

Town Board Committee Meeting
Palenville Fire House
January 18, 2012 6:30 pm

Attendance: Joseph Leggio, Supervisor; Robert Antonelli, Councilman; Pat Walsh, Councilman; Gary Carlson, Councilman; Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Absent: Kevin Lennon, Councilman

Supervisor Leggio opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked all for attending and mentioned the board will be holding their committee meetings in the hamlets and thought it would be a good way for people to have access to the town board members and if they have any concerns they can address them to the board.

Supervisor Leggio mentioned he received a memo today from the Senior Center about doing some work on the alarm system. He will make copies for the board. He mentioned that Elaine Gardner submitted her resignation. She is leaving the Town effective February 3rd. He stated he has minutes from the Town Zoning Board meeting. He stated there will be a deployment at Leeds Armory on January 28th 10 am to send off troops to Kuwait. He reviewed correspondence from the Town Attorney. He sent out letters to people who had overdue and/or questionable billings with the Planning Board. He mentioned the abstract for the monthly bills for the Highway Department. He stated the Code Enforcement Office is suppose to be present tonight to make a presentation about the Quality Inn's alarm system and code violations. He mentioned the ambulance service and bills that are not always paid complete. He stated in some instances people do not have any funds to pay and we need a policy for writing off debt. He stated the Ambulance Committee or the Finance Committee will have to set something up with the Town Attorney. Councilman Antonelli stated Ronni should do this; write up the procedure.

Supervisor Leggio reviewed on-going project list. He mentioned the Community Center grant that is closed out. He mentioned the Cementon Sewer Project. He mentioned the Jefferson Heights Water District #3 on the back burner for funding. He mentioned the Leeds Sewer Project. He stated Pat and he met with Delaware Engineering and are now in the process of putting a package together to try to get some funding from Senator Seward's office, the IDA, and the Town combined to get to the next step which would be an engineering survey of the properties in Leeds and coming down through Jefferson Heights. He stated there is little to no funding out there but the better the funding chance is, is if you are in a poverty or low income level. This will be a joint project to tie into the Village's sewer system. Since it will encompass the Village area the opportunities are much greater for funding. The next meeting will be in two weeks.

Supervisor Leggio next mentioned the time clocks and the computers. Councilman Antonelli stated the time clocks are in and Joe will take care of. Kevin is the point person on the project. Supervisor Leggio next mentioned the Highway and getting their snow plows which they have. He then moved on to the Ambulance and the labor negotiations. Councilman Walsh stated it was done. Councilman Carlson stated there was a pilot program that expired December 31st and asked if it was continued through this year. Councilman Walsh stated until June 30th. Supervisor Leggio mentioned the Ambulance contract with the Town of Athens. A meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday at 5:30 pm. He advised all to stop in and talk to Sandy to get an update. He stated the original agreement with Athens is that we would provide service to them and they would make us whole. He stated there seems to be some confusion over renewing the contract the last year or so. Councilman Antonelli asked Councilman Walsh about the contract with the Ambulance (TOC). Councilman Walsh stated there was an extension on the 48 hours with the eight people involved because we didn't have the figures in to see if that was working. Councilman Antonelli stated he didn't believe it was signed yet. He stated Gary lost it and to check with Sandy. Councilman Walsh stated Gary lost it? He stated he signed it. The Clerk stated Gary signed it and we have a copy of the memorandum but what was lost by Gary was the union contract he had to have signed. Supervisor Leggio stated he did payroll before he came out and for the last two week period there was 220 hours of overtime for the ambulance. He stated it still seems excessive. Councilman Carlson asked how much would have been negotiated over time with the pilot program. Councilman Walsh stated that is what needs to be figured out. Supervisor Leggio stated for the time slots they work they are guaranteed eight hours of overtime for each shift. Councilman Walsh stated before, the overtime was going to part-timers and they would work over 40 hours and full timers. He stated the scheduling was the problem. Supervisor Leggio stated it just seemed for a two week period that 220 hours was high. Councilman Carlson stated he would like to revisit the need for the overtime and the practices. He stated according to what he read in their contract, management rights allow us the ability to change their scheduling without taking into consideration past practice. He stated unless there is a state mandate that requires us to have certain manpower staffing on a shift to shift basis he would like to revisit the need to have two rigs running 24/7. If someone calls out, instead of replacing them with overtime, the fact that they are not doing a lot of their paperwork, have that single individual follow-up with paperwork and send one rig out. We should at least examine the need such during night shifts where they are running all night long and whether one rig can handle the work load or not. He stated he is going to look into it himself.

Councilman Antonelli stated all the contracts with the union are for one year and whatever he plans on doing, we have time. He believes we would use Mike Richardson as our labor negotiator. Councilman Carlson stated he doesn't want to do anything that would react badly for the sake of the township, however looking at being fiscally responsible and looking at the fiscal situation currently going on and the fact that we are not getting bills paid and the paperwork is not getting done, it appears that the ambulance needs to be reigned in from a management point

of view and as far as what some of our rights and the township rights are, as far as management that we negotiated within their contract and whether or not they are actually being taken place, such as performance evaluations, things along those lines, that we would obviously have to bring in the Ambulance administrator and talk to him and go over a lot of the issues. These are things that benefit the township and we negotiated within their contract and appear they are not being utilized. He would like to look into further.

Chet Garrison asked if Athens taxpayers pay towards any of the overages. Councilman Antonelli stated that was the new contract that we did that they won't sign. It was based on the ALS contract. It was set up for 230 calls and it came out to \$75,000 a year. Out of the \$75,000 that is plus we collect the money and keep the money. If our charges are \$900 for the call, Medicare pays \$400 and out of that they will only give you 80% so you can't go back to the Town of Athens or anyone and collect the other \$500. It is not allowed because we have a contract with Medicare/Medicaid. They would pay us for the 20% if the person didn't have the other insurance. We pay 8% to do all the billing so if we do \$100,000 worth of billing for Athens it cost us \$8,000. That was all built in. Also, 8% of the calls are done in Athens. We took into consideration all of that. He stated the way Athens figures it, they think we owe them money and he feels we should tell them to go find their own ambulance service and see how expensive it is. The service is adjusted based on the number of calls. If there is less, then they pay less, but if there are more they pay more. A gentleman in the audience stated to look and see how much overtime is being used on Athens and put into the negotiation also. Councilman Antonelli stated he is against anyone working 48 hours. He would rather see someone work maybe 12 hours a day.

Supervisor Leggio moved on to the resolutions:

RESOLUTION #4-2012

EMPLOY STENOGRAPHIC CLERKS
TOWN COURT

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Court is in need of stenographic services in order for court to function properly; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby authorize the use of stenographers as needed for the Catskill Town Court.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #5-2012

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, Regina Daly's term of Chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals expired December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, she wishes to remain Chairperson and the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended she remain Chairperson for the year 2012; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board, resolve to re-appoint Regina Daly as Chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals to a term commencing January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #6-2012

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, Thomas Decker's term of Vice-Chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals expired December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, he wishes to remain Vice-Chairperson and the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended he remain Vice-Chairperson for the year 2012; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board, resolve to re-appoint Thomas Decker as Vice-Chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals to a term commencing January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

Supervisor Leggio next mentioned Committee appointments:

Government Operations Committee: Councilman Antonelli Chair, Councilman Walsh & Supervisor Leggio members.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Councilman Antonelli Chair, Councilman Walsh member.

Health & Education Committee: Councilman Walsh Chair, Councilman Antonelli member.

Human Service Committee: Councilman Walsh Chair, Councilman Antonelli member

Finance Committee: Supervisor Leggio Chair, Councilman Antonelli member

Highway Committee: Councilman Lennon Chair, Councilman Walsh & Carlson members

Ambulance Committee: Councilman Carlson Chair, Councilman Lennon member.

Supervisor Leggio stated he serves on all the committees.

Supervisor Leggio stated the Code Enforcement office has had an issue with the Quality Inn. In January 2011 there were issues with the smoke alarms, fire alarms and numerous other issues that he isn't going to get into. They have been trying to work with them to get them up to par. As of the 1st of the year they haven't done anything. The Code Office was there a week ago, went through all the buildings, taped off four of the five buildings and told them they weren't in compliance and they couldn't use the buildings and basically condemned them and placed the stickers on the building. The Town Attorney stated the board should pass a resolution for unsafe building and give them 30 to 45 days to remediate and they would have to be served with papers and set up a public hearing and public notice. We do not want to go to great extents to put pressure on a local business but god forbid if someone was to stay at the Inn and the smoke alarm and fire detector and boiler room fire protection didn't work, we would be libel and a tragedy if someone was hurt.

RESOLUTION #7-2012

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR
UNSAFE BUILDING: QUALITY INN

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Code Enforcement Officer has reported that conditions on property located at 704 Route 23B, Catskill, NY, Tax Map # 138.00-14-1 constitute a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill Code Enforcement Office has issued an Order to Remedy on these properties due to unsafe buildings; so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve and set a public hearing pursuant to Chapter 90 of the Town of Catskill Code concerning these matters on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Leeds Fire House, Route 23, Leeds, NY 12413.

Councilman's Carl & Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lennon)

Motion Carried

Supervisor Leggio polled the board. Councilman Carlson stated when he was going over bills this past week; he noticed there were quite a few checks going out for boots. He stated the Town is contractually obligated to provide boots up to the amount of \$185 to the Highway Department. This is something that was negotiated in their contract and it is a benefit afforded to them. He noticed that there were some checks in lieu of boots given to non-highway union members. He stated this is a benefit that the Highway Department negotiated for and he has an issue with the fact that we are basically giving a check to personal that didn't negotiate this benefit. He stated if we choose to provide boots to employees who didn't contract that in a contract, he doesn't see an issue, but to just give them a check and expect them to go and do it, he doesn't agree with that practice. He stated if they bring in a pair of boots and it is something that is necessary for their specialized work, he does not have an issue with providing boots; however he wants to see an old pair of boots being turned in for a new pair of boots going out. He does not want to see a check going out.

Councilman Antonelli stated there is a couple of ways we can do this. A voucher system can be set up with a couple retailers like Montana's and they can go down and get boots and the store would bill us. Also, he is unsure if boots are needed every year but this would have to be negotiated with the union. Councilman Carlson stated the highway workers negotiated a contract that whether they need them or not they are entitled to them; however, they want to set it up so they pick the specs of the boots up to the amount they negotiated for and I believe we would let them do it, whether it be the Highway Superintendent taking in charge of the specs. Councilman Antonelli stated that would have to be negotiated through the union. Councilman Carlson stated the contract reads that they are entitled to boots up to \$185 of the value of the boot. We are not providing those boots but a check and expecting them to go buy the boots. We are not listing specs as far as boots that may need to be steel toed, things that for liability issues benefit the township. With the highway workers it is a negotiated contract. He has a problem with the non-union workers where we are giving them a benefit that this other group negotiated. Supervisor Leggio stated most of it is the Cemetery employees and they are doing the same kind of work and for some reason, it just followed suit that they got drawn into that. Councilman Carlson

stated if they are going to utilize boots for their work on a day to day basis, he doesn't have an issue with the township supplying their boots but that is what he wants to do, supply boots and not a check.

Supervisor Leggio stated at the first of the year we did not reappoint the Town Attorney. He stated we use an attorney in Albany and would like to know what the pleasure of the board is now. Should there be an advertisement in the paper or should we ask for an hourly rate from the current attorney. Councilman Carlson stated since this his first stint on the board he wants to hear what the rest of the board thinks. Councilman Antonelli stated Mike Sterthous is a big law firm and they have people who specialize. He stated a lot of local attorneys are not capable of handling some of the cases we have. He stated we can have a local attorney and handle some of our minor stuff but the majority of our stuff has to go through the larger law firm. Supervisor Leggio stated we should advertise in the local paper for a local attorney and see what happens. Councilman Walsh stated we should talk to Jim and give him a chance to give us an idea of what he may want to charge us and also advertise. Councilman Walsh stated we need a local attorney to handle the everyday stuff. Councilman Carlson asked if the larger firm charges us on a per case basis. Councilman Antonelli stated whatever they are handled. Councilman Carlson asked if they can be on retainer. Supervisor Leggio stated it is an hourly rate. Councilman Walsh stated the problem with someone from Albany is your paying two hours for travel time. Supervisor Leggio stated if we don't need them we don't use them. Supervisor Leggio stated you really need someone locally. He stated he told Jim that we would advertise in the paper but to put together a proposal, but it is only fair, and maybe two or three other attorneys may be interested. We should give everyone the opportunity. Councilman Carlson asked if we thought over the idea of the possibility of having multiple attorneys for various things at less expense than the big law firm. Councilman Antonelli stated most of the local attorneys don't want to be involved. Supervisor Leggio stated that most of the local attorneys practice in our courts and don't want to give up their practice as that is more profitable. It was the consensus of the board to advertise for the position and go from there.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was public comment. Rick Gerard thanked the board for holding the meeting here and feels it is a good idea to go around to the different hamlets. He had a question about Woodstock Avenue. Supervisor Leggio stated we have hired an engineering firm, Pratorius & Conrad, who have been out here, and are supposedly working on specs for the retaining wall and fixing it. He stated Kevin, who is away this week, has been on top of this all along. Right now they are in the process of working up an engineering proposal for the repair. He also stated we have spent in excess of \$200,000 on storm damage from Irene. Out of the \$200,000 there has been no money coming back in from FEMA. He stated Kevin met with FEMA last week and we finally have a long term team who will work with us on the paperwork and the money. That said, the money being so slow to come in, the Town will have to bond the money for the repair work. There are other sites too such as the culvert on Pine Grove under

Route 23. There are some culverts on Pennsylvania Avenue also. Councilman Antonelli stated that is what Pratorius is doing. He is going all around the town and assessing the damage before we have to borrow money. We don't know how much yet we may have to bond. It is being worked on.

A gentlemen asked how far up they are looking on culverts on 23A. Supervisor Leggio stated he does not know that specifically. He stated there is a main one that goes under 23 near Mrs. Goss's house. Councilman Carlson stated he believes the County is taking that over. Supervisor Leggio stated Kevin told us it is deeded to the Town. Mrs. Goss stated the Town took it over in 1964. It is on her deed. Supervisor Leggio stated they are trying to get that with FEMA. Mrs. Goss stated it is pretty dangerous, 10 foot holes.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was further comment. He stated he had been waiting for someone to ask about the Swinging Bridge. A person in the audience stated we are not yet ready to ask about the bridge yet. Another audience member asked since the bridge was brought up it, if was going to be repaired. Supervisor Leggio stated he hasn't heard anything. He stated the only thing he knows about the Swinging Bridge is what he read in the paper, that a couple of fundraisers were had and stuff like that. He stated what he does know is that they need consent of the property owners on either side before they can do anything and he doesn't believe that is in the near future. He doesn't know if they will ever see it again.

With no further comment a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Carlson. Supervisor Leggio thanked all for coming. Meeting ended 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk