

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
February 17, 2010 6:30 pm

Attendance: Peter Markou, Supervisor
Robert Antonelli, Councilman
Patrick Walsh, Councilman
Michael Smith, Councilman
Kevin Lennon, Councilman
Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Supervisor Markou opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

He then presented proclamations to those First Responders who responded to a call and thus were able to save a life. Supervisor Markou then gave Commendation of Service awards to EMT, Mike Eishofer and EMT I, Robert Brooks.

Supervisor Markou then presented a Citation of Outstanding Performance to Cory Burk who responded to that call while he was off duty. Mr. Burk applied the automatic external defibrillator and regained pulses to the patient. The patient then went into cardiac arrest again and the AED was administered a second time thus saving the patient's life.

Supervisor Markou then quoted a line in the Judea tradition that states, "He who saves one life saves the world." Congratulations were extended to all.

Supervisor Markou then reviewed the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION # 25-2010

PURCHASE CEMETERY
EQUIPMENT

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill Cemetery is in need of frost removers to thaw the ground for winter burials, and

WHEREAS, three quotes were received, they being

1. Hawl Frost Removers \$2,986.38
2. American Cemetery Supplies, Inc. \$3,196.47
3. Holland Supply Inc. \$3,473.29, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby accept the proposal from Hawl Frost Removers in the amount of \$2,986.38.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0

Carried

RESOLUTION # 26-2010

TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC
HEARING FOR JUNK:
EDWARD WERENCZAK

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Catskill Town Code Enforcement Office has reported that conditions on the property located at PO Box 332, 2002 Route 23B, South Cairo, NY 12482, Tax Map #119.00-12-19 constitute a public nuisance, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill Code Enforcement Office has an Order to Remedy (s) outstanding on this property due to junk accumulation with no corrections being made, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby approve and set a public hearing pursuant to Chapter 115 of the Town of Catskill Code concerning this matter on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 6:00 pm at Catskill Town Hall, 439-441 Main Street, Catskill, NY 12414.

Councilman Smith seconded this motion.

Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent

Carried

Supervisor Markou polled the board.

Councilman Lennon thanked the Board for allowing him to go to the Association of Towns meeting. He stated it was worthwhile and he received a lot of information.

Councilman Smith mentioned having security during council meetings. He stated given the condition of the world today it may be appropriate to have security. He stated his and the Supervisor's relatives mentioned this concern and would like to open it up to discussion.

Councilman Walsh does not feel intimidated or feels that it is needed. He asked if there was a reason other than the way the world is or if there is a particular threat.

Councilman Smith stated yes and no. He stated in the press there has been quite a bit made of the assassination of three teachers at the University of Alabama who had no demonstration of an ability to do this. He also mentioned an event that occurred at Town Hall.

Councilman Walsh understands that but still has a hard time bringing in security. Supervisor Markou stated that there were two incidents and in one there was an order of protection for the department and the other incident he made the determination that Town Hall close based on the Town Clerk's phone call to him. He stated you never know how serious a threat is and you do what you need to do and hope the threat goes away and it did.

He stated that if the business of the people cannot be conducted without having everyone at least adhere to the rules of procedure, which have been determined, and has been opposed strongly in instances, he does not want the sense of stifling any public discussion. He is reluctant to have an armed uniform present.

Councilman Lennon stated the conference had a presentation on work place violence. He stated there are some provisions from what was explained and Town Hall may be lacking in those. He stated they have someone who can do a security audit.

Supervisor Markou states if the Board feels that we should follow up on that then we should. Councilman Walsh stated it would be ok. Councilman Antonelli stated that since court is being held here there are certain recommendations from Court administration that they would like us to use. He stated a camera was installed and one of the judges wanted us to remove it. He stated our meetings are not well attended. He stated the largest meetings are public meetings. He stated he is in Town Hall every day and he feels safe.

Supervisor Markou stated we will look into a security company to do an audit.

Supervisor Markou spoke about the bids for the Catskill Community Center. He stated they were opened on February 16th. There were 9 bids received. The CDBG grant was for \$400,000 and the CCC had a \$250,000 member item from Sen. Seward. We were advised that the member item money has dried up and may not be released for awhile. None of the bids were within the \$400,000 range.

He stated the architect and the grant writer will contact the Office of Community Renewal to find out which elements of the original grant will take priority and then we will have to re-bid. He stated he has been assured that even if OCR states this can be adjusted and re-bid, we will still be able to meet the deadline for the grant. He stated he is personally uneasy about it.

Supervisor Markou stated the last time the Board met, they spoke about the proposed water project in Jefferson Heights that the Town received USDA money for and we spoke about doing a CDBG instead of taking the loan. Based on where we are with the CCC, he would be reluctant to submit an application to them.

He would like to have a government ops meeting before the next scheduled meeting for further discussion.

He also wanted the board to know that they should have received material that was presented to him from Larry Federman regarding outdoor furnaces.

Councilman Lennon stated DEC had a 2 hour presentation on open burning and wood boilers. He states there is no regulation on wood boilers yet. He stated DEC mandated there be no open burning at all. There were provisional changes to that as Towns became more involved. He stated there is no burning from March 15th to May 15th.

Supervisor Markou stated Mr. Federman will at some point return to us and ask us what we will do so the Board should review.

Councilman Smith stated there were two comments made that resonated with him. He stated former Councilman O'Connor had stated that the outdoor burners helped people of moderate means to inexpensively heat their homes. He stated this will need to be kept in mind. He also stated that Mr. Federman said an open burner is appropriate when the residence is separate and apart from other residences so that the smoke does not have an adverse affect to a neighbor. He stated that he has seen, in Palenville, open burners that are right next door to residences that don't use open burners and we will need to investigate if it is appropriate from a number of points of view. Will they be appropriate use in a tight suburban community?

Supervisor Markou then asked Linda Overbaugh to approach the Board regarding the HOCA contract and their financials.

Linda gave the board their updated financials. Supervisor Markou stated this meeting is a result of one that was held back some time and where the Board paid her \$3,000 of the amount budgeted for 2009.

Linda stated the agreement, which was never received, was to run from April 2009 to March 31, 2010. She stated she did not submit the vouchers and that is why the Town received the large one. The agreement was for \$7,000.

Supervisor Markou recused himself from further discussion because he was an officer of HOCA and is a member. Councilman Smith recused himself because his spouse is an officer of HOCA.

Gary Kistingner stated the Town finances \$8,000 a year and the Village finances \$8,000 a year and HOCA finances more to hire the director. Expenses have increased but HOCA still maintains \$8,000 from the Village and the Town agreed to \$7,000.

Councilman Lennon stated since he recused himself do we need to appoint or vote on the deputy supervisor. Supervisor Markou stated no he will just step in.

Councilman Lennon asked if there was a contract brought tonight for the Board. Linda stated the Town initiates the contract. Councilman Antonelli stated a contract needs to be in place in case the Town is audited. He stated when Joe was the Supervisor everyone

was given a contract. He stated since everybody has a different budget cycle it makes it tough.

Gary stated HOCA is more than a Chamber of Commerce and a quality of life organization, they are an economic development office for the Town. Any time the Town needs anything, we are there. They are more than Music in the Park and the successful Cats program.

Councilman Antonelli stated the Town gives them \$5,000 for the music in the park program.

Councilman Lennon wanted to know what HOCA does for all the hamlets. Linda stated that several years ago there was a request from some of the business people in Palenville that wanted some sort of economic development. HOCA received a \$50,000 grant from Sen. Bonacic and formed a Heart of Palenville committee. Gary had an idea to establish a walking trail along the creek using Malden Avenue area that had been closed for many years as a park area. She stated there were artists in the area who were to do outdoor sculptures. She stated that idea was quickly dismissed by the people who live along the creek. HOCA did put up the welcome to Palenville signs. She said the group lost its thunder and disbanded but has recently formed again.

She also stated a long time ago DOT was considering putting in a round-a-bout in the traffic area and everyone there thought it was a stupid plan. She stated meetings were arranged with Senator Seward and DOT at Garrison's establishment.

She stated HOCA is there for all the hamlets. Gary stated that HOCA was contacted by the owner of the B & B who wants to organize something along the Route 32 corridor; car shows.

Linda stated that one of the gripes seems to be that everything is done for the Village of Catskill and Main Street. She said when HOCA was first formed in 1993, Keith Valentine stated that you have to start with the very worst part and make it better. She stated just having a more desirable Main Street brings people to the Town. She stated the Cats have helped the Town of Catskill.

Councilman Antonelli asked Linda if Cats would be in Palenville. She stated no because there are not enough people who want to do it. She stated that last year she was contacted by a business owner in Leeds who wanted to do a cat. She stated that there will be 5 cats in Leeds this year which is enough of a draw to get people to go there. She stated there will be 54 cats this year.

Linda stated that with the money generated by the Cats, they are able to help the other not-for-profits. Councilman Antonelli stated that is a mistake because HOCA made money and it is given away. He stated the funding that is done for HOCA and the same for the Community Center sooner or later will need to be diminished. He stated there

should be enough money to take care of your salary and to not use Village and Town taxpayer money to subsidize HOCA.

Linda stated it is not subsidizing HOCA they way she looks at it. She states HOCA is an economic development arm for the Town of Catskill should they need it. Councilman Antonelli feels that to take taxpayer money, when HOCA is making money, is wrong. He stated for the last 12 years on the Board they have been paying this money. Linda stated isn't there a big difference in Catskill. Councilman Antonelli stated he looks at Catskill including all the Hamlets and she looks at Catskill as the Village. Linda denied this.

Councilman Antonelli stated the Town lost \$50,000 in Palenville because the road wasn't put in. Councilman Antonelli only hears that HOCA does nothing for Leeds, Palenville and Kiskatom. She said she does.

Councilman Antonelli reiterated that HOCA will eventually need to sustain itself. Linda stated she does not know why it would be any different from the County who has an economic development department. The taxpayers pay for that. Councilman Antonelli stated she concentrates on the Village. She said she does because where else will there be economic development. Where are there shovel ready places? She stated everything we do in the Village benefits the Town.

Councilman Antonelli stated this is what we hear. He recommended that there was an agreement last year and to pay what is owed for 2009 and to let the Board decide on what to do in 2010.

Councilman Lennon stated since there is a contract to uphold then we should for the 2009 year and then sit down and discuss the details for the 2010-2011 contract.

Gary stated he doesn't know what the Board will be looking for HOCA to do in 2010 but he guesses that will be further discussion. Councilman Antonelli stated the Board needs to decide and Linda knows. He stated the Board needs to decide to commit or pull back and to give how much.

RESOLUTION # 27-2010

HOCA AGREEMENT

Councilman Antonelli presented the following for consideration and adoption,

WHEREAS, the Town of Catskill entered into an agreement with the Heart of Catskill Association (HOCA) on April 7, 2009 (see resolution #40-2009) for \$7,000 to continue services, and

WHEREAS, the payment was to be in two installments, and

WHEREAS, one installment has been paid to date, so

THEREFORE WE, the Catskill Town Board hereby agree to pay the balance owed to HOCA even though a contract was not signed for the 2009-2010 year.

Councilman Walsh seconded this motion.

Ayes 3, Nays 0, Abstention 2 (Markou/Smith) Carried

Gary stated the first function for the 2010 year is the reception for the Cats where the sponsors choose the artists.

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Antonelli and seconded by Councilman Smith. Meeting ended 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk