

Town of Oneonta Fire District
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
May 8, 2018

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

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

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

Minutes: Mr. Volpe made a motion to accept the April 2018 minutes. Mr. Rubin seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

Treasurer's Report: The balance as of April 30, 2018 in the money market is \$1,227,736.12 and the checking account balance is \$3,097.87. The only activity in April was interest earnings.

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Salary for the Secretary/Treasurer for January to June: \$507.92

Contract Payment #1 to the City of Oneonta: \$366,666.67

Mr. Rubin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the payments presented. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Passed 4-0

Town of Oneonta Public Safety Meeting: Mr. Rubin reported on the Town of Oneonta Public Safety Committee meeting that the commissioners attended on May 7, 2018. The meeting was productive. The Town Supervisor will request an opinion from the Office of State Comptroller regarding the transfer of the ambulance costs to the Town. The fire district will be in a better position with a "lean-in" from the Town Board. The objective is separate agreements for fire and ambulance. Ms. Peachin pointed out that the current issue of "Fire District Affairs" states: Fire districts cannot bill for ambulance services. It was stated that the Town attorney was never asked to give an opinion on the ambulance contract. At the June meeting, the process must be set in motion.

Dissolution Procedure: Ms. Peachin passed out a sample dissolution procedure for a fire district. She informed the commissioners that a dissolution procedure would have to be passed at the June meeting. A public hearing would be held in July. This will occur if the fire district cannot reach an agreement with the City. It is the opinion of commissioners that the City would like the fire district to dissolve. With the Town's support, the fire district will negotiate for fire services only. The Town can contract for ambulance services. If the Town had to send out a request for proposals to private ambulance companies, they would have to consider how to split the cost.

Mr. Volpe commented that he never understood the resistance to a fair contract. Some residents have been overpaying for many years. It should not be a burden to shift costs for ambulance service to all residents.

Mr. Peters said that the town board and the fire district should approach it from a united front so that the city does not try to take advantage of one party. The town and the city already share services so it is likely that the city will negotiate fairly for the ambulance contract.

Councilwoman Riddell-Kent said that it was good that the commissioners attended the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Volpe made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rubin seconded the motion. Passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Erica N. LaBuz
Secretary