

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
October 5, 2021 6:30 pm

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

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING LL 2 OF 2021 –

Councilman McCulloch seconded by Councilman Vosburgh made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Local Law 2 of 2021 ‘Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2022’. Supervisor Finch stated no person was in attendance from the public. The board had no comment. Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman McCulloch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco.

Regular meeting resumed.

MINUTES:

September 7, 2021 Town Board Monthly Meeting
September 15, 2021 Town Board Committee Meeting
Motion: Councilman Vosburgh Second: Councilman Giordiano, carried

RESOLUTION:

Resolution # 91-2021 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second by Councilman McCulloch adopting Local Law 2 of 2021 ‘Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2022’. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Agreement with Town of Athens for Basic and Advanced Life Support. *Supervisor Finch stated this is continuing. The amount is good and it is a matter of the Athens board to sign the contract.*

Agreement with VOC for contract services operator Leeds Jefferson Heights Sewer and Water District. *Supervisor Finch stated Matt is willing to do lateral inspections and we will use the VOC on an as needed basis. Resolution # 92-2021 on motion of Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilwoman Scannapieco authorize the Supervisor sign the renewal contract for sanitary operator services for the Leeds Jefferson Heights Sewer District. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Abstention (McCulloch)*

NEW BUSINESS:

Ambulance Hires – George June wishes to hire additional PT EMT and Paramedic to shore up the staffing. *Resolution # 93-2021 on motion of Councilman McCulloch, second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to hire Jacob Houck as PT EMT and David Coonradt as PT Paramedic effective October 10, 2021. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Rental Agreement Senior Center – Greene County Department of Human Services wishes to renew the rental agreement for the meals program at the Senior Center. *Resolution # 94-2021 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second by Councilman McCulloch authorizing the Supervisor sign the renewal contract with Greene County Department of Human Services for use of the Senior Center for the Meals program. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Supervisor Finch stated we received a late email from George June to change the employment status of Doug Bower from PT Paramedic to FT Paramedic and Amanda Rion from PT AEMT to FT AEMT as there are unfilled FT Paramedic & AEMT positions. *Resolution # 95-2021 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, second by Supervisor Finch changing the employment status of Doug Bower from PT Paramedic to FT Paramedic and Amanda Rion from PT AEMT to FT AEMT effective November 1, 2021. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Greene County Acting Clerk for submittal of adopted Town Budget no later than November 22, 2021.

Greene County Resolutions for Awarding Bid for Abrasives used in Snow and Ice Control; Authorizing Chargeback of Assessment Roll Related Services and Materials (\$293.44); Amounts Due County Treasurer by Respective Towns for election chargebacks, real property tax chargebacks and erroneous assessments (\$24,094.15).

NYS Dept. Public Service notification of designating the week after Labor Day as National Telephone Discount Awareness Week. Information regarding the program is available at AskPSC.com.

NYS Dept. Public Service conducting online broadband service survey at www.empirestatebroadband.com

Notice of ISO changes from Hanover Insurance for Monoline Crime Policy.

Letter from Russ Craven of Insurance Services Office, Inc. regarding scheduling a time to meet with Fire Chief Tom McCullough to review records and Water Superintendent Bob Young to review water flow procedures for determining the property insurance premium classification for said district. Last review was in 2014.

Letter from Rebecca Preusser of CGCC thanking the town for participating in the summer youth employment and training program this year.

Greene IDA regarding Champlain Hudson Power Express Deviation Notice of Public Hearing 10/13 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Letter Doyle Security updating emergency response contact information for town office buildings.

Invitation to the annual Greene County Honor a Veteran Ceremony November 6th at 10 am at the Historic Catskill Point Warehouse. *Supervisor Finch stated they will be honoring Tom Andreasson. He stated we also received an invitation to the Palenville Fire Department's Veterans Ceremony.*

Solicitation from Laberge Group for grant funding.

NEW BUSINESS CONT.

Presentation of 2022 Tentative Budget and scheduling workshop meetings. *Supervisor Finch asked if October 13, 14, 19 and 20th are good days for workshop meetings at 6 pm. Ambulance and Highway budgets will be discussed on the 13th. If everyone spoke to their Department Heads, should be ok with rest of review.*

Schedule Public Hearing Joint Fire Protection Services with Leeds Hose Co. No. 1. *Councilman McCulloch asked what figures we are going by. Supervisor Finch stated they are at \$145,000 combined now and want to start at \$194,000 with 5% increments. Councilman McCulloch stated this is a big jump; going from 108 to 146. Time is ticking and we only had one meeting. It is an 18.54% increase in one year. Supervisor Finch stated we should start at 176. Councilman Vosburgh stated they cannot expect us to make this up in 10 years. Supervisor Finch stated they need a realistic number for them to make it and if they received 2% over the last 10 years, they would have \$166,000 more cash flow. Kiskatom Fire Department is at 176,000 and they are proposing 180,000. Councilman Giordiano stated Kiskatom Fire District's number doesn't count toward our tax. Supervisor Finch stated we still need a number for the company to do business to be able to put out fires correctly and safely. The board would like to see how they are building funds for a trucks. Councilman McCulloch stated the truck fund starts in 2023 and he is not ok with a five year contract either. Supervisor Finch stated we can cancel if not happy and can ask for financials each year. They are on the right track now with their record keeping. Resolution # 96-2021 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, second by Councilman Giordiano to schedule a Joint Public Hearing with the Town of Athens for the Leeds Hose Co. No. 1 fire contract for Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm at Catskill Town Hall. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Supervisor Finch stated before we end the meeting, we will need an executive session to discuss a personnel issue and compensation benefits.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sylvia Chestnut was in attendance to listen to the board meeting for a college class credit.

Joe Izzo asked the board who the Greene County Acting Clerk is. This was incorrect as it was meant to be by the Acting Clerk of the Legislature. He then asked what the breakdown was for the \$24,000 chargebacks as the county should send a breakdown. Councilman Vosburgh stated they do not send one. We have asked before.

Mr. Izzo asked the Supervisor if he was a member of the Leeds Fire Company and if so how he can negotiate a contract. Supervisor Finch stated he is a life member. He does not go out on calls and will be abstaining from voting on the contract. The Town Attorney stated there was not a conflict of interest. Mr. Izzo asked what the tentative amount this will cost the residents in the district. Supervisor Finch stated on a \$100,000 home it will be a \$50 to \$60 increase. Mr. Izzo stated that is a big number for those people in the district.

Mr. Izzo asked when the budget will be reviewed. Councilman Vosburgh stated it will be on the website and Supervisor Finch stated it is available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Izzo asked what the Champlain Power Express project is. Supervisor Finch gave a brief overview. Mr. Izzo asked if they are paying the Town. Supervisor Finch stated yes, a PILOT agreement, \$250,000 a year.

Mr. Izzo asked the board how they feel about marijuana sales. Supervisor Finch stated there will be a public meeting to hear comment and see how they feel. Mr. Izzo asked how the board feels about it. Councilman Vosburgh stated he does not want sales. Councilman Giordiano wants sales. Mr. Izzo asked how much revenue is anticipated from the sales. Councilman Vosburgh stated not a lot as the Village has already opted in. Mr. Izzo feels the board should allow sales and to not take advantage of the opportunity to generate revenue would be shameful. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of revenue that would be generated. Supervisor Finch stated we will hear from a broad section of the public. There are social issues too. Mr. Izzo stated those issues are already here. Supervisor Finch stated it is complicated.

Mr. Izzo asked the board how much money the town received in Federal COVID relief and if the money is being reserved for a specific purpose. Supervisor Finch stated \$385,071.79 which is fifty percent of the total payment. This money can be reserved for infrastructure and we can use for revenue shortfalls: ambulance and court. Discussion ensued regarding using the funds to reduce taxes and loss of revenue due to COVID.

Mr. Izzo asked the board where the replacement for the ambulance sign stood. Supervisor Finch stated we have vendors but it is difficult to get these things done. Mr. Izzo stated the board has been speaking about this for the last four meetings and still you are saying you have vendors. Was an RFP put out? Supervisor Finch stated we have one quote from a vendor and this will be discussed at the committee meeting.

Mr. Izzo asked where the new code software stood. Supervisor Finch stated there is \$49,000 in this year's budget. The Code Office has 3 vendors and they are moving forward with demonstrations. Mr. Izzo stated you are discussing things that have been sitting on the back burner for 2 years now.

Mr. Izzo asked about the pay increase for employees. Councilman McCulloch projected a 2.5% increase. Mr. Izzo asked if that was for everyone. Supervisor Finch stated that has not been determined yet. Mr. Izzo asked if the board will have an increase. Councilman McCulloch stated there will be no pay increase. Supervisor Finch stated he is not sure of that. Mr. Izzo mentioned to the board the COLA index at 4% and the town has non-union employees. The employees in the union contract, that is set but for those who are not in the union contract, you may have to go higher. If COLA is projected at 4-5% increase and you are only giving a 2 to 2.15% raise, then you are already falling behind. He encouraged the board to look at salary increases for non-union employees to keep pace for people who can't negotiate and to keep pace with the CPI. He thanked the board.

With no further comment, Supervisor Finch asked for a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue, wage and benefits. Motion by Councilman Giordiano to enter executive session and to include the Town Clerk, second by Councilwoman Scannapieco. Executive session began 7:32 pm.

Motion to end the executive session and resume the meeting made by Councilwoman Scannapieco second by Councilman Giordiano. Regular meeting resumed 7:57 pm.

Resolution # 97-2021 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second by Councilman Vosburgh to hire Cory Birk as PT Code Enforcement Officer contingent upon pre-employment screening effective two weeks. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 98-2021 on motion of Councilman Vosburgh, second by Councilman McCulloch authorizing the Town Clerk advertise for a PT Clerk to assist in the Planning and Zoning Office. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

With no further business a motion to end the meeting was made by Councilman Giordiano, second by Councilwoman Scannapieco. Meeting ended 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk