

TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Catskill held their monthly meeting on September 2, 2014 at 6:31 pm at Catskill Town Hall, 439 Main St., Catskill, NY. The meeting began as soon as the public hearing ended with the following members present:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

08/05/2014	Public Hearing 11-2014 Leeds/Jeff Hts Sewer District Motion: Antonelli Second: Walsh Adopted
08/05/2014	Town Board Monthly Meeting Motion: Antonelli Second: Giordiano Adopted
08/20/2014	Town Board Committee Meeting Motion: Antonelli Second: Carlson Adopted

GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTIONS:

Res 245-14	Awarding Bid for Propane
Res 254-14	Approving Reimbursement to Comm Colleges (Catskill's share \$1,318.73)

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Aidan O'Connor, GCEMS, which states they are desirous of establishing a transport emergency medical service for Greene County and ask for a return letter that we have received the definition of Public Need.

Letter from Greene County Acting Clerk Tammy Sciavillo stating Greene County is planning to adopt a resolution in September to delay the County's original plan to assume 100% of the financial responsibility for community college charge-backs due to budgetary/fiscal constraints.

Letter from NYS Dept of Public Service helping raise awareness of the Lifeline Discount Telephone Service Program.

Invitation from America in Bloom to attend a national symposium in Philadelphia for their economic development program.

Letter from Barbara LaRocca, President of Going Coastal Inc., asking for support of “Greening Main Street”. *Supervisor Leggio stated they purchased a building on Main Street and are trying to make it energy efficient.*

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Mary Beth Bianconi of Delaware Engineering was present to have the board pass a resolution authorizing and verifying the application for permission from the State Comptroller for the establishment of the Leeds & Jefferson Heights Sewer District. Ms. Bianconi stated the Comptroller’s Office will accept the application prior to the expiration of the permissive referendum period.

Resolution # 77-2014 with motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Carlson to adopt the Authorization & Verification of Application for Permission from the State Comptroller for the Establishment of the Leeds and Jefferson Heights Sewer District under Part 85. Vote: Adopted 5 Yes with roll call vote all being aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Shanley approached the board regarding the maintenance of Stella Place as the pot holes haven’t been filled in and he is unsure why this has stopped after all these years.

Supervisor Leggio stated no one said not to maintain but there are issues with other roads. Mr. Beers stated he was under the impression he couldn’t do it and confirmed this with Councilman Carlson. Councilman Carlson stated we cannot maintain private roads. When LaCorte Road came up, we found out we maintained Stella Place. In the past Mr. Beers may have been told to take care of but once brought to our knowledge, we told him to stop.

Mrs. Shanley stated they had private meetings, things were certified; notarized to maintain the road. Rights of way and easements were done to maintain the road. There was a fire issue for them to use the road. This was done in 93, 94.

Supervisor Leggio asked the Town Clerk what she found out. She read excerpts of minutes beginning in June of 1993 where the first request from residents of Stella Place for the Town to

take over the road was mentioned. The next mention was in July of 1993 stating a petition was received. In the August 1993 minutes a resident approached the board regarding the town taking over and maintaining the road. In October of 1993 Supervisor Darling read correspondence from Edward Young, Highway Superintendent, asking his opinion about the Town taking over the road. He had yet to complete his investigation. November of 1993 mentioned the road being up to specifications. In November of 1994 a resolution was passed 68-94, accepting the petition of property owners located on Stella Place for the construction of street improvements. The next mention is in March of 1995 where Supervisor Beck asked the board to review a road maintenance agreement which would make the residents of Stella Place responsible for the up-keep and maintenance of their road. The next mention is in October of 1997 where Town Attorney James Wagman stated a public hearing would be needed. Minutes were reviewed from then until 2001 with no further mention of Stella Place.

Councilman Carlson stated we should look over the road to see if it meets town specs. Mr. Beers stated it should be ok there are just a lot of potholes. Supervisor Leggio stated the issue is we follow the correct procedures. Everyone needs to be treated the same.

Mr. Shanley stated the road has been maintained for 20 years and they are only asking to fill in the potholes and plow. Councilman Carlson stated that is the same thing people living on LaCorte want us to do. Mr. Shanley asked if this is grandfathered.

Supervisor Leggio stated the town uses Rich Praetorius and we will have him look at the road. If it meets town specs or cost \$5,000 to meet town specs and you are willing to do we can go from there. The same thing will be with LaCorte road.

Michael Smith, Town Attorney, stated there is concern about creating precedent the Town Board should create. He stated the road has been maintained over twenty years without having a road declared a public road. The Town gave you a gift. Since there is no record other than what the Town Clerk stated based on a review of records you would have to start from where someone else would start. Come to the town board and ask them to take over the road. The issue appears the Town Council never made a decision on what you did. The Town Clerk's records show no action taken after submission of documents so you will need to start where everyone else starts.

Mr. Shanley stated all they want is the pot holes filled and the road plowed. Supervisor Leggio stated it will not be resolved tonight. Mr. Beers stated the reason it was done was for fire protection. Supervisor Leggio stated to give the board a month and we will look through what was found. We will also have Praetorius look at your road and LaCorte Rd.

Mr. Kelly stated it sounds as if the Town Board dropped the ball. He would like to use criteria from back then. Councilman Carlson stated the concept makes sense but this is a different board.

If we utilize the criteria now we would be negligent on this board's part. He is not sure who dropped the ball but assures him it will be done properly. Mr. Kelly stated he put a house on that road with the idea it was maintained. He never would have invested in the property if it wasn't. Supervisor Leggio stated to let us sort through and look into it.

Donna Meo asked the board to look through the road specifications and have a realistic view and can amend so people can afford to bring their road up to specs. Councilman Giordiano stated the board can set up a road improvement zone which would be assessed to your taxes. A person living on LaCorte stated he pays taxes and a certain amount of the taxes goes towards roads. Taxpayers are entitled to services. The law was passed 25 years ago and now there are more houses. You take our money and there is nothing in return. You are being prejudicial to people who live on remote roads.

Councilman Carlson disagreed. He lives on a private road and he maintains himself. He knew that when he bought there. His taxes pay for roads to access his road. Supervisor Leggio stated they will try to address this situation for everyone. There is a fine line trying to make everyone happy.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Supervisor Leggio stated he received a letter from the Acting Chair of the Legislature asking us to wait on ALS and give them more time. He received a letter today from GCEMS who is looking to go into the ambulance business. He stated he asked George June to attend the meeting to give his opinion.

Mr. June stated he reached out to Aiden O'Connor and Ron Rouse of GCEMS. He stated other than giving the task force time there is not a tremendous benefit for us to hold off our plan. The discussion should be to make it worth our while to stay in the system for another 6 months.

Councilman Antonelli stated the County Legislators think this is a big surprise whereas we have been discussing it for the last 3 years. His concern is to the Town of Catskill taxpayers. He does not want to give an extension.

Mr. June stated even if we keep with our timeframe there will be other issues to iron out like what we would do if we were without coverage and vice versa. Councilman Antonelli stated to be on target with the first of the year. Councilman Carlson concurred. Mr. June stated the county will continue to fund GCEMS. Councilman Carlson stated if they fund Catskill's portion it should cover other services if they need to come to our aid. The timeframe in the letter doesn't interfere with our plans.

Mr. June stated he is meeting with REMO to go over exact process and timeline to upgrade the level of service. He will have a better idea at the next meeting to see if January timeframe will be doable.

Councilman Walsh agreed with Gary. The timeframe is your call. We don't want to go into this thing half-baked. Supervisor Leggio stated it is pretty clear where the board stands.

Supervisor Leggio stated the Justice Court would like to apply for a JCAP grant.

Resolution # 78-2014 with motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Walsh authorizing the Justice Court to apply for a grant through the Office of Court Administration. Adopted-5 Yes

Supervisor Leggio mentioned going out to bid for property located at 140 Paul Saxe Rd. Public hearing was at 6:15 pm. *Resolution #79-2014 with motion by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Antonelli authorizing the Code Enforcement Office to solicit bids for the demolition of an unsafe building at 140 Paul Saxe Rd. Adopted-5 Yes*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Beers mentioned the memo sent regarding the need for a chipper. Proposals will have to go out to bid. Supervisor Leggio stated to draw up the specs and we will go from there.

Mr. Beers stated he has had 4 men leave and is now down to 5 or 6. He needs to hire people. Supervisor Leggio stated budget wise hire seasonal people. He will have Michael Richardson write an ad and we will put it in the paper and on the website. Councilman Carlson stated to Mr. Beers to put it in his budget for next year, how many people you will need.

Mr. Beers stated they will be placing more rock on West Main St. They have put in about 350-400 tons riprap.

Mr. Beers stated there has been no word about the bridge. Supervisor Leggio stated they are waiting on the State to go through their grant process. Mr. Beers stated a box culvert can be out there. Supervisor Leggio stated it is his call on how to proceed. Mr. Beers stated the boards are getting worse and he will talk to Gary tomorrow.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Councilman Antonelli mentioned the proposal from the accounting firm. Supervisor Leggio stated we will have to get RFP's.

Councilman Giordiano mentioned the two local laws for the Code Enforcement and would like Michael Smith to have copies for his review.

Supervisor Leggio stated the AC unit at the Ambulance building broke over the weekend. It has been replaced.

Councilman Giordiano stated he will know tomorrow about the cameras. Supervisor Leggio stated they will be topping off the fuel at the highway because everyone is unsure how much is actually there.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was any further comment. With no further comment a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Carlson. Meeting ended 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk