

Town Board Monthly Meeting with Public Hearings
Catskill Town Hall
March 7, 2023 6:30 PM

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

Also Attending: Ted Hilscher, Town Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING – Unsafe Building. Supervisor Finch asked the clerk to read the notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - A public hearing will be held by the Catskill Town Board on March 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Catskill Town Hall, 439 Main St., Catskill, NY to hear comments and concerns regarding existing violations of the Code of the Town of Catskill, Unsafe Buildings, Chapter 90, Article 2 Section 90-1 on the property of Properties LLC El Brothers Properties LLC, Park Ln, Leeds, NY 12451, Tax Map No. 138.11-1-21 in that the property has been deemed upon inspection to constitute a public nuisance. The property owner is directed and ordered to immediately abate or remove the conditions by March 10, 2023. Failure or refusal to comply by the above specified date may result in a duly authorized officer, agent or employee of the Town of Catskill entering upon the property and abating or removing the public nuisance. The cost and expense of such abatement or removal shall be the responsibility of the owner and without limitation of the Town's potential remedies to recoup its expenses, such cost and expense shall be assessed against the described property and shall constitute a lien thereon to be collected as proved by law.

Supervisor Finch stated it was the billboards near Astoria Motor Court and the matter, since the public hearing was scheduled, has been resolved.

With no further comment, a motion to end the public hearing was made by Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Vosburgh. The public hearing ended at 6:32 pm.

CONTINUATION PUBLIC HEARING – Code Revisions

Supervisor Finch prefaced the changes to Route 23B in Leeds are suggestions and not part of the code revisions. He asked if anyone had any comment.

Mr. Vipler approached the board to speak about the definition of a townhouse. The change is inline with the state code of having 3 or more units and he asked the board if that would be in the best interest for the Town of Catskill as currently it is a 2 unit townhouse. He has a pending application with the Planning Board for a 2 unit townhouse. He is asking if the board changes the definition, the change would not be applicable to pending applications.

Supervisor Finch thanked him for his comments. He stated all board members received correspondence from his attorney. He asked if anyone had any further comments.

Laurie Schmidt asked if the board was not voting on the amendments today, what the next step would be with the suggestions for Route 23B.

Supervisor Finch stated it is a vast change and would need to be done under a comprehensive plan review with a lot of public input. It is currently not under consideration by the Town Board. Mrs. Schmidt asked if the board is currently reviewing the comprehensive plan. Councilman McCulloch stated yes with Supervisor Finch answering Ms. Schmidt's question about timeline being 2024.

Mr. Hilscher stated this started in fall of last year with the revisions being reviewed by the Planning Board and then presentation to the Town Board a month ago. The revisions are mainly ambiguity in language and some content. The Town Board reviewed and most are acceptable and will be adopted in the near future. The ten new proposals the Town Board has yet to review. The change on County Route 23B to Highway Commercial, the Town Board will not do outside of a comprehensive plan. He is recommending the Town Board tonight adopt the two changes to the zoning map and the other changes in the future.

Supervisor Finch asked if there were any other comments. Mr. Vipler asked about notifications by mail and if possible, email notifications to surrounding property owners. Supervisor Finch is unsure of the legalities of being notified via email.

Mr. Hilscher spoke of PUD's or Planned Unit Development and the Town working on it in the near future.

With no further discussion a motion to end the public hearing was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco. The public hearing ended at 6:53 pm.

The regular meeting began at 6:53 pm.

MINUTES:

February 7, 2023	Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
February 15, 2023	Public Hearing LL 1-2023 Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers Tax Exemption
February 15, 2023	LL 2 of 2023 Amending the Code of the Town of Catskill
February 15, 2023	Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting

Motion to accept Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman McCulloch. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Greene County Resolution Local Law Number 1 of 2023 Providing Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Pursuant to Section 466-A of Real Property Tax Law.

Letter of introduction from James Hannahs, Greene County Director of Economic Development.

Letter from St. Catherine's Center for Children request for sponsorship for their Casino Royale Gala to be held at Franklin Plaza, Troy, NY May 4th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Archtopfiber – Shawn Beqaj of Archtopfiber introduced himself and two other partners. They have decades of experience in the broadband business and presented to the Town Board their plans to expand fiber optic services to the town as well as to neighboring municipalities. He discussed their business model and expanding to areas which currently do not have broadband. He feels there should be a competitive provider. He discussed the proposed broadband funding and development agreement. He stated even if the town does not enter into an agreement, they are committed to develop their plan in the Hudson Valley.

Councilman Giordiano asked about their ROI. Mr. Beqaj stated it is a competitive market and did not wish to elaborate their business plan with competitors in the room.

Supervisor Finch stated leveling the playing field is a good thing. Councilwoman Scannapieco stated some areas in Catskill have one service and asked if this would help. Mr. Beqaj stated yes. Supervisor Finch mentioned Greene County putting out RFPs for broadband service to underserved areas. The Town of Catskill has 120 parcels not currently being served. Mr. Beqaj stated the Federal Government is finally having the political will to do something. The pandemic exposed the digital divide. They plan on providing and seeing an opportunity in the Hudson Valley and are enthusiastic to be here. Supervisor Finch thanked the board for their presentation.

Mid-Hudson (MH) Cablevision – Rachel Puckett notified the board MH was awarded the grant from the County to provide broadband services. They are applying for the licenses with Central Hudson and Verizon and as soon as they get them, the Town of Catskill will have fiber by the end of the year to all areas of the town.

Supervisor Finch asked if anyone had any further comments. Mr. Hilscher spoke further about the agreement and the town partnering with Archtop for the opportunity of funding to service the underserved. It is a non-exclusive agreement and the town can enter into a similar agreement with potential providers. He asked if MH would ask the town to sign a similar agreement. Ms. Puckett stated no. They have partnered with the town for 52 years. Mr. Beqaj stated they are building all of Catskill without public funding. Supervisor Finch stated the board will take everything into consideration.

Leeds Clean-Up – the clean-up day will be held May 13th at 9 am. The town will supply bags and a dump truck. It was a successful event last year and the town supports their efforts.

State of New York Unified Court System annual court record/docket audit for Town Court – *Resolution # 21-2023 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh to engage the RPT, the Town's Accounting Firm, to conduct the required audit of town court records/dockets. Approved Vote: 5 Yes*

GC Board of Elections poll site agreement – this is for use of the Senior Center for the June 27th and November 7th elections. *Resolution # 22-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to allow the Robert C. Antonelli Senior Center as a polling site by GCBOE for 2023 elections. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Receiver of Tax request attend Receivers and Collection Training for himself and his Deputy June 11-14, 2023 at the Hotel Ithaca. *Resolution # 23-2023 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh authorizing Sam Aldi and Anthony Petrianni attend the NYSATRC training seminar June 11-14, 2023 at the Hotel Ithaca. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Matt Carlile, CEDAR application – Supervisor Finch stated this would allow Matt to participate in NYS disaster emergencies as needed. *Resolution # 24-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Giordiano authorizing the Supervisor sign the Code Enforcement Disaster Assistance Response Employer Release Form for Matthew Carlile. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Senior Center Interior Painting – Supervisor Finch stated three quotes were received: Brian Carl, \$7,800; Michael Kohl &10,765 and Richard Motchiunig \$9,600. The funds used will be with ARPA money given by the County. *Resolution # 25-2023 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco second by Councilman Vosburgh awarding the project to Brian Carl in the amount of \$7,800. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Councilman Vosburgh asked how much money is left to use and if it can go to cameras or ceiling tile replacement, LED lighting. Supervisor Finch stated there is \$6,000 and we can talk about what projects at the next meeting.

Mr. Hilscher brought about the changes to the zoning map. The public hearing covered the two changes to the map with parcels 138.00-11-13 and 138.00-14-1 zoning them to Highway Commercial. These parcels are adjacent to Old Route 23B and the Thruway. Mr. Hilscher reviewed the SEQRA. All questions were no with the exception of number 12. *Resolution # 26-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Giordiano declaring a negative declaration for Local Law 2 of 2023. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Resolution # 27-2023 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh adopting Local Law 2 of 2023 changing the Zoning Map to include tax parcels 138.00-11-13 and 138.00-14-1 as Highway Commercial. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Supervisor Finch asked about the Summer Recreation Program. Councilman McCulloch stated he and Councilman Giordiano met with the principal of the school and discussed the program at length. We need to send a letter to the Superintendent requesting use of the building. Councilman Vosburgh asked about providing lunches. Councilman McCulloch stated yes but we need to figure out the schedule. Supervisor Finch stated last year the Community Center helped fund the program as well as Mid-Hudson. Councilman McCulloch stated there has been no communication with the CC. Ms. Puckett will check as she is on that board.

The swimming program was mentioned. Mr. Vipler will not be offering the pool this year. Councilwoman Scannapieco mentioned the Athens pool but it would be after Cocksackie Athens School uses it. Supervisor Finch stated transportation is expensive. Councilman Giordiano stated we will have one point of contact to sign kids up and to receive money. The Town Clerk will be this person. Supervisor Finch mentioned using the workforce with CGCC and the need to come up with a schedule and the number of people needed. Councilman McCulloch stated the schedule is the same, four days a week. Supervisor Finch stated to follow up as a group and have someone spearhead.

Mr. Hilscher circled back to the zoning amendment discussion and stated items 1-6 are ambiguity consistency items and recommended accepting them; items 7, 8 and 9 will need more discussion and item 10 is off the table (Route 23B). We will need to talk about rights of way.

Supervisor Finch wants to discuss Hickory Notch in Palenville at the next meeting. Councilman Giordiano would like to discuss the house on Old Kings Rd too.

Councilman Giordiano would like to send a formal request to the Highway Superintendent he replace all Welcome to Town of Catskill signs. Liz will send.

Supervisor Finch asked if there was any public comment. With none being heard a motion to end the meeting was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh. Meeting ended 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk