

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
March 5, 2024 6:30 pm

PRESENT:	Patrick McCulloch,	Supervisor
	Steven Espel,	Councilman
	Jared Giordiano,	Councilman
	Dawn Scannapieco,	Councilwoman

Also Attending:	Audre Higbee,	Town Assessor
	Ted Hilscher,	Town Attorney

Supervisor McCulloch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked all for coming to the meeting.

MINUTES:

February 6, 2024	Monthly Meeting
February 21, 2024	Committee Meeting

Motion: Councilman Giordiano Second: Councilman Espel; carried.

RESOLUTION:

2023 Budget Amendments – Resolution # 19-2024 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second Councilwoman Scannapieco approving the 2023 budget amendments. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (C. Kozloski)

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Gary Kistingner regarding reassessment. Mr. Kistingner gave a brief overview of this letter to the board and his view of revaluation and how housing will be affected between old homes and new buildings.

Ms. Higbee stated this is the first meeting with the public and reviewed the process. Collecting inventory information will be done by a flyover. There will not be a 'boots on the ground' inventory. The town will need to choose a vendor and after this is done, there will be multiple meetings to help alleviate the public's anxiety in the process.

She explained the town's equalization rate and how it affects the market's brisk pace. After revaluation, some properties may increase in assessed value, some will go down and this is dependent within the class and different variables.

Ms. Higbee spoke about the process a property owner has for grievance of their assessed value and how there are three opportunities to argue one's assessed value.

Mr. Kistingner feels that existing properties taxes will go up and feels there is an issue with newer construction versus older construction and how older properties have constant maintenance and utilities

are at a higher cost. He has a lot of concerns. Ms. Higbee addressed his concerns. Further conversations took place regarding the assessment of vacant land, equalization rate, exemptions for seniors and the programs for it, and how the revaluation process will happen.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Alternate Member Planning Board – Lisa Pina. Resolution # 20-2024 on motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco appointing Lisa Pina as Alternate Member Planning Board effective March 5, 2024. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (C. Kozloski)

Security System – Town Highway. Councilman Giordiano presented the two quotes received. One from Catskill Security and the other from Doyle. They are similar in price, equipment, and installation. His recommendation is for Catskill Security Systems. Resolution # 21-2024 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to have Catskill Security Systems update security at the Highway Department in the amount of \$6,274.00. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (C. Kozloski)

NEW BUSINESS:

Band for Memorial Day Celebration – Paul Luke Band. Supervisor McCulloch stated Joy is not present but he let the committee know the town does not have the \$2,000 in the celebration account with all the other events planned. We received approval to use the steps in front of the courthouse.

RBT CPA accounting services renewal to Town of Catskill. Resolution # 23-2024 on motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco authorizing the Supervisor sign the renewal contract with RBT CPA to continue accounting services with the town. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (C. Kozloski)

Nick Weist of CACHE regarding the cost of housing – Mr. Weist introduced himself and the individuals with him and what CACHE stands for – Catskill Artists and Creatives for Housing Equity and spoke about residents being concerned about housing affordability. He asked if the Town has plans regarding the housing crisis and helping with it; incentivizing accessory dwelling units, increasing fees on short term rentals, comprehensive plan.

Supervisor McCulloch commended their work. The town recently enacted regulations on short-term rentals. The town plans a revaluation and updating of the comprehensive plan and plans to apply for a grant to move forward with it. We will form a committee and will need a good makeup of residents.

Mr. Hilscher stated even if no one from CACHE is on the committee, to please be present at the meetings and to give input and opinions.

Mr. Hilscher brought before the board a request to schedule a public meeting on potential changes to the town code. *Resolution # 24-2024 on motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to schedule a public hearing for Local Law 1 of 2024 amending the Code of the Town of Catskill for Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (C. Kozloski)*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

William Demarest who represents Renew Zwickel Trust in litigation with Underhill Entity spoke to the board about the Article 78 Proceeding and the agreement in principle from the mediation session and

wishes to raise the concern about his client who owns the property next to the land Underhill Entity owns and the boundary dispute between the trust and Underhill Entity and how a CO was denied due to a fire code. His concern is the agreement and that it will not put a stamp of approval or authorize them to build an access road on trust property as there is an injunction the court issued to Underhill Entity to not build on trust property.

Supervisor McCulloch asked if there was any further comment. He thanked all for coming. He stated the board will enter executive session with the Town Attorney to discuss current litigation and will decide after exiting executive session and end the meeting thereafter. The executive session started at 7:37 pm.

Regular meeting reconvened 7:57 pm and the following resolution was adopted. *Resolution # 25-2024 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to accept the settlement proposal for Underhill Land, LLC and Underhill RE Holdings LLC v Town of Catskill, Town of Catskill Code Enforcement Office, and Matthew B. Carlile, Index Number EF2023-93. Adopted Vote: 4 Ayes 1 Absent (C. Kozloski)*

Councilwoman Scannapieco discussed her meeting with the coalition against bigger trucks and the legislation increasing the poundage to 91,000 from 80,000. There is no money to offset the safety of the roads and they are asking for a letter to not approve the increase in weight of the trucks on the highway.

Councilman Giordiano reviewed the Dog Control Report for the month of February. Very quiet.

Councilman McCulloch asked for a motion to authorize Dr. Kleen to clean the fabric of the dining room/meeting room chairs as well as the armchairs and loveseat. *Resolution # 26-2024 on motion of councilman Giordiano second Councilwoman Scannapieco approving the estimate from Dr. Kleen in the amount of \$1,933.75. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (C. Kozloski)*

Councilman Espel would like to have a laptop at the Senior Center to play movies on the screen. Councilman Giordiano stated it is a smart tv and we need to contact the company as they were to instruct on how to use.

With no further comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilwoman Scannapieco second by Councilman Giordiano. Meeting ended 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk