will not need to utilize the Senior Center.

Email to the Town Clerk from Bruce Schmidt regarding the Catskill High School baseball game schedule. They would like to use the field starting April 2nd and to contact him if there is anything that needs to be done prior to this date. *Supervisor Leggio would like a meeting scheduled with the High School, Little League, American Legion for February 15th.*

Email to the Town Clerk from Liz Shaw regarding the 2nd Saturday Stroll on February 8th in the Village.

Email to the Town Clerk from the Community Center regarding their February events.

Email from Krys Murphy regarding the 3rd Annual Murphy's 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities (route through Leeds)

Letter to John Cashin from Ed Synan, Commissioner of the Palenville Fire District, suggesting measures the Code Office should consider enacting to protect the safety of emergency responders.

New York State DOT designation of restricted highway: resurfacing of Route 23 reference marker (23-1306-1291 going east to points 1 mile east reference marker 23-1306-1363; all ramps north and south bound entering and existing Interstate 87 in the Towns of Cairo and Catskill have been deemed restricted, expiring 8-31-14.

Letter from USDA for requirements for submission of year-end audit/mgmt reports for our rural development loan. Information due 60 days from date of letter. *For Cementon Sewer District.*

Resolution from the Town of Saugerties adopting Local Law amending Local Law No 3 of 1989 to repeal, eliminate, delete and/or remove Section 245-30 of Chapter 245 "Affordable Housing" from the zoning provisions set forth in the Code of the Town of Saugerties. *Formality.*

Questionnaire from Jessica Shaw, Dept of Sociology Southern Illinois University regarding shale/oil gas development efforts that have taken or may take place in the local area. 2nd request.

Letter from Community Action of Greene County regarding weatherization programs for income eligible individuals who need help weatherizing their home.

Letter from Central Hudson regarding comprehensive safety programs for underground pipelines.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Supervisor Leggio stated Department Heads were invited to the meeting to give their reports.

Assessor: Final date to register for Basic Star was December 31st however there is still capability to register. If you do not register the exemption will be removed in March. She stated the sliding scale for low income/disability is the same as last year. She stated all exemptions require renewal before the March 1st taxable status date.

Supervisor Leggio asked about the BAR request for extensions and if other towns have adopted it. Ms. Higbee stated yes. She stated the hindrance is opposite and this is for extraordinary circumstances.

Code Office: Issued 19 building permits, 14 fire inspections and 11 violations in January. Total fee amount \$3,411.80. Last year permits were up 9%, violations up 43%, revenue up 19.5%.

Supervisor Leggio stated the junk ordinances do not have enough meat in them. Mr. Cashin stated we have been bringing the cases before you and we have had two actions in the past year under the unsafe buildings law and we passed along to the board and attorney to have the fines assessed as an unpaid charge against real property. Supervisor Leggio stated to follow up with the Town Attorney.

Comptroller: The rest of the money for the tax levy should be in by next week. The year-end report is in the process of being completed. Supervisor Leggio asked about the audit. Ms. Misevcis stated an audit was conducted on retirement and we need to set workdays for each employee. Supervisor Leggio asked when our auditors will start the FEMA report. Ms. Misevcis stated in February.

Ambulance: Response time in 2012 was 7.42 minutes and in 2013 7.35 minutes. The call volume decreased from 3700 in 2012 to 3376 in 2013. The busiest time of day is mid-day. 72 calls went unanswered out of the close to 3400 and that was because an ambulance was already in service. Supervisor Leggio asked about the ALS service. Mr. June stated the County has a task force. The public meetings will be coming up each geared toward a target audience. The meeting on the 17th in Cairo will be for EMT's, the 24th in Hunter for elected officials and the 3rd at the High School for general public input.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was discussion about using the space in our building. Mr. June stated discussion with GCEMS to offer them space in our station instead of Leeds and we have been looking at modifications to the building but the board needs to review and what kind of offer they wish to make to GCEMS. They seem to be interested and agreeable. Supervisor Leggio asked Mr. June to try to speed it up and how it would reflect in our cost. If they save \$30 to 35 thousand by not paying rent will it proportionately reduce our expense. Mr. June stated he cannot answer that but would like to have an offer before the meeting. They will save \$30 thousand by not renting a facility but how it relates to our savings he is unsure. Supervisor Leggio stated they have two options, we can pay for the upgrade and they can reduce our share in ALS or they can pay for the upgrade and see where we can go from there. Councilman Walsh and Carlson were agreeable as long as we can save.

Town Clerk: NYSDEC (Decals) changed the hunting licensing program and other municipalities and retail establishments have not been able to issue licenses however we have no issue with the new system.

Senior Center: Ms. Moran stated she had nothing really to report. The Center is busy. Computer classes are being held this year. They are working on adjusting to their new schedule. She asked about the phone service for the meal center as they have shut theirs off and she is answering their phone calls now. Supervisor Leggio stated the phone was a shared line. Ms. Moran stated it was a private phone line. Ms. Moran asked since Peter is only there on Thursday mornings, who maintains the bathroom cleanliness? Is it her responsibility? Supervisor Leggio stated it will be addressed. He asked about the dumpster in the back of the building as people were caught dumping over the weekend. Ms. Moran stated the one on the side of the building belongs to the DOA and they may be able to better monitor it.

Cemetery: Mr. Dushane stated the monthly revenue was \$6,200. There is two and a half feet of frost in the ground. Supervisor Leggio asked Mr. Dushane to be present when the board meets with all parties involved in the ball field.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Mike Budris, Delaware Engineering, Leeds Wastewater Project and amendment to professional service agreement which adds the work for the soil borings to the preexisting agreement. *Mr. Budris stated they have a good idea of where the pump stations may be. Three will be on the Route 23 corridor and two in Jefferson Heights. He stated he was here to have the board pass a resolution to amend the professional service agreement to include \$25,000 for the rock borings. It was not in the original agreement because they thought they might find the information on work that was already done in that area. The contract will not exceed \$25,000 with the boring contractor and himself or someone else from Delaware will be there for oversight in the field. Resolution #9-2014 with motion by Councilman Walsh second by Councilman Giordiano to amend the professional service agreement to add the work for the soil borings not to exceed \$25,000 in cost. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli)*

Supervisor Leggio stated there are residents who live on Embought Road who will be submitting a letter to extend the water line. Mr. Budris stated he and Lew O'Connor went to the site. He will call DOH to see what they will require and will get something together for the board(s) as a conversation will need to be had with both the Village and Town for expansion of the water district. Supervisor Leggio asked if it will be a simple process. Mr. Budris stated water lines are easier than sewer lines. There is rock in the area but doesn't think it will be a terribly difficult project. He stated we would need easements through private property to avoid the hill but Mr. O'Connor doesn't believe that will be an issue.

Need a resolution authoring expenditure of \$100 registration fee to the Association of Towns for John Cashin (continuing education classes). *Resolution #10-2014 with motion by Councilman Carlson second by Councilman Giordiano authorizing the expenditure of \$100 for the*

registration fee to the Association of Towns for John Cashin. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli).

Need a resolution authorizing expenditure of \$240 for Ed Ferratto to attend conference in March for his continuing education classes. Resolution #11-2014 with motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Walsh to authorizing expenditure of \$240 for Ed Ferratto to attend the Northern Adirondack Conference. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli).

Letter from HOCA regarding Music in the Park funding in the amount of \$5,000; same as last year. Tabled until next meeting.

Letter from BAR regarding adoption of RPT 467-d which would allow the assessor to accept late applications for renewal exemptions only and up until the board of assessment review hears complaints. The law specifically applies to seniors and individuals with valid medical emergencies. This is subject to local law adoption. For the Town Attorney to review.

Email from Michael Smith, voting delegate for AOT. Resolution #13-2014 motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Walsh to authorize Michael Smith, Town Attorney, to be the voting delegate on behalf of the Town for the Association of Towns meeting held in NYC February 17th through 19th. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli)

NEW BUSINESS:

Joseph Stanzione, Esq. regarding Blenner property and Kaaterskill Manor storm water drainage system. Mr. Stanzione stated he believes this is an enforcement issue. He stated the Blenners live on Snake Road and in 2004 the Kaaterskill property had runoff of water creating a ravine near their property. They had obtained a HUD grant in the amount of \$2.7 million and needed a variance and asked the Blenner's to sign off and they would rectify their land. There were engineers involved for the Town, the builder and the Blenner's. The plan was the water runoff would have a catch basin which would run into a storm water system and disperse into a retention pond and then the water would slowly divert out. There has been no follow up of the system to make sure it is functioning properly. The water is not going into that path yet flowing past the pipe and moving directly onto the Blenner's property. Their vehicles are sinking near their garage. There is another pipe that is causing a second ravine to form and it is eating away their land. He is looking to the town board for enforcement in regards to this. He stated Morris Assoc. stated the storm water system needs to be revisited and revised. In 2007, during construction, the Town hired Clough Harbor and stated the plans should include a provision to protect for further erosion. It is damaging properties around the area. Photos were shown from 2010 and 2011 which showed land and then land falling into the ravine. It is getting wider and wider, deeper and deeper.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there has been correspondence with Kaaterskill and asked if there were open permits. Mr. Cashin stated there are in the hospital section for renovations. He stated to have their engineer review the storm water runoff but he hasn't heard anything more. Mr. Stanzione stated there is no follow up to make sure the system is working properly and this can be rectified by engineers. He is looking for enforcement since the town approved the system. Councilman Walsh asked if there was documentation to this. Mr. Stanzione stated he worked with the town and the documents are there and that is why he believes it is an enforcement issue. Mr. Cashin stated in order for the hospital to get it's CO their engineer had to approve it. Supervisor Leggio stated the design may be fine but with no periodic maintenance it is our responsibility to contact the hospital. Mr. Stanzione stated they have a number of permits as they are doing work in the hospital and now the entire place has one owner. Supervisor Leggio asked to have this put on top of Mr. Cashin's agenda and we will get back to Mr. Stanzione in a week's time. Mr. Stanzione thought that was fair and appreciates the board's time.

Sandy Misevcis, Comptroller, municipal deposit resolution First Niagara & BOGC authorizing the Supervisor & Deputy Town Supervisor as signatories for all drafts, checks or other instruments or orders of payments of money drawn against the account(s) of the Town. Resolution #12-2014 with motion by Councilman Walsh second by Councilman Carlson authorizing the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor be signatories for all drafts, checks, or other instruments or orders of payment of money drawn against the account(s) of the Town. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosemary Graham spoke regarding the Senior Center situation and how it is not in good condition. She wished to dispel three rumors, the first being a rumor among the senior population the center will close. She is not dispelling this rumor only that it was a crazy rumor. The second being Ann Marie wrote the reactionary letter after the March 15th meeting when it was she that wrote the letter. The third being that Ann Marie is manipulating the seniors when it is the attitude of the board that is doing it.

Richard Ballard asked about the letter Alfie sent to the board about Jack being a full time mechanic. Supervisor Leggio stated everyone got a copy of the letter. The Highway Superintendent runs the department. If he wants to meet with the board, he can meet with two board members anytime he likes. It is not up to the union or the town board to dictate operation of the highway. He can set up a meeting. Mr. Ballard asked if a memo will be sent to Alfie. Supervisor Leggio stated yes, in the morning.

Madeline Green asked about the rental agreement for the Senior Center. Supervisor Leggio stated it is being worked on. It is pretty generic. Councilman Antonelli has been working with the Town Attorney on this. His feeling is the seniors have first and foremost priority. The consensus of the board was to not charge for not-for-profits but if someone wishes to have a private party, a fee schedule needs to be finalized. The center can only be used for four hours. The fee is \$50 per room and \$50 for use of the kitchen. Councilman Walsh wishes to review at the next meeting. Councilman Carlson stated if the not-for-profit is not within the Town there will be a charge.

Eileen Dees approached the board regarding extension of the water line on Embought Road. She stated the Village is voting on the matter Wednesday. There are thirteen people absolutely interested. They are in desperate need of water. Supervisor Leggio stated Mrs. Dees went to the Village asking them to extend the line. The Village told her they have no problem but it is Town property and it is more to it than putting a pipe in the ground. Landon Avenue was a replacement of a pipe and this is a new line so DOH will be involved, an engineer will be involved. The cost will be borne by the people in that area. We will contact when we hear back from the engineer.

Chris Sutherland stated in the 2014 adopted budget the salary was \$32,000 +/- was there and then the hours were cut after. What prompted the cut? Supervisor Leggio stated he is not discussing personnel issues in a public meeting. He stated part of that was at the director's request to change the hours. Mr. Sutherland stated if the town is in a fiscal crisis, the budget..the town also put money aside for Town Administrator. Supervisor Leggio stated the position was left alone at time. Mr. Sutherland asked if the town is in a financial crisis now. Supervisor Leggio stated there are a lot of items in the budget where money is allocated. Mr. Sutherland stated as a taxpayer there is x amount of money adopted in 2014. Has something happened? Supervisor Leggio stated money is still allocated in the line items but it doesn't necessitate spending the money. Councilman Walsh stated the reserve fund is decreasing and if it keeps going at this rate we will have no reserve fund.

Joseph Izzo asked to set a meeting for the Memorial Day Committee. Supervisor Leggio asked if he will help and Mr. Izzo stated yes. He also mentioned the presentation on the zoning map corrections and if it requires a local law or what process the town board needs to go through. Supervisor Leggio believes it requires a public hearing on the proposed action with a ten day notice. Mr. Izzo stated Clough Harbor will be at the next meeting. Supervisor Leggio preferred to get hold of the Town Attorney. Mr. Izzo stated letters have been sent. Supervisor Leggio stated he hasn't gotten back to you. *Resolution #14-2014 motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Walsh to schedule a public hearing regarding the zoning map corrections for March 4th at 6 pm at Town Hall. Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Antonelli)*

Ann Marie Moran commented on a memo, an operational issue, stating the town board was considering changing the hours 9-3 and asked for a list of all activities. The hours before were 9 to 4 but she was there at 8 am. She wrote back everything we do. She stated her and Janet's hours vary for clean up and break down. She stated changing her to work 9 to 3 makes no sense.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there were any board comments. With no further discussion a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Carlson seconded by Councilman Giordano. Meeting ended 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk