

CATSKILL TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

October 6, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Catskill held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Catskill Town Hall. The meeting was opened with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present:

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

Also Attending: Michael Smith, Town Attorney

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Leggio asked Mr. Nelson to speak. Mr. Nelson wished to bring to the board's attention the abysmal conditions of Wilson Road. It is a private road however he heard the town is taking over LaCorte Road and Wilson is right off of it.

Supervisor Leggio stated the town is not taking over LaCorte Road. He stated an engineer looked at that road and the proposed cost of repair is \$150 to \$160 thousand. The residents of that road need to petition the town in a certain manner. It is detailed and there is a process. That cost to repair would be born on the residents of that road.

Supervisor Leggio stated a there can be a road maintenance agreement to fill pot holes which the Deputy Highway Superintendent can look into. He suggested Mr. Nelson call him.

MINUTES:

9/1	Public Hearing # 6-2015	Motion Antonelli	Second Carlson
9/1	Town Board Monthly Meeting	Motion Antonelli	Second Walsh
9/16	Town Board Committee Meeting	Motion Antonelli	Second Giordiano
9/18	Government Operations Meeting	Motion Antonelli	Second Carlson
9/25	Government Operations Meeting	Motion Antonelli	Second Walsh; all adopted

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

CEO Monthly Report

Dog Control Monthly Report

Ambulance: Tuition Reimbursement for Richard VanDerbeck; Outreach Program-CPR

CORRESPONDENCE:

Engagement letter from Pattison, Kosky, Howe & Bucci regarding financial services for the Town.

Solicitation letter from Laberge Group for help in future grant funding opportunities.

Greene County Planning Board Sept 16 agenda.

Letter of resignation from Sandy Misevcis, Town Comptroller, effective Sept. 29th. *We wish her the best of luck in her retirement.*

Request for funds from Kiskatom Fire Department for the 2016 Annual Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Convention as they are hosting the event. *This will be addressed in the budget. There has been \$2,000 set aside.*

Letter from Greene County Acting Clerk informing the town the county adopted a resolution assuming 100% responsibility for payment of reimbursements to college chargeback effective January 1, 2016.

Letter from GC Real Property Tax Services delinquent payment, rent and charges and notice of Estimated State Aid due to them on or before November 11th

Letter from NYS Dept of Public Service announcing public hearings regarding the low income report. Public hearings being held in Syracuse and Albany 10/19 and 10/21 respectfully.

Central Hudson flyer for September.

Letter from Tal Rappleyea, attorney for Town of Cairo, notification of a public hearing on Cairo's Zoning Law.

COUNTY RESOLUTIONS:

Res 236-15 Authorizing Greene County to Assume 100% Responsibility for Payment Of Reimbursement to Community Colleges. *Supervisor Leggio thanked the County for doing this.*

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Delaware Engineering is not present tonight however we need a resolution to go out to bid for the general and electrical construction of the pump stations. *Resolution #100-2015 with motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Walsh to advertise for bids for the pump station general construction and electrical construction for the Leeds Sewer District. Adopted 5 Yes.*

CONTINUATION OF NEW BUSINESS:

George June, Ambulance Administrator, stated the Town will be offering free CPR training starting October 24th. The class is designed for community members and lay people. This is not a class for certification. It will include basic CPR, child/infant and to prevent choking. NYS has passed legislation which will now require students know CPR prior to graduation.

Mr. June then proceeded with the second part of his presentation, along with Mr. Izzo, which dealt with the Town of Catskill Ambulance Service and the questions raised by Greene EMS Task Force presentation to the board last month.

Thirty two percent of the county population's live in the Town of Catskill. The ambulance service was created in 2001 to meet the community's need for a dedicated and reliable ambulance service. The paramedic service had been under consideration since 2006. Planning to upgrade an ALS service began in 2013. The countywide task force was created in 2014.

Upgrading to an ALS service would replace an EMT with a Paramedic on the crew. Five ambulances would be available with three day crews and two night. The Town already has the ALS equipment since the ambulance service has been operating on an intermediate level since 2005. There would be two paramedic crews 24/7 and if GCEMS stays the same, there would be a net gain of adding paramedics to the County.

The GCEMS Task force was formed to provide analysis and recommendations for a countywide ambulance proposal. It identified areas of improvement, proposed cost savings and operational efficiencies. Mr. June stated he served on the Task Force and stated they know more about EMS in Greene County than they ever have known and you need to understand where you are at compared to where you want to be.

The benefit of a county wide ambulance system for Town of Catskill residents is questionable. The staffing would be the same; the chute time in a countywide proposal is 3 min or less and with the Town's service it is less than 2 minutes; the response time in a countywide proposal is 12.5 minutes where the average response time in the Town of Catskill is less than 7 minutes; the level of care is the same as both are paramedic; the back up for a countywide proposal is a

system status model which is moving resources from areas that are not so busy to areas that are where as the backup for the Town is closest available which is moving an ambulance to the town line.

The town currently has an effective EMS service versus an unproven unknown system. The town has a significant investment in EMS assets such as the building, vehicles and equipment where the countywide proposal would turn over those assets to a not-for-profit corporation as they do not own any ambulances or buildings. The startup budget to purchase those assets is one million dollars. There is no guaranteed revenue stream with the countywide proposal. There would be loss of direct oversight, accountability and representation as each municipality in the county proposal would have one representative. The Town covers one third the population in the county and thus under this system would have an 8% share in representation compared to the current 100%.

Mr. Izzo presented a financial review. He stated the expenses and revenues are actual 2014 figures. The 2016 expenses and revenues are amounts included in the 2016 tentative town budget. The total town ambulance cost in 2014 was \$1,787,305. The total ambulance revenue was \$1,332,323 which has a net loss of \$454,982. The Town's County portion of the EMS cost was \$203,512 so the total town's EMS cost for para-service was \$393,045. In the 2016 budget, the total ambulance cost is \$1,794,253 and the projected revenue is \$1,337,000 which results in a net loss of \$457,253. This does not include any costs associated with the county system. For the cost comparison between the town and county wide ambulance system, the 2016 town's cost to run would be \$457,253 and the cost for the town to participate in the countywide ambulance system as reported by the task force would be \$609,904.

The question is can the county tax residents for an ambulance service. Under GML Section 122B the county can operate an ambulance service and tax the residents under the general fund or a special ambulance district fund. The other question is who holds the certificate of need. If the county holds then it is a county ambulance system. If a not-for-profit holds the operating certificate, then the opinion by the Association of Towns is the county cannot tax individual towns through a county tax.

There is a process one needs to go through for a certificate of need ("CON") application. If it is a municipality it is granted on a temporary basis and the full process of applying for a CON ensues. If a not-for-profit the application is completed with supporting documentation by hospitals and municipalities for support of the certificate. There is a long list of procedures. REMO reviews the application. It can be challenged on the basis it is not needed. There are currently eight ambulance services in Greene County. There are four areas that need service.

A Medicare provider number would be needed as you cannot bill Medicare without it. The town also cannot sell their equipment by law without going through a bid process. The town also has a due diligence factor. There is a moral, financial and legal responsibility to its residents to make sure the proposed system is equal or better than the current system. Mr. June stated as member of the task force there are obvious places in Greene County where there needs to be a better system but Catskill is not one of them.

The town would need to look these facts for it to make a decision about the system.

Discussion ensued with public comment. The Supervisor thanked them both for their time and presentation.

Supervisor Leggio asked if the board had any comment. No comment to be had.

Mr. June asked about the tuition reimbursement for Richard VanDerbeck. *Resolution # 101-2015 with motion by Councilman Antonelli second by Councilman Giordiano reimbursing Richard VanDerbeck \$750 for successful completion of his EMT-Paramedic certification. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maureen Biegner of Kiskatom Fire Department read a letter from Peter Kaminsky asking for financial support as they are hosting the GCVFA Convention next September. The convention dates are September 7th through the 10th.

Stella Martin approached the board regarding the ongoing issues with the Edward's business. Supervisor Leggio stated Mr. Edwards' is in the process of going in front of the Planning Board for a site plan review. He stated there has been no response from the DEC or DOH of any wrong doing.

With no further comment a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Carlson. Meeting ended 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk

