

**Public Hearing for 2021 Preliminary Budget
Catskill Town Hall
November 3, 2020 6:15 pm**

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

Supervisor Finch opened the public hearing with the Pledge of Allegiance and asked the clerk to read the notice:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Catskill for the fiscal year January, 1, 2021 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, 439 Main St., Catskill, NY where it is available upon inspection by any interested person during office hours 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Further notice is given that the Town Board of the Town of Catskill will meet and review said Preliminary Budget and will hold a Public Hearing thereon at Town Hall, 439-441 Main St., Catskill, NY on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 6:15 pm. Pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law the proposed salaries of the following offices are hereby specified as follows: Supervisor \$13,125; Councilman (1) \$8,063; Councilman (3) \$6,063 (\$18,189 total); Town Clerk \$51,274; Highway Superintendent \$62,548. By Order of the Catskill Town Board, Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Supervisor Finch gave a brief statement. This was a challenging year due to COVID but we maintained day to day operations and he complimented the ambulance employees. The town implemented a spending and hiring freeze on vacancies. Other than ambulance there was no overtime. COVID expenses were tracked and submitted to FEMA. The revenue loss is down 29%. Through March to June we had a \$150,000 loss. NYS has imposed a 20% reduction in aid; CHIPS, interest on revenue. The court revenue will be lower than projected. The larger number is ambulance insurance recovery as this year it was budgeted \$1.4M but there is a \$200,000 shortfall. Add COVID to that number and the revenue shortfall is \$350,000. Fund balance was used in the amount of \$370,000 in 2020. This year there is no fund balance in the A Fund. We used \$106,000 from DB and DA Fund. For a property with an assessed value of \$100,000 the tax increase in the Village of Catskill will be \$65 and in the Town of Catskill \$55. Supervisor Finch opened the meeting for public comment and board comment.

Mr. Izzo asked if the board is over the tax cap. Supervisor Finch stated yes. The tax cap was 1.56% this year. *Councilwoman Scannapieco entered meeting 6:24 pm.* He stated we trimmed back requests and are spending less this year than last year. Supervisor Finch stated the inside village rate is \$3.14 and the outside village rate is \$6.35.

Mr. Izzo stated people pay more or less based on their assessed value so it may not actually be an increase of \$65. Supervisor Finch stated \$100,000 in the DB Fund balance was used. There is no fund balance in the A Fund. Mr. Izzo asked if there is an anticipated deficit. Supervisor Finch stated no. Mr. Izzo stated the county will pay the state portion for local assistance. Supervisor Finch stated it is in the budget but reduced 20% as he is unsure if that will happen. Mr. Izzo asked about funding for the Community Center and since they are closing why it wasn't reduced to zero. Supervisor Finch stated it

was reduced to \$30,000 as we are looking at funding youth programs even though this year was funded at \$100,000. Mr. Izzo asked, if they are closed and \$100,000 was budgeted, did they expend the entire \$100,000. The board stated yes. Mr. Izzo stated they closed half year so money should be left over. Councilman McCulloch stated the \$30,000 is for Summer Rec program. Supervisor Finch stated we are not funding the center but only the Summer Rec program.

Mr. Izzo asked who came up with the anticipated revenue for the ambulance in 2021. Supervisor Finch stated he did. Mr. Izzo asked if George June was consulted. Supervisor Finch stated he is administration and doesn't run revenue projections. He came up with the number with the monthly revenues and have yearly projections from 2009 and it trends \$1.2M. In 2018 and 2019 the revenue was \$200,000 short. Mr. Izzo asked if we will receive money back from COVID. Supervisor Finch stated we were reimbursed with CARES Act 1 but did not qualify for CARES Act 2 and are in the process of applying for CARES Act 3.

Mr. Izzo asked if Leeds Hose Company was adjusted. Supervisor Finch stated no. Councilman McCulloch stated they did not re-open the contract. Supervisor Finch stated they opted not to cancel the remainder of the contract. Negotiations will be next year.

Supervisor Finch stated this was a trying year with COVID. Businesses faced a difficult time. Supervisor Finch asked if there was any other comment. With no further comment a motion to end the public hearing was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh. Public hearing ended 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk