



Public Safety Committee

411 Main Street
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

Committee Meeting
<http://greenegovernment.com/>

~ Agenda ~

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

6:00 PM

Caucus Room 468

Public Safety Members: Chairperson Lawrence; Legislators Martinez, Handel, Hatton, Kozloski and H. Lennon

Call to Order

Proposed Agenda Items:

1. Authorizing Conference Attendance- Dan King, Emergency Planner Coordinator - Greene County Emergency Services
2. Amending Resolution No. 28-14, Appointing Members To The Greene County Fire Advisory Board
3. Budget Amendment - Greene County Sheriff - Donations
4. Budget Amendment - Insurance Recovery - Greene County Sheriff

Informational Items

Letters Regarding Kaaterskill Falls - State Owned Land

Adjournment



Public Safety Committee
411 Main Street
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

Meeting: 08/06/14 06:00 PM
Department: Emergency Services
Category: Policy

1

Resolution No.

DOC ID: 1191

Authorizing Conference Attendance- Dan King, Emergency Planner Coordinator - Greene County Emergency Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that Dan King, Emergency Planner Coordinator, with Greene County Emergency Services be and hereby is authorized to attend the International Emergency Management Conference in San Antonio, Texas to be held November 14 through November 19, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approximate cost to attend this conference is \$2,419.00 with fifty percent (50%) being covered by Emergency Management Performance Grant 2013 funding. In-kind services are also applied toward the County's match leaving the County with a cost of approximately \$297.50.

ATTACHMENTS:

- King November 14 - 19,2014 (PDF)

Meeting History

08/06/14 Committee Meeting

Mary Jo Jaeger

From: John Farrell <jfarrell@discovergreene.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 3:41 PM
To: sgroden@discovergreene.com
Cc: MaryJo Jaeger
Subject: RE: Out of State Travel Request
Attachments: 20140623152043474.pdf

Shaun,

Enclosed attachment is information regarding Emergency Manager Specialist Dan King to attend the International Emergency Management Conference in San Antonio, Texas in November.

Most of the cost will be covered by EMPG funding and in kind service which would leave \$267.50 total cost.

As you review the program you will notice the many training sessions being offer. Having Dan attend this conference certainly would be a benefit to all.

Thanks,
John

John P Farrell Jr
Director
Greene County
Department of Emergency Services
25 Volunteer Drive
Cairo, NY 12015
518-622-3643
Fax#518-622-0572

APPROVED 
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DATE 6.25.14

-----Original Message-----

From: 911dispatch@discovergreene.com [<mailto:911dispatch@discovergreene.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Farrell,John P Jr
Subject:

This E-mail was sent from "RNPDD4E4E" (Aficio MP 3350B).

Scan Date: 06.23.2014 15:20:43 (-0400)
Queries to: 911dispatch@discovergreene.com

Attachment: King November 14 - 19,2014 (1191 : Authorizing Conference Attendance Dan King Eemrgency Services)



Public Safety Committee
411 Main Street
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

Meeting: 08/06/14 06:00 PM
Department: Emergency Services
Category: Amendment

2

Resolution No.

DOC ID: 1224 A

Amending Resolution No. 28-14, Appointing Members To The Greene County Fire Advisory Board

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28-14 was adopted by the Greene County Legislature on January 15, 2014 and it appointed members to the Greene County Fire Advisory Board for the year 2014; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution was subsequently amended, adding additional members as they became elected, by Resolutions Nos. 47-14, 94-14, 126-14 and 161-14; and

WHEREAS, just recently the Legislature was notified that a Fire Department has held their annual elections and has now submitted names for membership on the Greene County Fire Advisory Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following named persons be and hereby are appointed in accordance with the By-Laws as members of the Greene County Fire Advisory Board to cooperate with the Greene County Emergency Services Director, to serve for a term which shall end on December 31, 2014:

TOWN:

FIRE COMPANY:

NAME:

Athens West Athens-Lime St. Vol. Fire Co. Tim Farrell/Matt Corsa

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members named to said Greene County Fire Advisory Board shall serve without compensation for services rendered and without any expense account.

Meeting History

08/06/14 Committee Meeting



Public Safety Committee
411 Main Street
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

Meeting: 08/06/14 06:00 PM
Department: Sheriff & Jail
Category: Budget

3

Resolution No.

DOC ID: 1223 B

Budget Amendment - Greene County Sheriff - Donations

WHEREAS, the Greene County Treasurer has received and deposited a donation from Bruderhof, Church Communities, NY In the amount of \$5,000.00 to support the services provided by the Greene County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Greene Sheriff's Department to give the Catskill Police Department \$3,122.00 to purchase Tasers and the remaining balance to be used for the Greene County Sheriff's departments purchase of Tasers.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greene County Treasurer be authorized to amend the Greene County Sheriff's budget by increasing the following accounts:

INCREASE REVENUE:

A 3110 2705	Sheriff Donations	\$5,000.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

A 3110 2000	Sheriff Equipment	\$5,000.00
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ATTACHMENTS:

- Bruderhof (PDF)

Meeting History

08/06/14 Committee Meeting



BRUDERHOF
July 3, 2014

Mr. Gregory Seeley
Greene County Sheriff
80 Bridge Street
P.O. Box 231
Catskill NY 12414

Mr. Shaun Groden
✓ Greene County Administrator
Greene County Office Building Suite 408
Catskill NY 12414

Received
JUL 07 2014
Greene Co. Legislature

Dear Sheriff Seeley and ^{Shaun}Mr. Groden,

This letter is to follow up on a on a March 11 meeting followed by a March 18 letter from Sheriff Seeley.

Both the meeting and the letter are appreciated as the Bruderhof in Tannersville remains committed to assisting Greene County and supporting the services provided by the Sheriff Department. Since that was quite a list of agency needs outlined in the March 18 letter and since it is difficult to know which need deserves top priority, a general operating fund grant has been approved. Enclosed to Mr. Groden's attention is a check for \$5000 that can be applied to whichever Sheriff Agency need most is pressing.

I hope to see you on July 25 at the Platte Clove Lake.

Enjoy your summer.

Warmly,

Johann Huleatt
Johann Huleatt
Outreach Director

cc: Oliver Rimes

Attachment: Bruderhof (1223 : Budget Amendment GRC Sheriff - Donations)

3.a

Church Communities NY
Rte 213
Rifton, NY 12471

Account No:

122227

Payment No: 225311

Date 06/26/20

Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Description	Gross Amount	Discount Amount	Net Amount
06232014JH	06/23/2014	Sheriff's Department Grant	5000.00	0.00	5000.
			\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000

A31102705

Received
JUN 27 2014
Greene Co Legislature

Attachment: Bruderhof (1223 : Budget Amendment GRC Sheriff - Donations)

THE FACE OF THIS CHECK IS PRINTED BLUE. THE BACK CONTAINS A SIMULATED WATERMARK.

Church Communities NY
Rte 213
Rifton, NY 12471

JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.
Syracuse, NY
60-937213

12222
DATE 06/26/20

Account No:

PAY Five Thousand and 00/100ths Dollars

\$5,000.)

TO THE ORDER OF
Greene County
Attn: Shaun S. Groden
Suite 408
Catskill, NY 12414

Shaun S. Groden
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Packet Pg. 7

⑈0000122227⑈ ⑆021309379⑆ 936132174⑈



Public Safety Committee
411 Main Street
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

Meeting: 08/06/14 06:00 PM
Department: Sheriff & Jail
Category: Budget

4

Resolution No.

DOC ID: 1216 B

Budget Amendment - Insurance Recovery - Greene County Sheriff

WHEREAS, the Greene County Treasurer has received and deposited an insurance payment in the amount of \$1,993.55 for damage to Greene County Sheriff Car #11 a 2013 Ford and Car #12 a 2013 Ford on June 18, 2014;

WHEREAS, there is a need to appropriate these funds to cover the cost of repairs:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greene County Treasurer be authorized to amend the Greene County Sheriff's budget by :

INCREASE REVENUE:

A 0000 2680	Insurance Recovery	\$1,993.55
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

A 3110 4014	Sheriff Auto	\$1,993.55
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ATTACHMENTS:

- Check GRC Sheriff (PDF)

Meeting History

08/06/14 Committee Meeting



August 27, 2013

Honorable Cecilia Tkaczyk
New York State Senator
311 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Peter Lopez
New York State Assemblyman
402 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, New York 12248

Office of the
County Administrator

411 Main Street
Suite 408
Catskill, New York 12414

Shann S. Groden
County Administrator

Re: Kaaterskill Falls – State owned land

Dear Senator Tkaczyk and Assemblyman Lopez:

As you know, Greene County is home to one of the tallest waterfalls in New York State, the Kaaterskill Falls. These falls and the accompanying hiking trails draw numerous tourists to Greene County each year, all year long, generating much needed revenue for our County.

While this is an important tourist attraction for Greene County, you may not be aware that this hiking trail, owned by the State, is extremely dangerous, as it has cliffs that may drop 50 to 100 feet and it includes no proper walkway or pathway for citizens to hike on. Recently, seven fire companies, EMS and multiple law enforcement agencies were dispatched to the hiking trail, responding to an injured hiker who had fallen. This one event lasted in excess of five hours and this happens multiple times each year, sometimes resulting in the death of the person who fell, and always putting our first responders at great risk to themselves. In addition, these types of occurrences, which are becoming more frequent, are placing an exorbitant cost on all the first responders.

Therefore, we are respectfully requesting New York State to implement one or all of the following:

1. The installation of a dedicated stair system or walking path to insure that non-experienced hikers would be able to transverse and not place themselves (or our first responders) in any kind of jeopardy; and
2. Installation of better signage, which should clearly be indicative of the level of experience this hiking trail requires and clearly indicate the extreme hazard of walking the trail without proper equipment, including proper shoes; and
3. Items such as baby strollers and pets should be excluded from this hiking trail;



DiscoverGreene.com

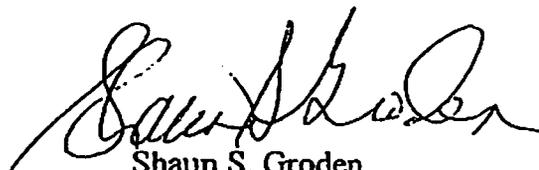
Page 2
August 27, 2013

4. The placement of some sort of hand rail system might also be very beneficial.

Greene County is fortunate to have such a magnificent treasure within its boundaries and these hiking trails let people come explore and appreciate the natural beauty we have to offer. However, with no planning and no maintenance of these state run trails, they have fallen into disrepair, consequently putting lives of hikers and first responders at great risk.

Thank you both for your consideration of this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Shaun S. Groden,
County Administrator

SSG/d

c.c: Wayne C. Speenburgh, Chairman
William B. Lawrence, Legislator
John P. Farrell, Jr., Greene County Emergency Services Director
Gregory R. Seeley, Greene County Sheriff



Office of the
County Administrator
411 Main Street
Suite 408
Catskill, New York 12414

Shaun S. Groden
County Administrator

June 30, 2014

Honorable Cecilia Tkaczyk
New York State Senator
311 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Peter Lopez
New York State Assemblyman
402 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, New York 12248

Re: Kaaterskill Falls – State owned land

Dear Senator Tkaczyk and Assemblyman Lopez:

Last year, by my letter dated August 27th, 2013, I wrote to both of you regarding the above referenced property. Enclosed please find a copy of my said letter.

I believe that I did not receive any response to my August 27th, 2013 letter and unfortunately, it has happened again - another hiker has fallen to her death over this past weekend at the Kaaterskill Falls. Enclosed please find copy of today's newspaper article from the Catskill Daily Mail newspaper. It is just the start of the summer and as you can see from the article, this is the fourth injury and rescue operation in the past four weeks for our local first responders. My concern is foremost for the safety of the general public and my biggest fear is that one or more of our local first responders will eventually be badly hurt or killed while trying to rescue someone who has fallen.

As I stated in my previous letter, I also worry about the financial aspect of this. The Kaaterskill Falls and its hiking trails are a major tourist attraction and bring in much needed tourism dollars. On the other hand, these types of rescues end up being extremely expensive for our local first responders.

I would like to stress that in no way do I wish these New York State hiking trails at the Kaaterskill Falls to be shut down. I have been there myself and the beauty of it is incredible and should be open to the public. My concern is with public access.

If I may once again respectfully request that New York State implement one or all of the following:

1. The installation of a dedicated stair system or walking path to insure that non-experienced hikers would be able to transverse and not place themselves (or our first responders) in any kind of jeopardy; and



June 30, 2014
Page 2

2. Installation of better signage, which should clearly be indicative of the level of experience this hiking trail requires and clearly indicate the extreme hazard of walking the trail without proper equipment, including proper shoes; and
3. Items such as baby strollers and pets should be excluded from this hiking trail; and
4. The placement of some sort of hand rail system might also be very beneficial.

I understand from the enclosed newspaper article, that NYSDEC has placed a note on their Facebook page, warning people to be careful and to stay on the trails. While I applaud them for that, I think much more can be done and should be done to keep our tourists and our county residents safe.

Thank you both for your consideration of this important matter.

Very truly yours,


Shaun S. Groden,
County Administrator

SSG/ld
Encs.

c.c: Kevin Lewis, Acting Chairman
William B. Lawrence, Legislator
John P. Farrell, Jr., Greene County Emergency Services Director
Gregory R. Seeley, Greene County Sheriff

Woman dies after fall from Kaaterskill Falls

By Kyle Adams

Columbia-Greene Media | Posted: Monday, June 30, 2014 12:30 am

HUNTER — A woman who fell nearly 70 feet from Kaaterskill Falls while hiking yesterday afternoon has died from her injuries at Albany Medical Center.

According to Tannersville Assistant Fire Chief Stephen Tuomey, the woman, who has not yet been identified, succumbed to her injuries while undergoing emergency surgery in the hours following the fall.

The woman, in her mid to late 50s by Tuomey's estimate, is believed to have been hiking at the bottom of the main falls with her husband when she fell 65 to 70 feet to the water basin below. Tannersville Rescue Squad and the Haines Falls Fire Department got the call around 1:45 p.m., said Tuomey, and found her with head, leg and internal injuries.

Her condition was classified as very critical and she was airlifted to Albany Medical Center where she later died.

Tuomey said this is the fourth injury and rescue in the area in the past four weeks. The others were less serious, with rock climbers becoming entangled in ropes, a hiking injury, and a case in which a man, woman and their dog went over a smaller part of the falls, resulting in some broken bones to the man and woman but no injuries to the dog.

Tuomey said a common cause of injury in the area is people hiking with improper footwear and ignoring signs. The area is well-marked with signs warning hikers of the danger of leaving the official trails, he said.



DEC issues warning

In the wake of a tragic fall from the falls, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation warned visitors to appreciate Kaaterskill Falls from a safe distance.

Attachment: June 30, 2014 Letter Regarding Kaaterskill Falls - State Owned Land (1228 : Letters Regarding Kaaterskill Falls - State Owned

"I wasn't personally treating [the woman], so I don't know what clothing she wore," he said. "But one of the things that we're seeing a lot of is people hiking in there wearing improper shoes and going into areas that they really don't know, they shouldn't be getting into, especially the bowls there at the falls."

"They're not maintained trails," he said. "It's just creating more of a hazard, not only for them, but for us when we do have to do rescues."

On its Facebook page, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation noted the tragic incident with a warning: "Kaaterskill Falls in Greene County is a beautiful place but please admire this gorgeous waterfall from below while staying on the trail. DEC forest rangers were involved with rescuing a woman today who went too close to the edge. The rescue sadly turned into a tragic fatality. Always stay on marked trails- it's smart and it's safe...and still stunning."

Assisting in the rescue attempt were the Tannersville Rescue Squad, Haines Falls Fire Department, Palenville Fire Department, and Centerville-Cedar Grove Fire Department.

Attachment: June 30, 2014 Letter Regarding Kaaterskill Falls - State Owned Land (1228 : Letters Regarding Kaaterskill Falls - State Owned