

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held at the Village Administration Building on Wednesday January 18, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert M. Blais, Mayor
John Earl, Deputy Mayor
Joseph Mastrodomenico, Jr., Trustee
Ray Perry, Trustee
John Root, Trustee

Also present were Clerk Julie K. Allen, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, and WWTP Chief Operator Tim Shudt

Mayor Blais opened the special meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Mayor Blais excused Superintendent Lanfear and WWTP Chief Operator Shudt for an executive session.

Mayor Blais opened an Executive Session at 3:31 for personnel matters.

Mayor Blais closed the Executive Session at 3:45 p.m.

Superintendent Lanfear, Chief Operator Shudt, Fire Chief Brandon Combs, and Phil D'Angelo of Garrison Fire & Rescue Corp. joined the special meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Mayor Blais began the Special meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Septage Receiving Update:

Mayor Blais asked WWTP Chief Operator Tim Shudt to update the Board on the Septage study.

Operator Shudt said that they are currently looking at a budget of \$2.5 million for the upgrade to the WWTP to increase the receiving capacity. This amount would include using the existing equalization tank, re-doing some concrete work, a new building, new blowers, and a pumping system to accommodate additional septage receiving. Operator Shudt explained that they currently have a capacity limit of 14,000 – 16,000 gallons per day. He further explained that during the current summer months receiving averages between 40,000 – 60,000 gallons per day. Operator Shudt said that they may be able to make some modifications to the existing system to help accommodate the additional septage. Operator Shudt explained that the LGPC has started a new program for inspections and that the LGPC was skeptical that the WWTP will be able to comply this year. Operator Shudt said that after talking with the LGPC and finding out how they will implement the program, he found that the LGPC will inspect four or five tanks per day, and he believes that they can accommodate that. Operator Shudt believes that the Village should focus on taking from the Lake George Basin. Operator Shudt said he felt that the rate should be raised for haulers because their current rates are not equal to the Village Residents that are paying \$250 every five years to have their septic pumped. Mayor Blais said that the Village would see if the rates can be changes. Trustee Perry commented that it costs the Village more to treat the septage.

Mayor Blais asked Operator Shudt when they can expect the study to be done. Operator Shudt replied that he should have the full study by the end of January, 2023. Trustee Perry said that the LGPC is the one creating the problem by pushing their mandates and therefore making people pump their tanks and increase our septage receiving. Trustee Earl commented that the LGPC created an unfunded mandate. Mayor Blais said that the Village is currently down about \$200,000 in revenue and that he is going to contact the LGPC to see if there are any grants available. Mayor Blais said he

will let the Board know of his findings. Mayor Blais said that he has received \$100,000 from the Lake George Association but much more is needed to help offset this cost. Trustee Root asked what the timeline to complete the actual work would be. Operator Shudt responded that they would be looking to start in the fall and have it completed by the summer. Trustee Perry asked if the current equalization tank could be used as a storage tank in the meantime and Operator Shudt responded no. Mayor Blais asked Operator Shudt to see if they could get the report done sooner than the end of this month.

Training:

Clerk Julie Allen explained that they had two more additional requests to attend the Saratoga County Planning and Zoning Conference.

Trustee Root, seconded by Trustee Perry, offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 222, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves Village staff to attend:

- **Saratoga County Planning and Zoning Conference, February 1, 2023, Saratoga Springs City Center, Dean Howland, and Ron Mogren, \$90 each.**

VOTING Ayes: 5 Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root
Nays: 0

RESOLUTION NO. 222, 2023 ADOPTED January 18, 2023

Fire Truck presentation:

Mayor Blais introduced Fire Chief Brandon Combs and Phil D'Angelo of Garrison Fire & Rescue Corporation.

Fire Chief Combs began the presentation reading a letter he had written and presented to the Town of Lake George at a recent Town Board Meeting. In it he thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak. Chief Combs also stated that he had seen and heard this same topic discussed many times over the past seven years. Chief Combs said that he had made it his goal to finally get the issue resolved. Chief Combs asked that everyone keep an open mind and listen to why the Fire Company needed a new ladder truck to replace the current Tower 3 Seventy-foot aerial truck that is in service. Chief Combs explained that Tower 3 is almost 30 years old. Chief Combs further explained that the current truck no longer had any replacement parts available so every time a part breaks, they must have it custom made. Chief Combs said that this year Tower 3 did not pass inspection and needed to replace the entire exhaust as well as the headlights to get it to pass. Chief Combs also said that the current truck does not reach the top floors of many of the hotels in the district as it is too short. Chief Combs expressed that many of the volunteer firefighters refuse to get in the bucket of the truck as there is a stress fracture in the arm. Chief Combs said that mutual aid from nearby Queensbury Fire could take up to an hour. Chief Combs said he felt that volunteer firefighters deserve the best equipment to help keep them safe. Chief Combs presented the option of two different fire trucks that would both satisfy the needs of the fire department. The first truck was a Pierce 100' aerial ladder truck that runs around 42' in length and would cost around \$2.2 Million. The second truck is a 104' Cobra ladder truck by Rosenbauer that runs around 42' in length and would cost \$1.67 Million. Chief Combs introduced Phil D'Angelo and asked him to explain the many benefits of the Rosenbauer truck.

Mayor Blais thanked Chief Combs.

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Mr. D'Angelo explained that the new truck was a very technologically advanced truck. Mr. D'Angelo said that this truck can operate on the short jack side. Chief Combs said that the safety technology would not allow an operator to run the equipment if it was moving to an unsafe position. Chief Combs said that this truck operates the ladder by one joystick operation. Trustee Earl questioned if he had a mid-mount or rear mount preference. Chief Combs responded that originally, he was looking at mid-mount because that is what they always had. Chief Combs said that Mr. D'Angelo had showed him how a rear mount could do more than a mid-mount because a rear mount you can pull straight in, extend up, head straight out, and you don't have to be in the middle. Chief Combs said that another cool feature was that there was a remote control that the operator could wear around his neck, and he doesn't have to be sitting in the truck. Chief Combs explained that this allowed the operator to get a better view of what he is doing. Chief Combs said he also looked at another Pierce truck, the King Cobra, that was also a mid-mount that cost \$1.8 Million. Chief Combs said that it was not sufficient because it was too long and did not have the weight capacity they needed.

Mayor Blais asked Mr. D'Angelo why the truck was less expensive if the quality and product was comparable to the Pierce vehicle. Mr. D'Angelo explained that Pierce was a much larger company than Garrison and that they have a lot more overhead, and a larger market share, therefore not allowing them to sell at lower margins like Garrison can. Mr. D'Angelo said that they have sold many trucks to Albany Fire, and all the trucks at Schenectady Fire are Rosenbauers. Mr. D'Angelo explained that the \$1.67 Million price was only good until February 28, 2023 because on March 1st they are getting a new price list which he believes will reflect at minimum a 5% price increase. Mr. D'Angelo said he is seeing some stabilization in the market but in the past eighteen months they have seen about a 30% increase. Mr. D'Angelo also explained that even more concerning is that it will take two years to build the truck. Mr. D'Angelo said that there is no emergency replacement for a truck that breaks down. Chief Combs said he reached out to several other fire companies to see how they liked their trucks from Rosenbauer and they had all responded positively. Chief Combs then read an article about how the Tower 3 truck had broken down and needed to be replaced that was dated May 21, 2018. Chief Combs said that at that time the Village had said they were in favor, but the Town would need to agree. Chief Combs said the decision by the Town was to hold off and bring it back up in a couple years. Chief Combs said it was now five years later and they still do not have a new truck. Chief Combs expressed that he could no longer accept no for a response. Chief Combs said the Village and Town now have two years to come up with the money needed to pay for this truck. Chief Combs expressed that the Fire Company is a Village Company and no matter what the Town says, he feels the Village should be the one to decide whether to get the truck. Mr. D'Angelo said in the past waiting to purchase was not a huge deal because the availability was not as long. Chief Combs also expressed that he felt the Fire Company was already behind the eight ball because there are now other trucks that should be replaced as well. Mayor Blais asked if there was any discount available if the truck was paid for early or partially in advance. Mr. D'Angelo explained that if the chassis was paid when completed in about a year's time, they would deduct \$18,706. If the truck was paid in advance of full completion in about 2 years' time, they would deduct another \$8,231. Mayor Blais questioned how we get around public bidding and Mr. D'Angelo responded that we could purchase through a consortium. Mr. D'Angelo explained that the Village can go through Sourcewell which the Village is already a member of. Trustee Root questioned what we would do with the old truck and Chief Combs responded that we could sell it and probably get around \$30,000. Chief Combs said the Mr. D'Angelo would help us to sell the old truck if we wanted. Chief Combs said he would also go to the Great Escape and see if they may be interested in purchasing because it is the only tower that can reach and fit to get to their Magic Carpet Ride. Trustee Root asked if this new truck is shorter than the one we have and Chief Combs said yes. Chief Combs also said all training would be included. Trustee Perry asked if there would be training available down the road if needed and Chief Combs answered yes. Trustee Root asked if getting a new truck would be a morale booster for the firefighters and Chief Combs responded yes, you have no idea how much of a boost it would be. Trustee Earl asked who the manufacturer of the engine was and Mr. D'Angelo responded it was a Cummings 600 motor.

Mayor Blais asked if anyone had any further questions. There were no questions.

Mayor Blais said that the Village Board was having a Joint Meeting with the Town of Lake George on February 7, 2023 and that the matter would be handled then. Mayor Blais asked that the Fire Department have faith in the Village Board.

Mr. D'Angelo said he has us set up with extended warranties on the truck except for the chassis which is an additional cost.

There was a motion by Mayor Blais seconded to adjourn by Trustee Perry at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie K. Allen
Purchasing Agent
Village Clerk