

Minutes of the Special Informational Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held at the Town Office Building on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert M. Blais, Mayor
John Earl, Deputy Mayor
Joseph Mastrodomenico, Jr., Trustee (arrived at 5:36 p.m.)
John Root, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ray Perry, Trustee

Also Present: Deb McKinney (Clerk), Supervisor Dennis Dickinson, Town Council Vinnie Crocitto, Town Council Nancy Stannard, Town Council Dan Hurley, Michael Goot (Post Star), Thom Randall (Journalist), Fire Chief Jason Berry, Jim Barber, Matthew Oswald, Bill Manion, Lynda Fisher, W.A. Fisher, Don Fangboner, Robert Evans, Beth Brundage, Robert Leombruno, Doni Smith, John A. Coccozza-Hill, Craig Underwood, Kathleen Gentner, Todd Earl, Joe Oswald, Sandy Coccozza Spellberg, Bud Gerber, Bill Robinson, and others.

At 5:00 p.m. Mayor Blais opened the Public Informational Meeting. He reported that he has received several emails and phone calls about the purchase of a new truck, so he wanted to hold a meeting to discuss a new truck and hear public comment. He pointed out that the Town Board's decision is very important in that with the Contract for Fire Services, the Town would pay 77% of the cost.

Chief Jason Berry introduced himself and noted that he has been Chief for three years and a member of the Department for ten years. He prepared a presentation about the Proposed Aerial Replacement. The highlights are as follows:

- The truck being replaced is a 1994 Sutphen and is close to reaching the end of its useful service period. It has had over \$78,000. in repairs since 2014. The bid proposal trade in value of this truck is \$20,000. A private sale may get us more money, but may take longer.
- There has been some concern about a change in our ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating. He reviewed the criteria and with the purchase of a 70' aerial, our ISO rating would stay in the same classification. The next slides showed photos of buildings where an aerial truck would be necessary. And he had more photos of fires where the aerial was used successfully.
- In regards to the decision to purchase another 70' aerial versus a 100' aerial. He admitted that a 100' aerial would be nice, but would not be feasible to use in and around the fire district due to its size. It would be too large to navigate many roads and driveways in Lake George.
- Chief Berry reported that the Department has tested four different demo trucks in the Town and Village – one made by Sutphen, one made by Pierce, one made by Ferrara, and one made by Rosenbauer. He noted that several nearby companies with similar type buildings have purchased this similar style aerial that was put out to bid.
- He noted that our current truck is showing its age and has been having costly repairs, and it's only a matter of time when we will be forced to replace it. He reiterated that the 70' aerial is one that would work best in our district. And if we wait to purchase a new fire truck, the cost will continue to rise each year.

- In regards to mutual aid, Queensbury Central will average about 18 to 26 minutes to respond.
- Chief Berry would recommend that the demonstrator truck that was proposed by Sutphen be purchased. A list of options to bring it up to match the specifications would bring the cost of the demo to \$892,861.51. The benefit of purchasing a demo is that it will be delivered in September of 2018 and when it comes, it will be broke in and the bugs will be worked out. Also the cost is less than the new one that was quoted at \$915,770.81. Based on this price, he estimated that the increased tax on a \$200,000 home in the Town would be about \$21.

At the completion of the presentation Mayor Blais opened the floor to comments and questions.

Mayor Blais noted that it is the Village's intention to use \$150,000. out of the Fire Equipment Reserve account towards the new apparatus. A balance of about \$90,000. would be left in case needed. The Village would be liable to get a bond to be paid off over a period of ten years. He had some cost and payment estimates and reviewed those. The figures are all estimates until a final decision is made as to which truck would be purchased and whether the old truck would be traded to the vendor or sold outright privately. Once a decision is made, then the bond counsel will solicit for the best financing. This will require a 30-day permission referendum and a 20 day estopple period as well.

Because the Village only received one bid, Mayor Blais contacted other potential bidders to ask why they chose not to bid. One of them noted that it takes them about 30 hours to prepare a bid and because of the specification for an aluminum aerial, that they couldn't provide they felt it wouldn't be worth it to bid an equivalent.

Several of those in the audience asked questions and made comments and following is a summary of those:

- One attendee commented that it would be best to buy the demo truck as it cost less, and it will be broken in.
- Jim Barber requested copies of the figures and the power point presentations. He commented that he would like to see the data and the exact figures. He wants to see a bottom line figure.
- It was suggested that the facts and figures be added to the Village's web site and possibly to the Fire Department's sites, as well.
- Chief Berry noted that the demo truck has a 20 year warranty whereas a new truck would have a 30 year warranty. One comment was made that he feels we should get the truck with the 30 year warranty.
- It was noted that the aluminum ladder has a very significant impact on the weight of the truck.
- It was confirmed that the funds from the sale of old truck either directly to the vendor or as a private sale will go towards a new fire truck. Mayor Blais

remarked that he has been in contact with a broker that for a small fee, they would sell the old truck. They may be able to come up with a value that they think its worth.

- It was asked if the owners of the high rise buildings could or would be willing to pay a share or could we hold fund raisers. Mayor Blais noted that they pay a bigger tax bill already.

Mayor Blais remarked that after the decision has been made as to if, and which apparatus gets purchased, and whether the trade in allowance is used, and after the bond rate is available, we will have an exact total figure and annual payment schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB
Purchasing Agent
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer