

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
October 5, 2010 6:30 pm

Attendance: Peter Markou, Supervisor
Robert Antonelli, Councilman
Patrick Walsh, Councilman
Michael Smith, Councilman
Kevin Lennon, Councilman
Elizabeth Izzo, Councilman

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

The following minutes were reviewed:

09/07/2010 Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Motion Councilman Antonelli
Second Councilman Smith
Ayes 5 Nays 0 Absent 0

09/15/2010 Public Hearing 5 of 2010 Contract with
VOC for Fire Protection
Motion Councilman Antonelli
Second Councilman Smith
Ayes 5 Nays 0 Absent 0

09/15/2010 Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Motion Councilman Antonelli
Second Councilman Smith
Ayes 5 Nays 0 Absent 0

RESOLUTION #100-10 FUND TRANSFERS: DA FUND & B FUND

Councilman Antonelli offered the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the following budget transfers for 2010 needs to be made to the following Accounts:

DA5120.4 Bridges, Contractual	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00

And

B 1420.4 Legal Services	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00

So

THEREFORE, WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve the following transfers:

From DA5120.1 Bridges PS	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00

To DA5120.4 Bridges, Contractual	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00

And

From B9060.8 Medical	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00

To B 1420.4 Legal Services	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 101-2010

SCHEDULE BUDGET WORKSHOPS
FOR 2011 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Board has been presented with the Tentative Budget for 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to schedule Budget Workshops on said Tentative Budget; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board resolve to hold the Budget Workshops on the 2011 Tentative Budget on the following dates and times:

Workshop I: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 5:00 pm; and

Workshop II: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 5:00 pm, at Catskill Town Hall.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 102-2010

TO USE WASHINGTON IRVING
SENIOR CENTER FOR FREE-WILL
THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, volunteers within the Town & Village of Catskill have been sponsoring a free-will Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the residents of the Town & Village of Catskill since 2006; and

WHEREAS, this even has been held at the Washington Irving Senior Center; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board allow the use of the Washington Irving Senior Center on November 24th and 25th for this event.

Councilman Walsh & Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 103-2010

CONTRACT BETWEEN TOWN AND
VILLAGE OF CATSKILL FOR
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1

Councilman Walsh presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the contract between the Town of Catskill and the Village of Catskill for Fire Protection District No. 1 ends December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill held a public hearing on September 15th and October 5th, 2010 to enter into a contract for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby affirms the contract between the Town of Catskill and the Village of Catskill for Fire Protection District No. 1 for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 subject to the conditions set forth in said contract.

Councilman Smith & Lennon seconded the motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 1, Absent 0

Motion Carried

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Lennon	Aye
Councilman Walsh	Aye
Councilman Antonelli	Nay
Councilman Smith	Aye
Supervisor Markou	Aye

Supervisor Markou reviewed the County resolutions:

Resolution # 391-10	Approving Reimbursement to Community Colleges (Catskill's share \$325.40)
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Resolution # 392-10	Amounts Due County Treasurer by Respective Towns (Catskill's share \$126,588.46)
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Supervisor Markou next mentioned new business. Bryant Arms, Town of Catskill Code Enforcement Officer approached the Board requesting public hearings for the removal of junk and unsafe structures from three separate properties within the Town. He stated one of the properties is on Route 23A, Dorothy McCurry. He stated the former homeowner promised to remove the debris from the fire and hasn't. He stated he is considering it a pile of junk but if it is indeed considered a structure though, this meeting will with cover the bases.

Supervisor Markou asked if the owner has responded. Mr. Arms stated yes. He stated she has asked him to give her a little bit of time so she could get her insurance company to give an advance to have the demolition removed. Supervisor Markou asked that she had fire insurance. Mr. Arms stated so she claims but that this request was a week after the fire. Since then, he has been getting the run around. He is taking her to court, but in the meantime, the pile needs to be removed.

Councilman Smith stated there is a public safety issue there. He agrees with the Code Enforcement Officer that it is no longer a structure but a burned out building and a pile of rubble. More to the point though, he states it is on a very dangerous corner. He stated it makes it difficult for someone coming out of High Falls Extension to exit on to 23a. He stated we can not wait for the homeowner to resolve this. He recommends that we remove that immediately and put it on the tax roll.

Councilman Walsh stated there are procedures to do this. Supervisor Markou stated we need a public hearing on November 2nd 5:45 pm.

Councilman Antonelli asked Bryant how we consider this junk because it doesn't fall under the junk law. He stated it doesn't mention that type of debris. Bryant stated if you look at the reason it does mention rubble and junk material. He admits it is a bit of a stretch to call it a pile of junk since it is building material. Councilman Smith stated rather than identifying a specific application under Section 115-18, the public hearing

would address it comes under the general definition. Councilman Antonelli stated why we can't go under unsafe buildings. Bryant stated he brought up the junk law because this was the way the original violation was written up. Councilman Antonelli stated he does not want to get into complications if this is how we are going to do it.

Councilman Lennon stated that Section 115-16 gives authority to act on 115-18 to protect the general health and safety of the public. He asked Bryant if this is correct. Bryant stated he believes so. He stated if we do decide to go under unsafe buildings/structures like the third item he gave the board, all that is required is that he comes before you today without any prior notice to the property owner.

Councilman Smith stated if you look at junk material it states any abandoned, and he states this is abandoned, and it is wrecked, no question about that. The only thing it doesn't mention that it is a building but there is a portion of the junk law that says partially dismantled. He states he thinks we are ok with moving forward under this definition or the public safety issue 115-16.

Councilman Lennon asked if we have to notify Greene County for tax loss. Bryant stated before we award a bid out we would have to do that. Supervisor Markou asked if this wouldn't have fallen under Chapter 90, Unsafe Buildings. Bryant stated it could and it might even be easier to go that way. He wrote it up as junk because in his opinion he thought it was a pile of junk and no longer a house.

Councilman Walsh stated he feels more comfortable giving them an opportunity to come before the board. Bryant stated both require a public hearing. He stated the junk law has a little more protection than the unsafe building law but that the unsafe building law requires the Supreme Court to get involved when tearing down someone's property. Councilman Smith stated we are not tearing anything down.

Councilman Lennon asked if the utilities were notified. He stated he knows there was a propane tank on the property and asked if it was capped for leakage. Bryant stated he did not notify any utilities. Councilman Lennon stated that might be one of the first measures you will want to take care of.

Bryant stated the second item is similar. It is across the street from the Xtra Mart on Route 23B. He stated he had been trying his best to coax the property owner for an extended period of time to do something. He stated they started to work on that property but they had not turned in a building/demolition permit at that time. He stated work stopped then.

Councilman Lennon asked if they have an order to demolition the building at this point. Bryant stated they received an order to remedy. Councilman Lennon asked if there are time lines. Bryant stated he received the one he is enforcing in April.

Supervisor Markou stated this will be scheduled for November 2nd at 6:00 pm.

have been cut back and all outside funding has been decreased or eliminated. Mandated retirement costs are up 35%. Medical costs are increasing by 12-17%. Worker's compensation is up by 29%. Utilities up by 5%. This makes tough decisions without compromising services to our residents. Tax increases have been kept to a minimum. He would like the board to look at it with new eyes. He believes there is still room in there for more cuts. He states though that the tentative budget is looking at a 2.4% increase in the Town's tax rate. This equates to approximately a 12.07/1000. If you take last year's \$531.48 for a \$100,000 house, the new rate would be \$544.24 which is a \$12.76 increase. The Village of Catskill does not have an increase. It is down by .41 cents. This is because the Summer Program, which the Village has decided to not provide funding for, is now in the Town wide budget.

Supervisor Markou also asked the Board to review the revenue comparisons for 2009 and 2010. There are also some expense comparisons. He stated they are alarming. He also stated there is information on assessment and assessable values. This raises other issues about assessments that the Board will need to address. Supervisor Markou asked the Board to review carefully and if they find other areas where more can be cut, please bring to the first budget workshop.

Supervisor Markou distributed a brochure regarding the emerald ash borer. He stated this will need to be addressed before it gets out of hand. There will be a meeting on October 19th. He stated the Town of Catskill will be impacted by this insect. He stated he received a letter from them (CCE) which is in the Town Clerk's office for review.

Supervisor Markou polled board. Councilman Lennon stated he is working on dates for the ADCR class. He will speak with department heads for scheduling. He also spoke about the letter from Ann Marie regarding the plumbing estimates for the Senior Center's ladies room bathroom stalls and handicap devices placed on the walls and the toilets themselves.

Councilman Antonelli stated the building is 5 years old and when it was done, it was handicap accessible. Why do we need new toilets now? It doesn't make sense. Councilman Walsh stated that the toilets were never replaced; that the old toilets were used. Councilman Antonelli stated no. He stated when a new project is done, this is all new stuff. He asked who told him that. Councilman Walsh stated Ann Marie. Councilman Antonelli asked how she would know, she wasn't involved in that.

Patrick McCulloch stated he worked for the Town then and all the old stuff was thrown away. Councilman Antonelli stated it was all new. Councilman Walsh stated he will look at. Councilman Lennon asked for a five year plan from Ann Marie for regular maintenance and upkeep to not get us into the situation of having to do an overhaul.

Councilman Walsh reiterated that he will look again as to not have Councilman Antonelli call Scott Dutton who was the architect at the time and ask him about the stalls handicap accessibility. Councilman Antonelli stated the bathrooms have been there five years and we are now getting a complaint. He stated Ann Marie will drive you crazy. He asked

why she needs a slicer. He would like to know why she needs a slicer as we don't cook up there. He stated there is a \$50,000 kitchen there and we don't use it. Councilman Lennon stated he believes they are limited on some things they can do there. Councilman Antonelli asked how they are limited. Councilman Lennon stated if they have a slicer they can slice roast beef, turkey, etc. for the seniors. Councilman Antonelli stated they should have an affair then. They don't have affairs there. He stated the one they want to buy is garbage. If you are going to buy one buy a commercial slicer they cost about \$3,000. Councilman Lennon stated this is only up for discussion. He wants to know how to get more seniors to the building so they can use it and maybe have dinners there so they don't have to go out and spend money.

Councilman Antonelli stated since we are on economies, if we want to hire another person there, why not have a volunteer work. Councilman Antonelli is wondering if we need another person there as he has been up there three times last week and the building was closed at 3:30 pm. Councilman Lennon agreed with Councilman Antonelli at that because he wasn't even aware that we were going out to hire someone there and he stated being a town board member he would appreciate finding out and go through the proper procedure for interviewing candidates. He stated as a town board we need to work together on who we are hiring, how, and the practices and procedures that we are using. He stated it is up for discussion and should be brought up to the Human Resource person.

Councilman Lennon stated he stopped at the Highway Department to discuss Landon Avenue and to schedule a time to go down there. Councilman Walsh asked if he had been down there. Councilman Lennon stated he hasn't been down there the last few days but wants to go down to see how the water impacted it. Councilman Walsh stated he was there a week and a half ago. He stated it certainly isn't perfect but doesn't seem a big problem.

Councilman Walsh stated Scott Ursprung did the repairs on the boiler that were asked. Councilman Antonelli stated will we need to get in touch with the company to have it re-inspected. Councilman Walsh stated Liz will do that.

Councilman Smith wants the board to be aware about the water access to the creek on Pennsylvania Avenue and where the bridge is there are major trees that have fallen. They have been there for months due to the spring rains. He stated there is a danger having the debris clog the bridge and create more erosion. It should be addressed. He would like to speak to Alfie concerning a plan for this.

Supervisor Markou asked for public comment. Patrick McCulloch asked if the Town has a law regarding multiple fire alarms where the fire company can charge for false alarms. No one on the board believed there was a town law for that. Patrick stated it isn't so much that they want to generate the money but there is a million dollars worth of equipment running up and down the roads. Hunter is the only one who charges.

Councilman Lennon stated in Palenville if there was a place that had multiple alarms the owner would be notified as well as the alarm company and after a few incidents of that

happening, the code enforcement officer would be notified to address their fire situation and inspection. For example, the BP in Palenville, where they eventually put a new system.

Supervisor Markou asked Patrick to check around with other towns who may have it.

Supervisor Markou asked if anyone else wished to address the board. With no further comment, a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the union contract with ambulance employees was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Smith at 7:14 pm.

Executive session ended at 8:10 pm by motion of Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk