

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HUNTER TO DISCUSS FIRE PROTECTION HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024, AT 6:30 PM AT THE TOWN HALL LOCATED ON RTE. 23A IN TANNERSVILLE, NEW YORK.

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| Present: | Sean Mahoney | Supervisor |
| | David Kukle | Councilman |
| | Raymond Legg | Councilman |
| | Ernest Reale | Councilman |
| | Dolph Semenza | Councilman |

Sarah Pellizzari

Supervisor Mahoney thanks the Fire Departments for their service.

See attached PowerPoint presentation from Supervisor Mahoney and the Town Board.

Discussion

Supervisor Mahoney states that past talks about town wide districts fell apart. The town is suggesting what they feel is best for the taxpayers and the town moving forward which is pooling resources and making one amazing fire department and one amazing municipal complex. He recognizes their hard work on all their future plans however there is grant money available for shared services.

D. Lucey asks is the town looking to build the building for all departments to use.

Supervisor Mahoney states the town is prepared to play a major role in it along with the tools and financial instruments the districts have.

Councilman Reale states the board respects the departments wishes to maintain their identities but suggests a compromise could be one building with two separate halves.

J. Curran asks what happens to property and equipment already owned, short term and long-term costs to consolidate, will protection districts be equally taxed, elected fire commissioners or run by the town board, who would own the fire house? He asks to be shown how the consolidation will provide the people of Haines Falls with better fire protection for the same or less money. No decision can be made until numbers are presented. He adds that the town needs to fund a study to provide those numbers.

Supervisor Mahoney states the Town Board is not looking to take over fire protection. He adds that this is not at the details phase, this is at the are the fire companies open to this phase.

Discussion on debt owned by each department.

B. Feml states the cost of a new building to be placed at the Wayside Inn Park in Haines Falls is \$250,000 which they have raised the funds to pay for and some green space would remain.

Town Board all agree that the municipality could not put a building up for that amount. They agree that Haines Falls Fire Company seems to be all set with their plan and Tannersville Fire Company needs land for a new fire house.

Councilman Kukle asks if they can provide sketches to the Town Board.

D. Lucey states the Tannersville Fire Company is willing to work with the town as they are in need of space for a fire house (buying land, leasing or sharing space) They are working on putting together their minimum requirements to bring to the Town Board which they should have done by this summer.

Discussion on feelings of two fire departments being located less than a mile from one another. The consensus from the fire department members present is that it has been this way since the 1950's and the equipment that is duplicated is tanker trucks which are all needed. The departments communicate with one another as far as equipment.

Councilman Kukle makes a MOTION to adjourn at 7:48 PM. Seconded by Supervisor Mahoney.

Ayes -5-

Noes -0-

Corina Pascucci, Town Clerk, RMC
Town of Hunter