

Catskill Town Board Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
August 2, 2011 6:30 pm

Attendance: Pat Walsh, Acting Supervisor; Robert Antonelli, Councilman; Michael Smith, Councilman; Kevin Lennon, Councilman; Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Acting Supervisor Walsh opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The following minutes were reviewed:

07/05/2011	Public Hearing 1-2011 JUNK- McDowell Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Smith Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0
07/05/2011	Public Hearing 2-2011 Jefferson Heights Streetlight Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Smith Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0
07/05/2011	Catskill Town Board Meeting Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Smith Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0
07/20/2011	Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Smith Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0

The following County resolutions were mentioned:

Res 249-11	Award bid for #2D Diesel Fuel
Res 264-11	Approve reimbursement Comm College (Catskill's share \$1,972.85)

Acting Supervisor Walsh next moved on to new business. Roger Murman and Michael Brown from Fraser, Weston & Sampson Co. approached the board regarding submitting a grant for parks in the Town of Catskill.

Mr. Murman stated he has been speaking with Councilman Lennon regarding grants for our town. He stated the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation has grants available that are funded by the Environmental Protection Fund. The grant application is due on September 1st. These grants will fund implementation of park projects, planning and acquisition of land to be used for park projects.

The maximum grant award is \$400,000 and it is a matching grant program. There will be a local share that needs to be put up. For many municipalities it is half the amount granted. The State this year has stated that for communities in zip codes that have 10 or more percent poverty, the local match is 25%. Catskill has 14.95% poverty level. We would qualify for the 25% match. The maximum project that we could apply for would come in at \$533,000 and our match would be \$133,000.

Mr. Murman stated we could submit one application or submit individual application for every part or a combination. What was decided is that we should do two applications. One application for Cramer park; an implementation application and there are three other possible areas. One area is the Margraff property. Councilman Antonelli stated you cannot use that area as it is landlocked. Mr. Murman stated it can be a nice site and if the State would give us access it could work. Councilman Lennon stated we are looking at a conceptual device for hiking trails and to gain access to the creek.

Councilman Antonelli stated the other piece of property is Five Mile Woods Road. Mr. Murman stated he remembered looking at that site and it has a great deal of potential and a lot of wetlands. Developing a plan for the use of that site would be eligible for a grant.

Mr. Murman stated the last site is the closed landfill and possible putting a pocket park on the parts of the site that are not the old landfill. This could be studied in a planning grant. Potentially there are three sites for the planning grant and one site for the implementation grant. What will needed to go forward for Cramer Park would be how many people use the park, the demands for adding a ball field, and this needs to be tied into the notion that it exceeds the 10% poverty level and it would be an opportunity for young people to have some wholesome recreation. We would need anecdotal information on the other sites which would help bolster the grant.

Councilman Antonelli stated you can't touch the back where the landfill used to be. He stated at Five Mile Woods Road you can't bulldoze the cap but you can put extra fill in. He believes that Five Mile Woods Road is the best location. There are 135 acres of land there and it would be a 15 year project. He stated he believes the Margraf property is a waste of time. Mr. Murman stated you may be able to work something out with DOT for the Margraf property. They have changed their complexion.

Councilman Antonelli stated he guesses it comes down to money to develop all these plans. Mr. Murman stated the planning grant won't be anywhere near the money for the implementation grant. Councilman Lennon stated the first phase of Five Mile Woods Road would be to put in some natural walkways for bird sightings and the wet lands. He stated you could possible use the trails in the winter months for snowmobiles.

Councilman Antonelli stated he agrees. He states that piece of land is open for anything. There is a lot of land there for biking paths, tennis courts etc. It is a 15 year project. The problem is money. We are at a 2% cap on taxes. As much as he agrees that it is needed it is difficult. Councilman Lennon stated maybe we could have businesses donate equipment and help fundraiser. He stated there are businesses that would get involved in this.

Councilman Smith asked if there is a proposal together relative to the due diligence that is needed for grant writing. Mr. Murman stated the due diligence would be funded under the awarded grant. Councilman Smith asked what the cost would be. Mr. Murman stated the rate for writing the two grants would be \$5,500. Councilman Smith asked what the process is after the writing. Mr. Murman stated it is shared with the board before submittal. There is an electronic registration process. Forms would need to be signed by the Acting Supervisor and it is due by September 1st.

Mr. Murman stated you have the choice of putting in one planning grant and lump all three sites together or put in one planning grant and have the cost of each site separated out. This would give the State an opportunity to pick and chose. This is the best approach.

Councilman Smith asked if they knew of the likelihood of the State accepting the application and awarding a grant. Mr. Murman stated that question always comes up and he can't give us a percentage. He stated there is a fairly small amount of money for the entire state. This is a very competitive grant. We stress the priorities in the grant that we know the State is looking for. We also have an edge with our poverty level. He also stated the areas we want to develop are green sites. This is a positive. Mr. Murman stated the applications get submit to the region who do a first cut and then it goes to Albany. Letters of support in the application are very important.

Councilman Smith stated if we receive a grant what is the window for us to accomplish raising the matching funds? Mr. Brown stated you have one year from when it is awarded.

Mr. Murman stated there is a negative as the town was awarded a grant for Five Mile Woods Road and we didn't use it. Councilman Antonelli stated we personally apologized to Albany. He stated soon there will be a change to the board and doesn't see why we should go for all four. He stated we should concentrate on Cramer and Five Mile.

Acting Supervisor Walsh stated how does the board feel. Councilman Antonelli stated he needs more time to think about it.

Mr. Murman stated it would take three weeks to write the grant and to get it to the board to review before submittal. There are four weeks to the submittal date.

Acting Supervisor Walsh stated we should concentrate on Five Mile Woods Road and the Ricky Cramer field. The other sites involve other agencies getting involved. Councilman Smith stated we should limit it to two also.

RESOLUTION #62-2011

AUTHORIZE FRASER & ASSOCIATES TO
WRITE GRANT FOR OFFICE OF PARKS,
RECREATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Councilman Lennon presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill wishes to pursue funding for the development and/or implementation of parks in the Town of Catskill; and

WHEREAS, funding is available under the NYS 2011 Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, Fraser & Associates has been working closely with the Town regarding a conceptual site plan for the Catskill Babe Ruth Facility; and

WHEREAS, the cost of Fraser & Associates for writing the grant is \$5,500.00; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board authorize Fraser & Associates to write the grant for the two town parcels (Ricky Cramer & Five Mile Woods Road site) to be used for recreational purposes.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 3, Nays 1 (Antonelli), Absent 0

Motion Carried

Acting Supervisor next mentioned a notice from the Department of State that they are increasing the mileage reimbursement.

RESOLUTION #60-2011

AMEND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town Board at its Reorganizational meeting, January 4, 2011, authorized Town Officials to be paid the rate of .51 cents/mile as directed by the Office of the State Comptroller for New York State for personal vehicle use in conjunction with town business; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Comptroller has increased the mileage reimbursement to .55 cents/mile; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby increase the mileage reimbursement rate to .55 cents/mile.

Councilman Lennon seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Acting Supervisor Walsh next mentioned hiring Mike Richardson for the Ambulance contract negotiations for 2012.

RESOLUTION #61-2011

RETAIN MICHAEL A. RICHARDSON
LABOR RELATION CONSULTANT

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Ambulance Employee Contract between the Town of Catskill and the United Public Service Employees Union ("UPSEU") are to expire on December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill would like to retain Michael A. Richardson, Labor Relation Consultant, to represent the town in negotiations at a rate of \$150 per hour; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize Michael A. Richardson to represent the Town of Catskill in negotiations.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Acting Supervisor next mentioned the Memorandum of Agreement with CSEA and the Town of Catskill.

RESOLUTION #59-2011

MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT
WITH CSEA & TOC

Councilman Lennon presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill and the CSEA (Highway) have reached a Memorandum of Agreement in regards to the Town of Catskill's Employee Contract for the year January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve the Memorandum Agreement and authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the one year agreement with CSEA.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Acting Supervisor Walsh next mentioned the correspondence and the monthly reports. He opened the meeting to public comment.

Dick Schloss approached the board regarding his road. He stated he is getting less and less service since coming to the board. He stated there are vines coming across the road now. He stated Ernie Darling almost got hurt peddling down the road. He stated the road is precariously tipped and it is cracking. He wants the road fixed. He stated Embought and Old Kings Road have been done. He asked if they were second class citizens. He stated emergency vehicles will not be able to get down there. He wants to know what plan of action he can expect from the town.

Acting Supervisor Walsh stated Gary and Alfie were there two weeks ago. He stated he couldn't see the problem when he was there a month and a half ago. Gary stated he doesn't see a problem. Mr. Schloss stated he is going to get yellow traffic paint and circle where the problem is. He stated the patch on top of patch is breaking off. He asked why the road can't be fixed. Are there not enough voters there?

Councilman Antonelli stated that Alfie is an elected official and he runs the highway department and the board cannot tell him what to do. Mr. Schloss stated he is an employee of the town and the town can. Councilman Antonelli stated we only allot the money. Mr. Schloss stated he has to be accountable to someone. Councilman Antonelli stated he is accountable to the taxpayers.

Mr. Schloss stated then Alfie is running wild and he can do what he wants and he can never get his road fixed. Acting Supervisor Walsh stated he will go down again. Councilman Lennon

stated he was down to see it before he left for vacation, when he returned from vacation and made sure Alfie brought down Mr. Harvey. He stated he noticed that the culvert needs to be cleaned out. He stated he has been down there in a heavy downpour and there was no problem.

Mr. Schloss stated solve the problem. It is built on a slope with a road built on a slant. It will keep going down until it reaches the creek. He stated it is not fun and there is a serious problem. He stated if Alfie is not accountable then something is wrong with the system. He stated if he thinks he is going to punish me and the people down there something will happen.

Councilman Lennon asked if he could get a petition from the neighbors. Acting Supervisor Walsh stated it has been looked at and there doesn't seem to be a problem. Mr. Schloss stated he is getting the yellow paint which ticked Alfie off the last time. Councilman Lennon said the town board should meet there and all can view what Mr. Schloss is seeing. Mr. Schloss was in agreement. The board decided to meet at 9 am on Thursday.

Acting Supervisor Walsh asked if there was further comment. Councilman Antonelli asked if the Little League signed the lease and if they are playing. Councilman Lennon stated they are having practices for the All Stars game. He gave them the contract and they thought it was inappropriate because it wasn't the same as Babe Ruth. Councilman Lennon stated he is meeting with the manager or the Tri-Valley Cats to see the proposal they gave to Little League.

Councilman Antonelli stated the reason why he is asking is that the dug outs are dirty, there are balls all over the field, etc.; however that isn't his concern. He stated he is concerned that they are playing without insurance. He stated he told Sandy to call the insurance company because we have liability but no insurance on the buildings. He stated either we stop and no one plays or the Town has to get insurance. Councilman Antonelli stated they are a bunch of babies as far as he is concerned. Councilman Lennon stated Little League has provisional insurance.

Councilman Lennon stated according to the President of their league, the conditions on the field have made it unplayable. Councilman Antonelli stated he is concerned if someone gets hurt. He stated there isn't one person on the board who hasn't said they can't play on the field. He stated they are a bunch of babies because they can't get control. Councilman Lennon stated he doesn't want to lose the opportunity of the Tri-City Valley Cats putting money into the field that we could use in lieu of the grant if awarded in February. Councilman Lennon agrees that they need liability insurance and to sign the contract. He approached that to the Little League Board. Their response was to have Mr. Antonelli come and kick us off the field. Councilman Antonelli stated he is tired of hearing everyone being blamed by Mr. Antonelli and he stated he hears it is coming from Councilman Lennon.

Councilman Antonelli stated they need insurance up there or not have the kids play. He is putting Councilman Lennon on notice. Councilman Antonelli stated he is tired of getting blamed for everything. Councilman Lennon stated he has not once put his name in a bad light. He stated it comes from past doings with the Babe Ruth. Councilman Antonelli stated he never had any dealings with Babe Ruth. Councilman Lennon stated we need to work together as a board. Councilman Antonelli stated you could do it without my vote. Acting Supervisor Walsh stated his observation when they were in here they felt that you were not with them. Councilman Antonelli stated he didn't even say a word. He doesn't want to discuss it any further. Councilman Antonelli made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a contract. Executive session started at 7:45 pm.

Councilman Antonelli made a motion to end executive session and the meeting and Councilman Smith seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk