

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
July 6, 2021 6:30 pm

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

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. First order of business is the public hearing. He asked the clerk to read the notice.

**NOTICE AND ORDER OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND REGULAR MEETING**

By order of the Town Board, the Town of Catskill will conduct a Public Hearing on the proposal to increase by \$250,000.00 the maximum amount to be expended, from \$14,100,000.00 to \$14,350,000.00, on the improvements in the Leeds and Jefferson Heights Sewer District on July 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Town of Catskill Town Hall, 439 Main Street, Catskill, New York. The Leeds and Jefferson Heights Sewer District encompasses the area from the Town/Village of Catskill line the eastern most extent of the district; proceeding with a southern boundary along the north side of Snake Road, the southern extent of the Wildwing Park Subdivision and along the northern side of the Catskill Creek in Jefferson Heights to the west side of the crossing of Route 23B and Route 23; continuing west along the north side of Route 23 in the vicinity of the Exit 21 Thruway Interchange proceeding west past the crossing of Route 23 over the Thruway to the crossing of Route 23 over the Catskill Creek; following the north side of the Catskill Creek to the eastern approach to the Stone Bridge on Route 23B in Leeds being the furthest extent of the district to the west; continuing north along the east side of the Catskill Creek to the Town of Catskill/Town of Athens line; proceeding east along the town line to the west side of the Thruway property at the Exit 21 Interchange; following the Thruway parcel boundary around the Exit 21 Interchange and including the parcel abutting the Thruway property to the east of the Exit 21 Interchange; continuing east to the west side of Brooks Lane and following the west side of Brooks Lane south to the parcel boundaries abutting the north side of James Place proceeding to the east; crossing Route 23 at the eastern terminus of James Place and following the south side of Route 23 east encompassing the lands to the south of Route 23 in Jefferson Heights to the Town/Village of Catskill line the eastern extent of the district. The improvements associated with the proposed district include approximately 31,900 LF of gravity sewers and 11,750 LF of force main, five pump stations, upgrades to the Village of Catskill Allen Street Pump Station and a sanitary and storm sewer separation project in the Village of Catskill sewer collection system. The estimated total cost of the improvements, after the proposed increase, including costs incidental and preliminary thereto, is \$14,350,000.00 and the maximum amount that may be expended is \$14,350,000.00. The Town of Catskill does not propose to charge any hook-up fees; the cost of connection to the sewer mains will be borne by property owners directly. The estimated cost of the district to the typical property, a single family home, is \$675.00 per year, which is less than the 2021 Special District Average Estimated Cost Threshold listed by the New York State Office of the State Comptroller. The method of financing the improvements, including costs incidental and preliminary thereto, on a long term basis is the issuance of a bond or bonds by the Town of Catskill to secure a 30-year zero interest loan from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Properties within the proposed district will be assessed costs on a benefit basis. An Amended Map, Plan and Report dated April 27, 2021

describing the improvements, the increase in the maximum amount to expended for such improvements as well as detailed explanation of the cost to the typical property is on file in the Town Clerk's office, Catskill Town Hall, 439 Main Street, Catskill, New York where it may be inspected during regular Town Hall business hours. The public hearing will be immediately followed by a regular meeting of the Town Board to address all other business to come before the Town Board.

Supervisor Finch asked if anyone present had any comment. With no comment a motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman McCulloch. Public hearing closed 6:36 pm.

The regular meeting convened.

MINUTES:

June 1, 2021 Town Board Monthly Meeting

June 16, 2021 Town Board Committee Meeting

Motion: Councilman McCulloch Second: Councilman Vosburgh, carried

RESOLUTION:

Resolution # 66-2021 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilman Giordiano ordering authorizing an increase in the maximum amount proposed to be expended to acquire and construct the improvements in the Leeds and Jefferson Heights Sewer District pursuant to Section 209-h of the Town Law. Adopted: Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Finch Aye; Councilman McCulloch Aye; Councilman Vosburgh Aye; Councilman Giordiano Aye; Councilwoman Scannapieco Aye

Resolution # 67-2021 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman McCulloch filling the unexpired term of Lynn Zubris on the Zoning Board of Appeals with Lee Heim, the ZBA alternate, with term ending December 31, 2023. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Ambulance PT EMT hire – *Resolution # 68-2021 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco to hire Aaron Cook as PT EMT subject to successful completion of pre-employment screening. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

CORRESPONDENCE:

Notice from Young/Sommer LLC Application of Champlain Hudson Power Express Inc petition to amend Certificate related to power express line.

Department of Public Service notice extension of COVID-19 Water shutoff moratorium. *Supervisor Finch stated this is by Governor Cuomo's executive order with emergency procedures due to COVID.*

28th Annual New York State ReLeaf Conference Friday, July 23, 2021.

Greene County Resolution # 148-21 Opposing NYS Senate Bill S.4264-A and NYS Assembly Bill A.6967 (Climate and Community Investment Act)

Anthem Sports annual Tour the Catskills Cycling Race Saturday, August 14th.

Email from Maria Cardow, Henry Talmage and JJ Talmage regarding closing off access to swimming hole from Tannery Bridge.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Road Name Application – Brook Stevens. *Supervisor Finch stated the road there now is named Old Quarry and he is now interested in extending and naming Old Quarry Ext. yet this is not an approved road. We are seeking advice from the Town Attorney.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Highway Mower Purchase – *Supervisor Finch stated we are nursing the current mower we have now. This purchase will save money in labor. Resolution # 69-2021 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman McCulloch authorizing the purchase of an Alamo RM 180 mower on source pricing \$24,946. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

Certiorari proposal Catskill Pond, LLC – *Supervisor Finch stated this is a mobile home park off of Porto Road. Resolution # 70-2021 on motion of Councilman McCulloch second by Councilwoman Scannapieco accepting the certiorari proposal Catskill Pond, LLC with a reduction in assessed value of \$143,373. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor Finch stated most people present are here to discuss the Tannery Bridge. He asked that people be respectful and address the board with questions and not necessarily your neighbor.

Kevin Burns a resident of Palenville had sent Supervisor Finch pictures of what the bridge looks like at various times of the day. He has a petition for a moratorium on installing a fence to block access. He would like people to be able to use the swimming hole. He has been using it for the last 50 years. He admits last year there was an issue but this year so far has not been an issue. He suggested the board members go out to look.

Supervisor Finch feels his request is fair and that we need to get a better understanding of what people want. Councilwoman Scannapieco stated closing access went against how she felt but said there was a petition with over 200 signatures so it was closed to all. She is 100% about keeping it open and agreed last year was insane and lately she is seeing one or two people on the rocks. An audience member asked to see the petition and Councilwoman Scannapieco stated it wasn't handed in.

Supervisor Finch stated 2020 was a different world. It has so far not been bad this year and feels this may be due to weather and other factors. Most people head towards Fawn's Leap and the Falls. He personally does not want to see it closed but would like solutions, signage or a greater police presence or people to clean. An audience member stated to enforce through the police and asked that they drive by. Councilman McCulloch stated they do on weekends and suggested creating a local law if we open it up to law enforcement. Councilman Giordiano stated this is not a town park. Supervisor Finch stated this area will not be developed into a park.

Crane Davis stated if you do that then you have to have bathrooms. He also does not want to see Tannery Bridge shut down but there were problems there before COVID. Last year was exceptional but the internet still says go to Kaaterskill Avenue to swim. He is not sure what the answer is and the board needs to decide but people are doing flips off the bridge and someone will end up hurt.

An audience member stated no one wants the town to be sued and a fence on the bridge is reasonable but wants to keep the swimming hole open. Supervisor Finch stated he does not feel the foot traffic is heavy this year but he is concerned about the quality of life of the residents and decisions need to be based on a broad and bigger picture. There needs to be a balance.

Signage was discussed. Having a group of people get together to maintain the area was mentioned. Councilwoman Scannapieco doesn't believe government needs to get involved. It is a community concern. Councilman McCulloch stated the issue is for access only as we do not own the creek.

Supervisor Finch stated when the county has the fence on the bridge installed, we will see the response but the safety and health is the biggest thing. Everyone has valid concerns and it is good to hear them all and they will be taken into consideration.

Councilman Giordiano stated this subject comes up every year and at the end of the day it is a liability issue. It has also caused issues with PFD responding to calls.

Rick Gerard stated it seems there is no disagreement to keeping the swimming hole open but there is a safety issue with people jumping off the bridge. He asked the board if a decision will be made tonight to take down the fencing. Councilman Vosburgh stated the fence on the bridge will be installed in August. Councilwoman Scannapieco stated the fencing that was installed is already bent over sideways.

Councilman McCulloch and Councilwoman Scannapieco were ok with removing the fencing. Supervisor Finch stated he is ok with opening up access as long as it is in a safe and respectful manner. He would like to wait until we have signage and more feedback and suggested moving the board meeting on the 21st to PFD to hear residents' concerns and have further discussion. Liz will check the availability with the fire department.

Five Mile Woods Road – Arnold Schamtz asked the board if they have interest in having a bike trail there as there was a woman surveying the property and she stated it was for a bike trail. Supervisor Finch stated no one was hired by the town for surveying. Mr. Schamtz asked if the town has renewed interest in having a park there and if anyone has approached the board. Supervisor Finch stated no one has approached the board. The property is valuable and maybe someone is taking a nature hike which is permissible.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Supervisor Finch stated the application has been completed for the American Rescue Plan. The deadline is Friday to apply for funding. The amount the town can receive is \$768,144. It will come in two phases.

He stated this is all for the general meeting but would like to have a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a settlement with NY32 Realty Group. He stated there will be no new business at the end of executive session and thanked all for coming.

Motion to enter into executive session was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman McCulloch. Executive session began 7:41 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

Discussion regarding the stipulation of settlement. Resolution # 71-2021 on motion of Councilman Giordiano second by Councilman McCulloch authorizing the Supervisor sign the stipulation of settlement with NY32 Realty Group Inc. 4880 Route Group Inc. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

Motion to end executive session and the meeting was made by Councilman Giordiano second by Councilwoman Scannapieco. Meeting ended 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT: