

Town of Oneonta Fire District
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting and Public Hearing
August 8, 2017

Attendance: Present: Donald Lamanna, Eugene Molinari, Johna Peachin, Fernando Volpe

Members of the Public: Bonnie Molinari, Trish Kent, Steve Kent, Marsha Tiemann, Robert Wood

Ms. Peachin called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Volpe made a motion to accept the July 2017 minutes. Mr. Molinari seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

Treasurers Report (Attachment 1): The Treasurer reported there were no payments in July. The second payment is due to the City on September 1, 2017. Mr. Molinari made a motion to approve contract payment #2 for \$350,000.00. Mr. Volpe seconded the motion. Passed 4-0

Mr. Volpe made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report. Mr. Lamanna seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

Preliminary Budget for 2018: Ms. Peachin said that the preliminary budget is due on September 26, 2017. There will be a public hearing in October. These dates are set by the State. Mr. Wood will provide the anticipated PILOT payment.

Task Force Report: There have been no meetings with the City. The State issued payments to cities who host SUNY schools. The City of Oneonta received a payment of \$200,000.00 for 2016-17. A portion of this payment was to be allocated to the fire district. Ms. Peachin inquired about when the district would receive the payment. The City has not replied.

Independent Audit: The audit will be conducted on August 22-24, 2017.

Independent Fire Department: A partnership with a neighboring fire department has been recommended due to continued growth and development in the Town. Pindars Corners and Laurens would be good candidates for this partnership. Contracts with neighboring departments would benefit both departments. Ms. Peachin will attend the upcoming meeting of the Laurens Fire District.

Candidates for Commissioner: The vacancy left by Michael Butler's resignation needs to be filled.

Letters to Fire District Residents: Mr. Volpe is working on getting address labels for residents of the fire district. Mr. Wood suggested that The Shipping Room can help with a mailing.

Insurance Representatives: An insurance representative will attend the September meeting to provide information on what the ramifications would be of an independent fire department.

Mr. Volpe stated that a business owner told him that it was the commissioner's duty to look at all options. They should not yield to scare tactics. The Town is growing and the City Fire Department can be overwhelmed. At times there is no one left at the fire station except the dispatchers.

There were comments about changes due to the hiring of the city manager and the upcoming elections. Mr. Lamanna stated that Meg Hungerford, David Merzig, and Russ Southard have been involved in negotiations from the beginning. It is anticipated that they will continue to be involved and have a strong voice in the negotiations.

Mr. Wood provided information on research he has done for alternative ambulance service. If the fire district ends its contract with the City, Mr. Wood anticipates an increase in the City charges for ambulance service.

Mr. Volpe made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Molinari seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectively submitted,

Erica N. LaBuz
Secretary