

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
December 2, 2008 6:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: Peter Markou, Supervisor
Robert Antonelli, Councilman
Lewis O'Connor, Councilman
Patrick Walsh, Councilman
Michael Smith, Councilman
Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Markou reviewed the following minutes:

11/05/2008	Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting Motion Councilman O'Connor Second Councilman Smith Ayes 5, Nays 0 Absent 0
11/05/2008	Public Hearing #23-2008 Preliminary 2009 Budget Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Walsh Ayes 5, Nays 0 Absent 0
11/10/2008	Government Operations Meeting Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Smith Ayes 5, Nays 0 Absent 0
11/19/2008	Public Hearing #24-2008 Unsafe Building Motion Councilman Antonelli/O'Connor Second Councilman Smith Ayes 5, Nays 0 Absent 0
11/19/2008	Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Smith Ayes 5, Nays 0 Absent 0
11/24/2008	Government Operations Meeting Motion Councilman Antonelli Second Councilman Smith Ayes 5, Nays 0 Absent 0

Supervisor Markou reviewed the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION # 134-2008

GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION OF
SUPPORT AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION
OF A GRANT APPLICATION

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

RESOLVED, that Peter J. Markou as Supervisor of the Town of Catskill, or such person's successor in office, is hereby authorized and directed to enter into and execute a state assistance contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for funding provided from the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Program in accordance with the with the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Act, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000, for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial.

Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0 Absent 0

Motion Passed

Roll Call Vote:

Peter J. Markou,	Supervisor	<u>Yes</u>
Robert Antonelli,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>
Lewis O'Connor,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>
Patrick Walsh,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>
Michael Smith,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>

I, Elizabeth C. Izzo, Town Clerk of the Town of Catskill, do hereby certify that the following resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Board held on December 2, 2008 and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

Elizabeth C. Izzo
Catskill Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 135-2008

TO SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION
OF TOWN AND VILLAGE JUSTICE
COURTS

Councilman Antonelli, presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, there has recently been negative press coverage by the *New York Times* and local papers within Greene County suggesting that the Town court system is flawed and more specifically, alleging that the three hundred year tradition of non-lawyer judges presiding over and within the local municipalities should be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, there has always been a Town Court within the Town of Catskill, conveniently located and accessible to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, there are two Town Judgeships established within the Town of Catskill; and

WHEREAS, there are presently one non-attorney Town Justice and one attorney Town Justice within the Town of Catskill; and

WHEREAS, the Town Court of the Town of Catskill in the past year collected \$777,199.50 in statutory fines, fees and surcharges on behalf of the State of New York, the County of Greene and the Town of Catskill, to help fund essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Catskill recognizes and appreciates the professionalism, diligence, intelligence and integrity of the non-attorney or lay justices within our town who bring a specialized experience to the bench particularly with issues unique to our community who elected them; and

Now, therefore, be it:

RESOLVED, that members of the Town Board of the Town of Catskill support the continuation of the three hundred year tradition of non-lawyer or lay justices presiding in Town Courts, and it is further;

RESOLVED, that the members of the Town Board of the Town of Catskill hereby oppose any requirement that Town Justices by attorneys, and it is further;

RESOLVED, that the members of the Town Board of the Town of Catskill oppose any efforts to eliminate local and convenient access to justice by our citizens; and find that the local presence of the Town Court of Catskill provides a meaningful and necessary presence within our community for judicial resolution of conflicts, continued public safety of our citizens and the protection of constitutional guarantees for all of our citizens.

Councilman Smith, seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Motion Passed

Roll Call Vote:

Peter J. Markou,	Supervisor	<u>Yes</u>
Robert Antonelli,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>
Lewis O'Connor,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>
Patrick Walsh,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>
Michael Smith,	Councilman	<u>Yes</u>

Supervisor Markou stated that he believes the State wants to take money away from Towns and Villages. This resolution is trying to stop that from happening.

Supervisor Markou reviewed the County resolutions:

Resolution # 456-08	Authorizing Distribution of Mortgage Tax (Catskill's share is \$146,510.39)
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Resolution # 458-08	Approving Reimbursement to Community Colleges (Catskill's share is \$31,816.36)
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Supervisor Markou stated the mortgage tax is better than expected but still under budget by \$100,000 (approx.).

Under new business, Supervisor Markou stated he received an email from NYS Comptroller regarding an increase in foreclosures and how property tax could become the next causality. The revenues may fall by \$1.3 billion and this may have communities increase taxes to offset the decrease in revenue.

Councilman Antonelli asked to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Councilman O'Connor stated the final inspection in the Ambulance building is tomorrow.

Supervisor Markou stated that Mike Sterthous will not be at tonight's meeting, however, he is still researching the potential liability for Fire Districts as well as volunteer fireman. He expects to have a memo for the December 17th meeting.

Supervisor Markou asked if anyone from the public had any comment. John DeGrosian approached the Board regarding Mr. Fallik's unregistered RV's. Supervisor Markou stated that the Board does not have to go out to bid to remove the RV and that a letter was sent to Mr. Fallik stating the one RV will be removed from his property on December 8th.

Councilman O'Connor wanted to clarify that only one is being moved at this time because the other he still lives in and that entails an eviction.

John Carroll asked why both aren't being moved. Supervisor Markou stated to remove the other RV would be an eviction, and since Mr. Fallik is living in that RV, the Board needs legal advice on how to proceed under eviction of the Town's Junk Law.

Gary Kistinger stated it is important to have local justices in communities for investors because of eviction proceedings.

Councilman Antonelli stated there will be two re-appointments coming up. One is for the Planning Board and the other is for the Zoning Board. He would like to advertise in the paper to see if anyone else may be interested in serving.

Councilman Antonelli made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the ambulance contract. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. Executive session began at 6:50 pm.

Per Supervisor Markou, Councilman O'Connor made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Smith seconded. The meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk