

Town of Oneonta Fire District
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
April 10, 2018

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

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

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

Minutes: Two corrections were made to the draft minutes about the wording of fire and EMS costs and which commissioners planned to attend the Town of Oneonta Public Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Peters made a motion to accept the corrected March 2018 minutes. Mr. Rubin seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

Treasurer's Report: The balance as of March 31, 2018 in the money market is \$1,227,584.88 and the checking account balance is \$3,097.62. A payment was made to the US Postal Service.

Ms. Catan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Passed 4-0

No payments were presented.

Town of Oneonta Public Safety Meeting: Mr. Rubin reported that the Public Safety Committee did not discuss ambulance costs. Town supervisor, Robert Wood, told him that he would draft a letter to the Office of State Comptroller to request a transfer of function. The commissioners agreed that there is no transfer of function because a contract for ambulance service between the Town of Oneonta and the City already exists. The contract was established to cover uncollected funds. Uncollected funds range from \$19,000 to \$58,000 during the past four years. The current contract is for \$25,000.00.

Mr. Peters stated that the first sentence of the fire contract states that the contract excludes ambulance service. Someone must determine how to allocate ambulance costs.

Ms. Peachin said that in order to move forward, the Town Board must be willing to take action on the ambulance contract. Town Supervisor Wood has acknowledged that the setup is wrong and that residents of West Oneonta are getting a free ride. Mr. Rubin said that Town Supervisor Wood would take action if a state agency pronounces it wrong. Ms. Peachin said that it is wrong for people to pay a tax for a service that they are not getting. A transfer of function would affect the tax cap. The Town budget will see a significant increase if it includes a fair price for ambulance service. The Town Board can override the tax cap with a super majority. The commissioners agree that the fire contract issue can be resolved if the Town acknowledges that the fire contract is not fair.

Councilwoman Riddell-Kent suggested that the commissioners attend the next Public Safety Committee meeting on May 7, 2018 at 4:00 PM. The fire district will publish a public notice if more than three commissioner attend the Public Safety meeting.

The Department of Health and the Office of Medicaid Inspector General have not issued opinions on the contract. This is a unique situation and it is not known whose purview it is. The Office of the State Comptroller does not issue opinions.

The commissioners agree that everyone should pay their fair share.

Mr. Rubin made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Catan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Erica N. LaBuz
Secretary