

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
December 5, 2023 6:37 pm

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

The monthly board meeting reconvened after the end of the public hearing for the fire contract with the Village of Catskill.

MINUTES:

November 7, 2023	Town Board Monthly Meeting
November 15, 2023	Town Board Committee Meeting

Motin: Councilman McCulloch Second: Councilwoman Scannapieco; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

GC Resolution # 365-23 distribution of mortgage tax (Catskill's share \$108,893.87)

NYSDEC letter to Town of Hunter Supervisor regarding their concerns about public access to Fawn's Leap. *Supervisor Finch stated the Hunter Town Supervisor has been doing a good job protecting everyone's safety at this site.*

Email from NYSDOT regarding new cycle of BridgeNY and Culvert NY grants. *Supervisor Finch stated the program will start soon and the application deadline is January 2024.*

Email from Laurie Schmidt regarding concerns on property Mower and WB, Route 23B.

Letter from Young Sommer LLC construction of Champlain Hudson Power Express and extension of work hours' notice.

Letter from NYS Dept Public Service outreach education campaign help consumers manage energy bills in cold weather months.

Greene County IDA notice of public hearing for Catskill Lodging LLC Deviation Notice /Statement of Findings to be held December 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall. *Supervisor Finch stated this is the hotel project at Exit 21.*

Letter from Ted Davis, Australia, regarding his suggestion of a logo for the Empire State Building's 100th anniversary.

Laberge Group letter inquiring about their firm as engineers for the Town of Catskill at the reorganizational meeting.

Thomas Cole House 2024 season of events.

Copy of letter from Matthew Currey of NYSDOH to Delaware Engineering regarding the public water system for the Greene County IDA property and the plans have been approved.

CONTINUEING BUSINESS:

Employee Handbook -updates. *Supervisor Finch discussed longevity bonuses and reviewed the highway departments CSEA agreement. All were in favor of starting the bonus when the non-union employee reaches 10 years and is out of the step program. This will only be for full-time employees not under a CBA. Ten years of service \$750, after 15 years of service \$1,250 and after 20 years of service \$1,500. Resolution # 122-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to enact a longevity bonus for full-time non-union employees starting at 10 years of service \$750; 15 years of service \$1,250 and 20 years of service \$1,500. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Councilman Giordiano mentioned making this retroactive. Supervisor Finch stated we should.

Insurance buyout – Supervisor Finch, following the CSEA highway contract, stated it is 20% of the premium of the Town's plan which is CDPHP. Resolution # 123-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Giordiano to offer an insurance buyout to town employees who have insurance elsewhere at 20% of the premium of CDPHP. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Councilman McCulloch discussed overtime eligibility for employees who work a full 40 hours per week. Supervisor Finch stated this should be standard and falls under NYS labor rules.

Adoption – Local Law 6 of 2023 Resolution # 124-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to adopt Local Law 6 of 2023 increasing the income limit for a 50% exemption to \$35,100 with sliding scale for both exemptions for the Senior Citizen & Low-Income Disabled Tax Exemption. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Village of Catskill Fire Contract for 2024 Resolution # 125-2023 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh to enter a fire protection contract for year 2024 in the amount of \$206,965.00 with the Village of Catskill for fire protection to said fire protection district. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Village of Catskill Pump Station Contract for 2024 – Supervisor Finch does not have a current agreement. Tabled until next meeting.

Code-Fire Inspector position. Supervisor Finch said we received two applications and Matt Carlile would like to see more than two applications. Councilman McCulloch stated to re-advertise the position. Supervisor Finch stated to re-post the job and interview the applicants we have.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wal-Mart Certiorari settlement. Supervisor Finch presented the proposal from the town's attorney for certiorari cases and the Town Assessor who recommends the board accept the settlement. Councilman Giordiano stated there will be no refund. The reduction in taxes was discussed. Resolution # 126-2023 on

motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman McCulloch to accept the certiorari proposal with Wal-Mart Stores Inc. # US02351 for a reduction in assessed value from \$10,500,000 to \$8,800,000 for 2024 and if the equalization rate falls below 30.5% in 2025, the revised assessed value will be \$7,400,000. Adopted Vote: 3 Yes 2 No (Vosburgh, Scannapieco)

Contract with Columbia-Greene SPCA for 2024. Resolution # 127-2023 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco second by Councilman McCulloch authorizing the Supervisor sign the agreement with Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA for services year 2024. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Request for private road name – Sarah Ashcroft, Vita Foras Catskill Manager LLC, Tax Map 184.00-3-45. Name requested Arrowood Falls Road. Resolution # 128-2023 on motion of Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to accept the private road name for applicant Sarah Ashcroft/Vita Fores as Arrowood Falls Rd. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Amendment – private road name, White’s Owl Road to include parcels 186.00-2-33 through 38 as parcel 186.00-2-3 has been deleted due to tax revision report. Resolution # 129-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Giordiano to accept the private road name on application of Golan Elbaz, Neslihan Feradov & Eric Nachimovsky as White Owl Road. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Highway Superintendent – surplus property and purchase of a new truck. Councilman McCulloch reviewed the items Shawn Beers wishes to deem surplus property. Resolution # 130-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Vosburgh to have the Truck #11 International Terra Star with plow and sander, Ferguson asphalt roller, Stone Asphalt roller and the Swenson 8’ sander as surplus property and authorize the Highway Superintendent to put out to bid. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

New truck – will check state bid prices but Councilman Giordiano stated some state contracts are not as good as open competitive bidding. Resolution # 131-2023 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco authorizing the Highway Superintendent solicit bids for a 2024 550 or 5500 class diesel 4WD auto transmission chassis truck. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Councilman Giordiano stated the truck Code Enforcement uses will need to be replaced. Councilman McCulloch stated we will look into it next year.

Joe Izzo wished the board a Merry Christmas and thanked Councilman Vosburgh and Supervisor Finch for their service to the town and congratulated the two new board members who were in attendance. He urged the board to fill the fire inspector position sooner than later from a liability standpoint. Supervisor Finch stated we have a FT employee and PT employee who are continuing to do the job being performed.

Supervisor Finch mentioned the flagpole installation outside town hall and the change order and final amount due to Gordian for the work to town hall. *Resolution # 132-2023 on motion of Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilwoman Scannapieco authorizing final payment to Gordian in the amount of \$62,253.45 for renovations to Town Hall. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Supervisor Finch stated the BridgeNY grant is back open and the town has two targets. One being Penn Avenue and the other Embought Rd. We will apply for those two areas again. He and Councilman

McCulloch met with the Army Corps of Engineers at the Penn Ave site. The floodplain management services are remapping and will give suggestions about the culvert problem as this is due to the stream changing drastically. We are waiting for their recommendations.

With no further business Councilman Giordiano motioned to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter. No further business will be conducted after the close of the executive session. The executive session began 7:28 pm with a second by Councilman Vosburgh.

As told by Councilman Giordiano, executive session and meeting ended 8:00 pm on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman McCulloch.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk