

Town Board Monthly Meeting & Public Hearing 2023 Preliminary Budget
Catskill Town Hall
November 1, 2022 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Dale Finch, Supervisor
Jared Giordiano, Councilman
Patrick McCulloch, Councilman
Dawn Scannapieco, Councilwoman
Paul Vosburgh, Councilman

Also Attending: Kirsten Bulich, Finance
Michael Torchia, Town Accountant

PUBLIC HEARING:

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked the clerk to read the notice of public hearing.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Catskill for the fiscal year January 1, 2023 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, 439 Main St., Catskill, NY where it is available upon inspection by any interested person during office hours 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Further notice is given that the Town Board of the Town of Catskill will meet and review said Preliminary Budget and will hold a Public Hearing thereon at Town Hall, 439 Main St., Catskill, NY on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law the proposed salaries of the following offices are hereby specified as follows: Supervisor \$16,480; Councilman (1) \$10,800; Councilman (3) \$8,240 (\$24,720 total); Town Clerk \$58,747; Highway Superintendent \$66,358. By Order of the Catskill Town Board, Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Supervisor Finch gave a few notes on the budget and the challenges it represented with increase in health insurance, union contract negotiations pending, non-union employee wages not being firmed up, and reduction in justice court revenue. Ambulance revenue is on target and mortgage tax increased a little.

Taxes on a \$100,000 assessed value home in the Village increased \$23.82 while taxes on a \$100,000 assessed value home in the Town increased \$26.65.

Town Hall improvements will be underway in a couple of weeks. Improvements to the Senior Center using ARPA grant funding from the County will be underway. We will need to assess HVAC at the Ambulance building. Revaluation in 2025 or 2026 and an ambulance replacement. Supervisor Finch stated the town is fiscally sound and believes this to be a fair budget even though there are unknowns with contract negotiations. He asked if the board had any comment. He asked if the public had any comment.

Mr. Izzo asked where the town stood with the tax cap and if over did the town pass a resolution to exceed. Supervisor Finch stated the budget is over \$23,780 and the board did adopt to override the tax cap.

Mr. Izzo asked about the justice budget as this year's revenues will be less than budgeted and if that was considered with the 2023 budget even though it shows an adjustment for 2023. It seems the revenue loss due to bail laws and no cash bail and he would like the board to review again to firm up the number they think they may get. Councilman Vosburgh stated we may be able to give you a better answer after the 8th.

Mr. Izzo asked about the estimate for ambulance revenue as 2021 shows \$1.378 million and he believes the 2023 number should be adjusted, from his perspective.

Councilman McCulloch entered the meeting 6:44 pm.

Mr. Izzo asked if the board is anticipating a drop in mortgage tax. Supervisor Finch stated yes and it is good to underestimate revenue a little bit. Mr. Izzo stated it is not good when asking the taxpayer to pickup the revenue you are going to get.

Mr. Izzo asked about fund balance and in 2021 the balance in the A Fund was \$1.29 million and why the board is only using \$100,000 to drop the tax rate. He stated this goes against the recommendation of the State Comptroller and the federal government to keep a reasonable amount, a three-month revenue fund balance. The general fund has \$4 million. He feels it is inappropriate to only use \$100,000 of fund balance, even though he does not know the trial balance, the fund balances this year will be equal to or same as last year and you have cash. He is asking the board to do, though not required, have a moral obligation to the taxpayers to decrease the property taxes and use more of the fund balance.

Mr. Izzo feels the board is underestimating the ambulance revenue, overestimating the justice revenue, and not using the fund balance correctly. If changes made, use the fund balance, reduce the tax rate a little more. We all know we are paying more than we earn and it is not up to the board to keep the money. Mr. Izzo thanked the board for listening.

Supervisor Finch asked if anyone had any further comment. He asked the board if they wish to keep the public hearing open until the 16th and adopt the budget that night. The budget will be due to the county before the 20th. There will be two items which will not be resolved before the 16th. After discussion, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilwoman Scannapieco. Public hearing ended 6:56 pm.

Supervisor Finch stated the town does not run without the expertise of Kirsten Bulich and it is appreciated.

Michael Torchia stated he recommends the town keep 6 months fund balance. Supervisor Finch stated the town is not in distress and next year will not be in distress. The budget will be adopted on the 16th. Mr. Torchia stated 2022 will increase expenses, health, state retirement and he agrees with Mr. Izzo the justice revenue is high based on where you are now. Councilman Vosburgh stated he is hoping people will adhere to a payment plan and money will trickle in.

Mr. Izzo asked if the old landfill has been declassified. Councilman Giordiano stated no. It is still being monitored. Supervisor Finch stated the contract with the other municipalities involved is expiring but if the town is monitoring, it stays intact.

Monthly Meeting began 7:06 pm.

MINUTES:

October 4, 2022	Town Board Monthly Meeting
October 11, 2022	Budget Workshop Meeting
October 18, 2022	Budget Workshop Meeting
October 19, 2022	Budget Workshop Meeting/Committee Meeting
October 20, 2022	Budget Workshop Meeting

Motion: Councilman Giordiano Second: Councilman Vosburgh, carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res 102-2022	Scheduling Joint Public Hearing with Town of Athens for the Leeds Fire Company Contract for November 16, 2022 at 6:15 pm at Catskill Town Hall <i>Motion: Councilman Giordiano, second Councilman Vosburgh, Adopted Vote: 5 Yes</i>
Res 103-2022	Scheduling a Public Hearing for Local Law 4 and 5 of 2022 Senior Citizen and Low Income Disability Tax Exemption for Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Catskill Town Hall. <i>Motion: Councilwoman Scannapieco, second Councilman McCulloch, Adopted Vote: 5 Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE:

Greene County Resolution # 350-22 authorizing lease agreement with Dept of Aging & Town of Catskill (Robert C. Antonelli Senior Center)

Greene County Real Property Tax Service Senior Citizen & Disabled Tax Exemption Maximum Income Limits.

Letter from Michelle Romalin Deyo, invitation to attend the Greene County Honor a Vet Ceremony, November 5, 2022 at the Historic Warehouse. This years' honoree is David Darling. *Supervisor Finch asked for a proclamation to present. The Palenville Fire Department Veterans Day Ceremony is Friday, November 11th at 11 am.*

Notice of Planning Board Public Hearing from Village of Catskill. PH was held October 10, 2022.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Supervisor Finch stated the 2023 budget will be adopted at our workshop meeting.

Siding was discussed for the back of town hall. All were good with the smoky steel color.

Floor at the Senior Center discussed. Councilman Vosburgh made a motion to accept the color chosen by the seniors; brown. Councilman McCulloch seconded; carried.

The project at Town Hall, there will be a need for asbestos abatement. Councilman Vosburgh stated it will not be brought to the transfer station without abatement. Supervisor Finch stated it will be put

through the contract to take care of. Councilman Giordiano stated they said they would test it.

Frances Spark – the Community Center would like an update on the Summer Recreation Program. Councilwoman Scannapieco will reach out.

Phone System – Webjogger will review the vendor quote for recommendation. Will get a price from a vendor under state contract and decide then. Supervisor Finch would like this wrapped up by the 16th.

With no further business, Supervisor Finch asked for a motion to enter executive session to discuss union contract negotiations. No other business will be conducted at the close of executive session. Motion by Councilman Giordiano, second by Councilman McCulloch. Executive session began 7:22 pm.

As told by Councilman Giordiano, executive session and meeting ended 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk