

Town Board Monthly Meeting  
Catskill Town Hall  
July 1, 2008 6:30 pm

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

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

He then reviewed the minutes to be accepted:

|            |                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 06/03/2008 | Monthly Town Board Meeting<br>Motion Councilman Antonelli<br>Second Councilman O'Connor<br>Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0                                       |
| 06/03/2008 | Public Hearing # 18-2008: JUNK-Murariu<br>Motion Councilman Antonelli<br>Second Councilman Walsh<br>Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0                              |
| 06/10/2008 | Special Hearing #2-2008: Discuss Amendments<br>To Employee Handbook<br>Motion Councilman Antonelli<br>Second Councilman Walsh<br>Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 |
| 06/18/2008 | Public Hearing #19-2008: JUNK<br>Motion Councilman Antonelli<br>Second Councilman O'Connor<br>Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0                                    |
| 06/18/2008 | Public Hearing #20-2008: JUNK<br>Motion Councilman Antonelli<br>Second Councilman Walsh<br>Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0                                       |
| 06/18/2008 | Monthly Town Board Committee Meeting<br>Motion Councilman Antonelli<br>Second Councilman O'Connor<br>Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0                             |

He then reviewed the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION # 84-2008

DB FUND TRANSFER

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Board, at its June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, established the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent, and

WHEREAS, budgeted monies are needed to fund this position,

|          |                               |                |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| DB5141.1 | Deputy Highway Superintendent | \$43,394.00 so |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board approve the following transfer from the following accounts to fund the Deputy Highway Superintendent position,

|            |                                |                    |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| DB51421.65 | Foreman, Snow Account          | \$19,896.00        |
| DB51101.65 | Foreman, General Repairs Acct. | <u>\$23,498.00</u> |
| Total      |                                | \$43,394.00        |

Councilman O'Connor, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 85-2008

JUSTICE COURT EXAMINATION

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor and the Town Comptroller have examined the Town of Catskill Justice Court records and dockets for the year ending December 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS, this examination was performed within the guidelines set forth by the New York State Comptroller, and

WHEREAS, this examination indicated that the court records and dockets were maintained within those guidelines, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board, acknowledge that the Town Supervisor and Town Comptroller have completed the required examination of the Town of Catskill Justice Court records for the year ending December 31, 2007.

Councilman O'Connor, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 86-2008

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY  
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill Highway Superintendent, Mr. Alfie Beers, has appointed Patrick McCulloch as Deputy Highway Superintendent effective July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby concur with the appointment of Mr. Patrick McCulloch to the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent.

Councilman O'Connor, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Supervisor Markou stated that the Deputy Highway Superintendent was appointed by the Highway Superintendent and this resolution is a formality.

RESOLUTION # 87-2008

ACCEPT BIDS FOR EXTERIOR  
WORK LITTLE RED  
SCHOOLHOUSE

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill was awarded a legislative initiative in the amount of \$10,000 from the State of New York Senate for rehabilitation for the Little Red Schoolhouse, and

WHEREAS, this award needs to be administered before July 31, 2008, and

WHEREAS, two bids have been submitted for exterior work to the Little Red Schoolhouse,

1. Kohl Construction, \$5,800
2. River Valley Remodeling, \$6,550 so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board, do hereby award the bid to Kohl Construction in the amount of \$5,800 for exterior repair to the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Councilman O'Connor, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Councilman O'Connor asked how much the bids were and where the money was coming from. Supervisor Markou stated the bid amounts and that the money was from a grant that will be expiring as of July 31, 2008.

Supervisor Markou opened the floor to new business. Supervisor Markou invited the Catskill Community Center (CCC). Rich Ahlberg approached the Board to give their six month update. He introduced the Board members present. He also introduced Lorraine Warner who will be assisting CCC in grant writing. He then stated that Kellie Darling has been promoted to Director of the CCC. Andrea Lowenthal reviewed their missions and objectives and reviewed their year to date achievements.

Kellie Darling reviewed the program updates. There has been a 40% increase of children in their programs with the addition of Summer Recreation, CYBO, and an increase in their Summer Fun program. CCC has expanded their programs by 50% compared to last year. They are trying to have intergenerational programming as well.

Rich Ahlberg reviewed CCC's budget. They are holding close to their budget. They will be having their financial records certified which will allow more grant opportunities. The firm of Pattison, Kosky, Howe, & Bucci will be certifying their records at a discounted rate for not-for-profit. This amount will be five to six thousand dollars. Mr. Ahlberg stated the support from the Town and Village allows them to submit grants.

Supervisor Markou stated that CCC will not be able to receive a grant without an audit, so the fact that they are having their financial records certified is a good thing. Mr. Ahlberg stated that the fact they need an audit is great progress in the growth of CCC.

Mr. Ahlberg requested that he approach the Board after the Summer Recreation program to give an end report.

The Government investment in the CCC based on the Town/Village population and the \$151,000 the Town has invested is a \$12.78/person investment.

Councilman Smith stated their needs to be a relationship between the two organizations but wants to decrease the amount of money the Town gives to the Center based on their increasing grant support, but does not want to lose the fact that it is about our kids.

Supervisor Markou wants to keep in touch with CCC's grant writer because the Town and CCC will be competing for grants and does not want to negate each other if they are both trying to obtain the same grant.

Supervisor Markou introduced Patrick McCulloch as Deputy Highway Superintendent and welcomed him aboard.

Linda Speckman, Code Enforcement Office, approached the Board regarding the Lundy properties. Linda spoke with the adjoining property owner, who lives in Florida, to see if she knew where her property line is. She has recently lost her husband and she is an

elderly woman. She has stated that she does not have a survey and does not know where her property line is.

The Town's Assessor cannot definitively tell the property line. Linda stated that she believes the junk belongs to them (Lundy's) but they state it was there when they bought the property.

Councilman O'Connor asked where the burden of proof falls. Councilman Smith asked how the COE determines the property line. Linda stated that the property owners normally know where their line is. This case is an exception.

Councilman Smith asked if we could find the property line by the county records. Linda stated that a surveyor would need to state it out. Councilman Smith asked what the cost of a surveyor would be. Supervisor Markou stated it would cost \$5,000. Linda stated that if the junk is determined to be on the other person's property, then it becomes her responsibility to clean it up.

Supervisor Markou asked for her recommendation. She stated her recommendation is to close the file. The junk has been picked up in the front and sides of the yard. She stated if she was not invited to the rear of another person's property, she never would have seen the junk on the hill, but once seen, she needed to take action.

Councilman Smith wanted to know if we could take the action that the Lundy's have been junking the property and make the recommendation that the clean up take place. Linda stated that we could take that recommendation, but that it would only be a recommendation.

Councilman Smith wants the Town to take that position, since it is possible the Lundy's have placed the junk there, that we make the recommendation they remove it.

Councilman Antonelli stated that we should drop the violation because it can't be enforced unless we spend the money to have it surveyed.

Councilman Smith does not feel that we should ignore the complaint of the neighbor who allowed Linda on their property to view the junk. He stated it would show that we can't enforce the law.

Linda stated that we can't enforce the law because we can't ascertain who owns the property. This is the biggest issue.

Supervisor Markou stated that is the key element in this case.

Councilman Smith stated the issue is not necessarily the property line but who is disposing of the garbage. Linda stated that the person would have to be caught in the act to charge them with a solid waste violation. Regardless of whose garbage it is, it is the

responsibility of the owner to clean it up. Councilman Smith asked if the property owner would be able to keep an eye out to see who would be disposing the garbage.

Councilman Antonelli wants to get a price to clean up the property. Linda will contact Alfie Beers, Town of Catskill Highway Superintendent.

Councilman Antonelli stated that after the property is cleaned and it becomes filled with junk again, then we can determine who is placing the junk there. He also stated either way, survey or cleaning up the property, we are spending money.

Supervisor Markou concurred with Councilman Antonelli to get a price to clean up the property.

Supervisor Markou then broached the subject of naming an island off of Embought Road on the request of the United States Board on Geographic Names. A fax was received on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

RESOLUTION # 88-2008

NAME PROPOSAL FOR  
“BUSH ISLAND”

Councilman O’Connor, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, a local resident has proposed to the United States Board on Geographic Names to name an island that straddles Greene and Columbia Counties Bush Island, in commemorative memory to Douglas Bush (d. Dec 2002), a local resident, and

WHEREAS, this island has no official name at this time, and

WHEREAS, the United States Board on Geographic Names is requesting the Catskill Town Board’s approval in so naming this island Bush Island, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve naming this island Bush Island in memoriam to Douglas Bush.

Councilman Antonelli seconded this motion.

Ayes 4,        Nays 1, (Sup. Markou)        Absent 0,        Motion Carried

Councilman Smith asked why the Supervisor voted nay. Supervisor Markou voted no because he believes the island belongs to the U.S.A. and believes the Army Corps of Engineers should have a say in naming this island. He stated in his past experience, even puddles, have been referred to the Army Corps of Engineers as waters of the U.S.A. He believes that the right to name the island belongs to the Federal Government.

Councilman Walsh stated other entities should be approached or contacted in this request also. Councilman O'Connor stated that Germantown has been contacted for their approval.

Councilman Smith made a motion to recast the vote. Councilman Walsh seconded. Councilman O'Connor stated he will not withdraw his motion. The motion stood as is.

Supervisor Markou invited Mr. William Arnold to approach the Board. Mr. Arnold spoke about the Catskill Athletic Training Association. It is a not-for-profit organization. This would be a boxing, judo, wrestling, and kido space in Palenville for the youths of Palenville. The boxing club will be across the street from the Palenville Country Club in a building owned by Paul Murariu. He stated Mr. Murariu is willing to donate a part of his space. He asked what the Town of Catskill would be able to do for this organization.

Councilman O'Connor asked if the zoning has been checked and if the building is functional? Mr. Arnold stated he may be putting the cart before the horse, because he is in the process of checking this out to see if it could be done.

Councilman Smith asked if Mr. Arnold has thought of contacting the Community Center to help with this. Mr. Arnold stated that he would really like to see something happen in Palenville. He states that parents are on a fixed budget and do not have the money to utilize the Community Center (i.e. transportation costs). He wants to establish this in Palenville for the kids that reside there.

Supervisor Markou stated Mr. Arnold should contact Bob Dembrowski, who resides in Palenville, and is part of the Palenville Foundation that has been reestablished. This group is in the process of establishing a number of projects in Palenville.

Councilman Antonelli stated that the piece of property that Mr. Arnold is speaking of is the same piece of property that the Town tried to purchase to establish a park there but that was bought out from them by Mr. Murariu.

Supervisor Markou stated that 9W will be closed a mile above the County line from July 14 to 19<sup>th</sup> for track repair.

Supervisor Markou mentioned the reports on file which are available in the Town Clerk's office.

Supervisor Markou asked if Mr. O'Connor had any new business. Councilman O'Connor stated he would like to schedule a public hearing for the subdivision changes. He understands the attorney is still reviewing it, but would like to get the ball moving.

RESOLUTION # 89-2008

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR SUB-DIVISION  
AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill is proposing to amend the Town's Subdivision Law, specifically, to revise Chapter 140-9: Definitions; to revise Chapter 140-11: Procedures for major subdivisions; to revise Chapter 140-13: Preliminary plat requirements for major subdivisions; to revise Chapter 140-14: Final plat requirements for major subdivisions; to revise Chapter 140-18: Design standards, and

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby schedule a Public Hearing to hear comments and concerns regarding the proposed Subdivision revisions.

Ayes 2, Nays 3, Absent 0 Motion Failed

Supervisor Markou asked for a roll call vote.

Supervisor Markou stated that there is a noise ordinance in effect. The proposed amendments to the noise ordinance have not been adopted. The Town is still waiting for the Attorney's comments. Councilman Smith concurred.

Councilman Antonelli stated that if this is in our law, then why does the Sheriff or State Police not want to enforce it?

With no further comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman O'Connor.

Meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo  
Town Clerk