

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
February 15, 2023 6:43 PM

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

Also Attending: Ted Hilscher, Town Attorney

RESOLUTIONS:

Res 16-2023 Increasing the Town Justice's Petty Cash Fund to \$200.
Motion: Councilman Giordiano, Second: Councilman McCulloch
Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Res 17-2023 2022 Budget Amendments
Motion: Councilman Giordiano, Second: Councilman Vosburgh
Vote: Adopted 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)

Supervisor Finch stated the AUD for the town is done early and the town looks good.

SWINGING BRIDGE:

Gary Harvey presented to the board their ongoing pursuit to rebuild and reconstruct the bridge. If they are successful, it will be the fifth time it has been rebuilt. Mr. Harvey stated himself, Crane Davis and Jill Burkholder are present tonight to ask the board to reaffirm their commitment to the 2016 resolution accepting liability and maintenance of the bridge.

The placement of the bridge will be moved 600 feet downstream and easements will be given to the town from property owners Zane Cheek (Mill Road) and Simone Felice (Griffin House). The bridge will be slightly longer (100-120 ft) and higher (10-15 ft). They will be asking NYSDOT to grant the town the two lots near the library which would be used as green space and allow the trail to be brought over to access the sidewalks on 23A to connect to the Harding Path, which is part of the Long Path. They have a commitment from NY/NJ Trail Conference supporting the bridge.

Councilman Vosburgh asked just what was meant by liability. Supervisor Finch stressed the importance of contacting the town's insurance company as he is unsure of the legwork done by previous boards. Councilman Giordiano agrees to restore the bridge.

Mr. Harvey stated Palenville would raise the funding and then deed it to the town. Supervisor Finch asked about a timeline. Mr. Harvey stated they are in talks with the property owners, who don't want liability, and this is why they are in front of the board tonight to reconfirm the town's commitment to the project.

Councilman Vosburgh asked if the bridge would be accessible year-round. Mr. Harvey stated yes. People in Palenville would shovel snow in the winter. Supervisor Finch stated the easements would have to be maintained too. There won't be a decision made until the insurance company is contacted. Mr. Harvey stated this is a significant and historic project. The emblem of the bridge is on their sign, it is on the town's website. Supervisor Finch stated he appreciates everyone's efforts and we will place on the agenda for our March meeting.

LOCAL LAW 1-2023 – Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers pursuant to Real Property Law Section 466-A. Supervisor Finch asked for a motion to adopt the local law. *Resolution #18-2023 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Vosburgh to adopt Local Law 1 of 2023. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)*

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Matt Carlile, CEO, brought before the board an unsafe structure; billboards on Park Ln, tax map ID 138.11-1-21. The property owner has been brought before the Town Court and has not taken down or repaired the billboards. Mr. Hilscher cited Chapter 90 of the Town Code allowing the board to bring the individual in front of the board. *Resolution # 19-2023 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh to schedule a public hearing for existing violations to the Code of the Town of Catskill, Chapter 90 Article 2 Section 1 on property owned by El Brothers Property LLC, Park Ln, Leeds, NY 12451, Tax Map # 138.11-1-21 for Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Catskill Town Hall. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)*

PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE – Tom Andreassen mentioned the Veterans Hometown Banner program. There are 110 banners and hopefully they will be up by mid-May.

The Memorial Day Parade is in process. Matt is coordinating the groups, Dale will announce who's marching and the parade will end at the Historic Freightmaster's Building where there will be speakers and music.

Supervisor Finch thanked Tom and Joyce and the committee for spearheading the banner program and parade. Councilman McCulloch would like committee to be under the town. *Resolution # 20-2023 on motion of Supervisor Finch second by Councilman Vosburgh establishing the Patriotic Committee as a Town Committee. Adopted Vote: 4 Yes 1 Absent (Scannapieco)*

Councilman Giordiano asked if there was a list of Veterans who no longer have any family so businesses can sponsor them. Mr. Andreasson stated he will check with Michelle Deyo. Supervisor Finch stated local businesses can also donate to offset the expense of the banners. Mr. Andreassen stated he can extend the deadline for applications by one more week.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Arnold Schmatz asked the board about the article in the paper and revisiting a park on Five Mile Woods Road. Supervisor Finch stated the article had to do with the town's establishment of a Recreation Plan where with major subdivisions, the developer can either set aside a certain amount of land for a park or contribute 10% of the unimproved assessed value of the land for recreation purposes. Five Mile Woods Road was listed with other town parcels such as the ballfield, Margraf property and Leeds Flats. We are looking at all the properties.

Mr. Schmatz stated the property on Five Mile Woods as been deemed forever wild by a court case. It has been discussed and voted down twice by town boards. There is nothing that can be done with this property as it was a dumpsite.

Supervisor Finch stated his point is well taken and there is no immediate plan, not even a five year plan and he appreciates his concerns.

Tom Andreassen asked when Camptown may open. Supervisor Finch stated they are taking reservations now.

The hotel project is coming soon. There are 207 AirBnb's in the town.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Councilman McCulloch stated he received a call from Matt Curry of NYSDOH asking if there is feasibility of a water filtration plant in Palenville. His comment was no as there are not many residents in Palenville who could support a project like that. He just wanted the board to be aware.

Councilman Giordiano would like to discuss a new hire for the billing clerk for Ambulance. There is an application from Joe Izzo who is more than qualified for the position. Supervisor Finch would like to discuss this in the executive session. He would also like to discuss contract negotiations.

Mr. Hilscher asked how to proceed with the revisions for the code. Councilman McCulloch stated to see what the Zoning Board says. Mr. Hilscher will make the revisions and send them to the board before the March 7th meeting.

With no further business a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel and contract negotiations was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh. No further business will be conducted after the end of the executive session. The executive session began at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk

As told by Councilman Giordiano, executive session and the meeting ended 8:50 PM.