

**Public Hearing 2022 Preliminary Budget
Catskill Town Hall
November 2, 2021 6:15 pm**

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

Also Attending: Michael Torchia, CPA

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting 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, 2022 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 Main St., Catskill, NY on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:15 pm. Pursuant to Section 108 of Town Law the proposed salaries of the following offices are hereby specified as follows: Supervisor \$15,125; Councilman (1) \$10,000; Councilman (3) \$8,000 (\$24,000 total); Town Clerk \$57,035; Highway Superintendent \$64,425. By Order of the Catskill Town Board, Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Supervisor Finch gave a brief recap of where we were and where we ended; COVID, reopening the Senior Center, revenue rebounding, home sales increasing. He reviewed the ARPA Rescue Plan and the money received to date and how it is to be used as the rules and regulations are changing on a regular basis. He reviewed the fund balance and stated the town would ideally like a 6 month fund balance. He reviewed the tax increase for the village and town. The Village is \$4.20 per hundred thousand and the Town is \$1.32 per hundred thousand. He then opened the meeting up for public comment.

Dave Brockway asked what the Supervisor's salary is. Supervisor Finch stated \$15,125. Mr. Brockway asked about the mortgage tax and if the town receives money and how it has been. Supervisor Finch stated it has been fantastic. Mr. Torchia stated properties are selling and if they are cash deals then the town receives no tax. Mr. Brockway asked about Greene EMS and if the town is contributing. Councilman McCulloch answered no. Supervisor Finch stated this is a work in progress.

Joseph Izzo asked the annual salary increase of the unions and non-union. Councilman McCulloch stated 2.5% and 3%. Mr. Izzo asked about the Assessor and CEO. Councilman McCulloch stated the CEO is flat and the Assessor is more than 2%. Supervisor Finch stated this was discussed in budget meetings. Councilwoman Scannapieco stated the town is creating a pay schedule for each category with step and then percent increases each year.

Mr. Izzo asked if the town plans on using ARPA funds for a bonus for employees who worked through COVID and not just ambulance workers. Councilman Giordiano stated this is to be discussed in our regular meeting. Mr. Torchia explained the process that has to be created to dispense those funds. Mr. Izzo asked if the funds will be used for water and/or sewer infrastructure. Supervisor Finch stated no decisions have been made yet.

Mr. Izzo asked what the elected officials received and how much. The Town Board received a \$2,000 increase or 32% increase. Mr. Izzo stated FT employees are receiving a 2.5% increase and the board is receiving a 32% increase.

Mr. Izzo asked if there was money in fund balance to offset the tax increase. Councilman Giordiano stated no. Supervisor Finch stated we are trying to increase the fund balance. Discussion about how the town is made whole with the tax collection, fund balance increases due to expenditure decreases and the history of the fund balance. Mr. Izzo asked about highway outside village appropriations and the reason it changed from the tentative budget. The answer was a delay in a piece of equipment.

Mr. Izzo stated the budget has lost money since it is not taking into account the 5-6% inflation rate and if there is a contingency plan or any recommendations being made from either finance or the town's CPA. Supervisor Finch stated the board makes the decisions collectively and refer to Kirsten or CPA to keep us moving.

Supervisor Finch asked if there were any more comments on the budget. Mr. Brockway asked about the money being paid to people and if it would be available to people being sick. Supervisor Finch stated if you had COVID and couldn't come to work, you were still being paid. Mr. Izzo commended the board for giving first responders a bonus to do the work they did through COVID and that the county is not giving bonuses. Supervisor Finch stated there are rules and regulations to get approval first.

With no further comment a motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman Vosburgh. Public hearing ended 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk