

Budget Workshop V
Catskill Town Hall
October 16, 2025

PRESENT: Patrick McCulloch, Supervisor
Jared Giordiano, Councilman
Dawn Scannapieco, Councilwoman
Steven Espel, Councilman
Brian Kozloski, Councilman
Kirsten Bulich, Budget Officer

Supervisor McCulloch called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. He asked if everyone had a chance to review the documents Kirsten sent. He then began to review the tentative budget to date and how the tax rates affect the fund balance.

At 2% increase, the outside village rate would be \$15.44/\$100,000 assessed value but we would be using \$785,000 in fund balance. If we stay within the tax cap of 2.25% the rate would be \$18.77/\$100,000 and use \$766,000 in fund balance. The numbers changed from last meeting as we found out we will have a county chargeback and Audre gave Kirsten new valuations.

Councilwoman Scannapieco asked about the money earmarked for the truck or the ambulance and if we should purchase the vehicles. Supervisor McCulloch stated there is no fund to buy the truck so if we decide not to buy, then we should zero out the line in the budget.

The truck and the mower are the two large purchases and are just under \$100,000. Kirsten also stated \$50,000 for the ambulance also.

Councilman Giordiano does not want to use more fund balance and believes we should stay at 2.25% cap. Review of previous use of fund balance in other budget years and if we go any lower with the percentage, we will have to make it up in 26. He does not want to repeat when the town almost went bankrupt by not increasing taxes. Supervisor McCulloch stated this is why we need a healthy fund balance and if we keep using the fund balance as we are, we will not have money.

Councilwoman Scannapieco asked how it increased. Supervisor McCulloch stated the raises, the ambulance alone. Councilman Giordiano stated we increased due to market adjustments and the need for additional employees. Councilman Kozloski stated if we did not, we would be paying more in overtime.

Councilman Giordiano stated we are running as lean as possible. Finance and the Town Clerk have no assistants. Greene County has more PILOTS in the town and we lose money and they are also taking properties off our tax roll.

Supervisor McCulloch wants to be able to not use as much fund balance every year.
Discussion about raising taxes.

Councilman Espel had concerns about the contract negotiations. Supervisor McCulloch stated this is our heaviest year and pay rate decreases for highway 6% and ambulance 5%. We also have a 27th payroll this year.

Removing the truck and mower will not make a real difference to the budget.

Councilman Giordiano stated to use the cap 2.25% as he was on the board when we were broke and raising taxes 18% in one year instead of gradual, he was not happy doing.

Supervisor McCulloch reviewed the options. Option 1, raise 3.41% \$24.59/\$100,000 and use \$732,000 in fund balance. Option 2, 2% \$15.44/\$100,000 and \$785,000 fund balance. Option 3 2.25% \$18.77/\$100,000 and using \$766,000 fund balance.

All agreed option 2 will not be considered. All agreed option 1 will protect the town moving forward. After further discussion, all wanted to see what the rate would be using \$700,000 in fund balance.

Kirsten stated using \$700,000 of fund balance the percentage is 4.28. All agreed to use \$700,000 in fund balance.

Resolution # 116-2025 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second Councilwoman Scannapieco to accept the 2026 Tentative Budget as the 2026 Preliminary Budget using \$700,000 in fund balance. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Resolution # 117-2025 on motion of Councilman Kozloski, second Councilman Giordiano scheduling a public hearing on the 2026 Preliminary Budget for Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 6:40 pm at Town Hall. Adopted 5 Yes

Supervisor McCulloch stated we need to cancel the meeting on the 22nd. He thanked Kirsten for all her hard work preparing the budget. Councilman Giordiano stated since Kirsten has been helping, the budgets have been smooth.

With no further business, a motion to end the meeting was made by Councilman Espel, second Councilman Giordiano. The meeting ended at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk

