

**WORKSHOP MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE – VILLAGE OF OTISVILLE
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

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The workshop meeting of the **Town Board** of the Town of Mount Hope and **Village Board** of the Village of Otisville was held at Town Hall on November 17, 2014 at 8:00pm with the following present: Supervisor Volpe, Councilman Ketcham, Councilman Howell, Councilwoman Sutherland, Councilman Cambareri, Mayor Wona, Trustee Loeven, Trustee Coppola, Trustee Palmer, Village Clerk Christine Dipalo & Town Clerk Kathleen Myers. NOT PRESENT: Trustee Bennett.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Attorney D. Bavoso.

Supervisor Volpe called the meeting to order at 8:07PM.

Supervisor Volpe: reported that on Veteran's day he met with Bob Wheeling, Diane and Mayor Wona. Bob has done the Howells fire budget for 18 years. Rather than guess we went line by line through the budget from a district that's been established for a while. There's everything on the operating expenses. Forecasting dry hydrants, equipment. We went off their spreadsheets. We took the equipment that Otisville currently has because equipment that Mount Hope fire company is not owned by the town so that can't be put into the evaluation. Boils down to earmarking/forecasting. Forecasting a conservative 2 Million \$ fire house. And also earmarking money to replace equipment. They can sustain themselves and as things break down they'll have money in the accounts to purchase new tankers and rescue trucks etc. The total budget came to \$526,932. This includes what the village pays. When you look at total breakdown – our current rate is 2.1667% for fire protection. The proposed rates would be 2.848%. They went off assessment for village and town to give an educated idea on what it would go up/house. Going off of the average assessed house in Mount Hope, your average would go up \$110/year. In the village it would go up \$91/year. That would cover everything in here. They were being conservative yet practical. He doesn't think it's terrible. One truck would be replaced in 3 years and another in 8 years. No additional money would be bonded out. This has everything from landscaping to snow removal. Obviously this would be contracted out. I'm sure it's not perfect but it gives us an idea of where we are at now.

Trustee Loeven: spoke re: budget spreadsheet not printing properly. Supervisor will make copies for everyone. There are certain things excluded from spending limitations and they're included. The 2nd page are the figures to be concerned with that we don't go over spending limit.

Mayor Wona: spoke re: pg. 2 of proposed budget. The pumper should be a 2006 and 12 years. The tanker is 2002 & would be replaced in 8yrs.

Supervisor Volpe: Howells has the LOSAP program in theirs. It has to be put up to vote. District would put it to vote. It fluctuates. Doesn't have to go in this budget.

Mayor Wona: asked if everyone knew what a LOSAP program is.

Councilman Cambareri: something we have to avoid.

Councilman Howell: retrieved the mapping end. The map doesn't give much detail regarding roads/parcels. He pointed out lines with regard to the district lines.

Trustee Coppola: met with Chad/Ike on what the village would contribute. You all have copies of the trucks and 3 chief's vehicles along with the fire house. Appraised value is from when Mount Hope formed a fire company and the village hired a private company to do an evaluation. If this was to proceed, it would have to be done again. Mike gave him the info on the vehicles and the chief's vehicles. At this time, it would be the cart before the horse to do a total inventory of all the equipment. If it comes to that – there would be no problem doing it. He hopes that soon after the holidays they can have public hearings. If it looks like it would go – it would go to a vote to the public – at that time the inventory would be done. At that time, then everyone would know what the Otisville is contributing to the joint municipal fire district.

Trustee Loeven: you are using the phrase 'what Otisville would contribute'...

Trustee Coppola: contribute – not give.

Trustee Loeven: just wanted to be clear.

Trustee Coppola: no it would have to be sold to the district.

Trustee Loeven: years back when we had the steering committee we had been led to believe that that was something that was possible that the village could turn over everything for a dollar. We've since found out that that's not the case. The law would preclude that from happening. She spoke about the building itself. There are 2 ways to go. You can build or using/purchasing the Otisville fire house – that real property and evaluating what would have to be done. Per OSHA standards, Otisville fire company is grandfathered in on a lot of things.

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Trustee Loeven cont.: It would not be once it is in the district. Where it says SAMPLE across the top, there are 2 proposals. One side is a 5 year building plan. They kicked around some time ago a 5 year lease with an option to buy. That would be done prior to district. Anticipated cost would be approx. \$38,400/year. So, times that by 5 years would be \$192,000 on the lease. By end of 1st year you need to identify a location for the new fire house. You need to figure where best located and what properties might be available. By 2nd year you need to procure that property. The budget you are looking at tonight doesn't include that. Anything with a zero in the last column doesn't have a cost associated to it. At this point in time, I'd be pulling numbers out of the air so I didn't put them in there. She went over the 5 year renovation plan.

Supervisor Volpe: asked David, \$2 million - hypothetical soup to nuts a new place, we did it from day one – is that legally possible?

Atty Bavoso: day 1 of what?

Supervisor Volpe: hypothetical – January 1 this new district appears, it's already been taxed...the plan is to build a new place but from day 1 we're not building a new place...

Atty Bavoso: Ultimately it's the responsibility of the fire commissioners to determine how they move forward. If they want to start the plans for the new fire house, they can do it. If they want to enter into negotiations with the village about leasing or purchasing that property, they can do that. The district is like any other taxing district. It's gonna be responsible for making its own decisions within its territorial limits. They can adjust the budget accordingly. From his experience, that \$2 million number seems about right. He thinks the rental number \$38,400 may be on the low side. A lot depends on the dynamics of the relationships. The proposed annual budget is on the side. He is concerned with the potential of the district buying trucks/apparatus from the village and are there any notes currently existing. And how that would be handled and any bonding too. Yes it can happen – whether or not it will is theoretical.

Village Clerk: added that there are no notes or bonds.

Trustee Loeven: questioned "rent to own"? Years ago we were told about rent to own relationship with the village, and were told it's not appropriate.

Atty Bavoso: can be done. As long as it is structured correctly – it can be done. As long as the sums can be written in the budget.

Trustee Loeven: and the real property with the firehouse – does the district have to go out and secure a bond – or can that be done as a rent to own?

Atty Bavoso: safer way would be the bonding. Depends on negotiated prices. As long as you can budget for it; the commissioners would make that decision.

Councilman Cambareri: Janet, Bob and I were asked to look into staffing which is nothing – a fire district has no staff besides a secretary, treasurer and legal representation. Those you've already put in your proposed budget for about \$8,000/year. Then commissioners – either 5 or 7 and elected vs. appointed.

Atty Bavoso: treasurer can be either elected or appointed.

Trustee Coppola: asked if everyone did their report. He would like for, after the holidays to go public, or is it too soon to get public input. He thinks they should listen to the public.

Councilman Cambareri: are we far enough along with proposed budgets?

Supervisor Volpe: we are far enough along with the educated things and because of the particular situation that's been unfolding; I don't know what anyone will think until we have a public hearing. He's had a lot of questions, and it depends on who the person is. Is it majority? I don't know. The people I have talked to are aggravated with the district. If we don't move forward we are gonna regret it. If we don't have enough answers or it's not favorable then we have to figure out plan B.

Trustee Loeven: time frame? Once public hearing is set, does that set a time clock?

Atty Bavoso: not in the way you are proposing it. What starts any mandated time restriction, is if these 2 boards together in a joint meeting actually adopt a resolution to propose a joint fire district. At that point, you'd have to have a joint public hearing within 30 days of that determination. You can hold public hearings without having made that resolution jointly for the purpose of gathering more information. No matter what you'll still have to have that public hearing after.

Trustee Loeven: that clarifies it. It's public hearings for information gathering.

Supervisor Volpe: hypothetically, if we pick a date in Feb. and we have everything we need, we are not held to anything – correct?

Atty Bavoso: correct.

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Trustee Loeven: This gives us time to digest and go through and go to each other with questions.

Supervisor Volpe: it could be over kill but we need to schedule 2 back to back. If we set 2 or 3 and we could have done it all at once but there's quite a few people in the town or village that may or may not want to come. You could break it down by districts.

Trustee Loeven: would like to set 3 days to meet at 7pm and stipulate that it will go no longer than a certain time. If by the 3rd day we're there and no one comes in the 1st 15 minutes then we could close.

Atty Bavoso: theoretically, if you are advertising for 3 separate public hearings, you close every one of them after you are finished. It's up to the board. He would publicize and do them as 3 separate hearings.

Dates were discussed among all board members and agreed on February. Kathleen will email Jim Jennings about Feb. 11.

RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARINGS:

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Trustee Loeven to schedule public hearings on February 9, 10 & 11, 2015 at 7pm to be held at the senior center to discuss proposed joint fire district. All in favor – carried.

Boards discussed meeting in January.

RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE A JOINT MEETING:

MOTION offered by Mayor Wona seconded by Supervisor Volpe to have a joint meeting of the village board and the town board to discuss the proposed joint fire district on February 2, 2015 immediately after the town board meeting at 8:00pm at town hall. All in favor – Carried.

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN:

MOTION offered by Mayor Wona seconded by Trustee Coppola to adjourn meeting at 8:53pm. All in favor – carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Myers, Town Clerk