

Town of Oneonta Fire District
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
January 9, 2018

Attendance: Michelle Catan, Johna Peachin, Ron Peters, Alan Rubin, Fernando Volpe

Members of the Public: Town Councilwoman Trish Riddell Kent, Steve Kent, Marsha Tiemann

Ms. Peachin called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Minutes: Mr. Volpe made a motion to accept the December 2017 minutes. Mr. Rubin seconded the motion. Ms. Catan asked for clarification on the FOIL request to the City of Oneonta. Ms. Peachin explained that she requested the documents that pertain to the fire district contract of 1989 and the establishment of the ambulance contract. The City responded to the FOIL with a Comptroller's audit. The issue is that the contract is valid but the billing practice is not. Fire district residents are being billed and paying taxes for ambulance service. West Oneonta Fire District residents are not paying their fair share of ambulance service through property taxes. The City has not provided the documentation that demonstrates that this arrangement is legal and valid. Passed 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: The balance as of December 31, 2017 in the money market is \$96,395.98 and the checking account balance is \$4,945.73. Payments were made to the City of Oneonta, three election workers, the secretary/treasurer and The Daily Star. Mr. Peters made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Volpe seconded the motion. Passed 5-0.

The following payments were presented for approval:

The Daily Star– \$29.16 (legal notice)	Bryans and Gramulgia - \$3,000.00 (audit)
US Department of Treasury - \$168.30 (P/R Taxes)	Association of Fire Districts of NYS - \$500.00

Mr. Rubin made a motion to approve the payments. Ms. Catan seconded the motion. Passed 5-0.

Audit: Ms. Peachin distributed the Auditor's Report. She would like to use Bryans and Gramulgia for the audit of the 2017 fiscal year. Mr. Volpe made a motion to use Bryans and Gramulgia for audit services. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Passed 5-0.

Statutory Limit: The statutory spending limit for the fire district is \$524,559.72. The current contract is under court order. Voters would need to approve exceeding the statutory limit for the next contract.

New Business: Mr. Rubin recommended that the commissioners be aggressive to get State and Federal agencies to review the compliance of the current fire protection and ambulance arrangement. That is the only way to move forward. Ms. Peachin said that we could invite attorney, Terry Hannigan, to explain the process. Ms. Catan asked if negotiations have stopped. Mr. Volpe said that the fire district has made several offers to the City. The City's response is always \$1.1 million. The mayor controls the negotiations. The fire district has extended an invitation to the City to restructure the contract but the City has declined. The Town of Oneonta Fire District is one of three fire districts in New York State where the fire district tax is higher than the county and town taxes.

Mr. Volpe made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Erica N. LaBuz
Secretary