

WORKSHOP MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, APRIL 22, 2013
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The workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at the Mount Hope Senior Center on **April 22, 2013** at 8:45pm with the following present: Supervisor William Novak Jr., Councilman Ed Fairweather, Councilman Mike Bell, Councilman Gary Ketcham, Councilwoman Janet Sutherland and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: T. Gilmore/Planning Board Chairperson, D. Hassenmayer/H'way Supt., P. Freeman/Lt., W. Melton/Village Trustee, K. Coppola/Village Trustee, D. Cash/Village Trustee, B. Wona/Mayor, B. Bennett/Village Trustee, F. Simeone/Attorney, Z. Kelson/Attorney.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITHIN THE TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:

At 7:00pm, Supervisor Novak called for the Pledge of Allegiance then opened the public hearing. At this time, the Town Clerk read the notice of public hearing into the record. **Supervisor Novak** read a quote from Abraham Lincoln. **Supervisor Novak** stated, since it's a public hearing on a fire protection district, we are going to open it up with we are going to allow all the people who reside within that district to speak. We will give between 2&3 minutes because we've got a lot of people here and we have a Town Board meeting afterwards. We're gonna try to keep it to 2 minutes. After 2 minutes we're gonna give you a signal. Then, if there are people outside the village that want to comment, we will take comments and questions, outside of the fire protection district. It's not a debate. It's an informational meeting. We will open it up.

Tom Gilmore: I'm Tom Gilmore. I'm the director of the new fire company and my job will be as the spokesman for the fire company here. So if you have any specific questions...first of all, I'd like to explain what's going on. I wanna talk about what this is really all about. The new fire company which is started by the members of the fire company - by the members of the fire fighters who have been protecting us for many years. Those are the people who have tried to start this company and they're the ones that are behind all of this. This is not a town sponsored company although it is incorporated under the laws of the town law under the Town of Mount Hope. What are the differences between this and what we've had for so many years? One of the main differences is in the governance. The governance of this fire company is by the members of the fire company. Active fire members are the ones who vote and elect a board of directors and that board of directors runs that fire company. The funds that go to it and any moneys that they spend and anything that they acquire belongs to that fire company. That's an independent thing. We do contract with the town for a fire...for a budget which will cover the fire protection district. That was previously covered by the OFC (Otisville Fire Company). The fire budget that we have presented is for 3 years. And it is for the same amount that we have anyway because that money has already been collected on your 2013 taxes. And that's the amount of money that it is. In 2014, there's a 2% increase and in 2015 there's a 2% increase. The state regulates how fire companies operate. Fire companies are under the same 2% guideline as anyone else. The other thing I'd like to say is it's really all about the fire fighters themselves. I - for one - have taken on this position; I'm not a fire fighter and I am a sponsor of the new fire company. I support the fire fighters because those are the people who come to our homes and give us EMT service and they're the ones we need to support. The expectation is you will have a seamless transition on May 31st from the OFC to the MHFC (Mount Hope Fire Company) for all of the fire needs. Mr. Gilmore asked if someone had a question.

Supervisor Novak asked if there's anybody from the OFC that wants - our purpose here tonight, our goal is not to decide who is right or wrong. Our goal is to provide the best available and affordable safety in fire protection to the residents of that district. (inaudible) We're gonna come to questions on that. (inaudible)

Councilwoman Sutherland stated this is a presentation. They're presenting to you what they're - the reason that (inaudible) then when they're done presenting...(inaudible)

Supervisor Novak stated that this is a public hearing. We're gonna contract with whichever company can provide the best affordable, safest and available fire protection for the residents of that district. (inaudible) Again, is there anybody from the OFC that wants to make a presentation?

Mike Coppola: Ok. Some of the firemen wanted to leave. The OFC is still gonna be here. We can still man the trucks and all that. So the people in the village - I want them to know that. We want to represent the Town of Mount Hope, too. But there's a problem. Some of the people want to leave. They want to start a Mount Hope fire department. They want to divide our company. So, right now we have a 1-3 minute response. We have the equipment we need. We do a good job. There's some people not too happy with the way things are run - they say about the money and stuff. Well somebody had a surprise audit on the Village last year and they checked the budget, the fire budget. All the money went into the fire budget. No misappropriation of funds and no money was missing. So we thank whoever did that. It's online if you wanna read it. I think this is kinda ridiculous. The people got mad because the Village wouldn't go district. And, I think if they took time and sat down with the 2 boards - not with firemen - the 2 boards could talk and work this out and go to the firemen afterwards and talk to them and tell them what the deal is because we've had problems with the politicking. We had problems years ago and now with the new Mayor there was talk about trying to get the fire company so they could dissolve the Village; was proven to be true that it was stated. It's ridiculous.

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Mike Coppola continued: We do a good job and we're gonna have 1/3 of the calls in the Village – they're gonna have 2/3 out there. And I just hope that they have enough manpower. I wish them good luck. We're gonna be hurting and they're gonna be hurting as far as manpower. We're gonna have to help each other. And we are willing to help them. But we don't agree with the separation. And I hope that you got a contract from the Village, too, tonight so that you could consider that.

Supervisor Novak stated, we got the contract. They did not give us the personnel and equipment list that they were supposed to. We do have a contract. We asked for a list of the personnel that they were gonna have available and the equipment available. We asked that of both departments. Mr. Coppola stated, well you shoulda asked the Chief. Supervisor Novak stated, we asked the Mayor. (inaudible)

Interruption from police officer regarding cars parked on private property. Supervisor Novak stated, they've called the police if you don't want it towed. Officer read a list of license plate numbers. Supervisor Novak stated, we're gonna open it up for comments now. You have to identify yourself for the record and you've got to try to keep it to 2 minutes.

Joseph Schneider: My name is Joseph Schneider. I live on Guymard Turnpike. Is there a list available of the equipment that the MHFC has? Supervisor Novak stated, yes there is. Mr. Carver stated, hold on, hold on, we don't own anything yet because we don't have a fire contract. There's nothing owned yet. Listen, the reason for this meeting, right, which is a public hearing, right, is for the Town Board to decide who they are gonna award the contract to. So without a contract, you have no funds. We have equipment and apparatus set up – yes. But nothing – the MHFC owns nothing yet. But we have apparatus set up, equipment set up, gear set up. So if we are awarded the contract, June 1st when we go online we'll be all set to respond to fire calls and medical calls. Mr. Schneider asked, if the contract will be awarded June 1st, why can't you state what equipment is available to the fire company, the MHFC? Mr. Carver stated, as of now we have one engine set up with a promissory from a fire department in Orange County that we're gonna purchase if we get the fire contract. We have other equipment – a tanker, a truck. The bottom line is the fire protection you're getting right now is gonna be the same for the MHFC. When June 1st comes around, it's gonna be seamless. You're gonna get the same fire protection from the MHFC. Mr. Schneider asked, does that truck have fully equipped hoses, nozzles...Mr. Carver stated, all the apparatus that we will be purchasing is certified, we'll have the maintenance records on those. All the gear and equipment is also certified. Once again, if you want to get into the personnel, we got a letter that we submitted to the Town Board at a previous Town Board meeting from the State Fire. That's the – they oversee all the fire departments in NYS. That letter states that they certify that that apparatus from that fire department is good to go and they also reviewed all the training records of all the fire fighters that are going with the new fire company that those people have proper certification. Mr. Schneider stated, so you're taking over, if the contract is passed, a contract, June 1st, all the gear for these fire fighters; scott air packs, jackets, boots, helmets (?) wrenches. Right down to the – you got all that equipment to take over immediately? Mr. Gilmore stated yes. We won't sign contracts until we get the contract from the Town. Because we don't have any money until we get the contract from the town. But we have provisions and we have plans to purchase all this equipment and we will have it all from the time we get the contract until – so it will all be available and will be trained on it by June 1st. Mr. Schneider addressed the Supervisor; if this is passed, all that equipment – there will be a list for the Town's people to see? Supervisor stated absolutely Joe. They have a list already of commitment. That's what they have. They haven't gotten any of it purchased yet because they haven't gotten money – depends on who gets the contract. Mr. Schneider asked what about the equipment the taxpayers already paid for? Supervisor stated you'd have to address that to the Village.

Mr. Finkle asked how much have we paid? Supervisor stated I can tell you what we've paid for fire protection. Mr. Finkle asked how much have we paid in the last several years to already purchase equipment? My assumption is we already purchased this. Supervisor stated since I have been Supervisor, we have paid a little over 6 ½ million dollars for fire protection in the Town of Mount Hope. A little over \$300,000.00 a year. Mr. Finkle asked so the town is gonna own the equipment and we're out in the cold? The village is gonna own the equipment and we're out in the cold – is that it? Supervisor stated there was a provision in the contract, Mr. Finkle, that should they form a joint district that all that equipment would be turned over to the district without consideration. But the village chose not to go to a joint venture. Next question. Mrs. Bell?

Cecelia Bell stated for the last 10 years we have talked about starting a fire district, however the Otisville-Mount Hope district never came to be. Instead we have firemen who cannot get along. Because of this some firemen have decided to form their own company. I am thankful to all the firemen for their years of dedication however, no fire house and limited equipment in this day is not economically sound.

Rick Vreeland: I applaud all the firemen. But you know we are going through all this stuff with equipment and everything. I was in the fire company 42 years ago in Otisville. We had fights, we had fist fights in the meetings. And I just think it's ludicrous that this day and age, this economic time, that when some schools are closing all over this county, all over this state, all over this country, and we're gonna start a new fire department. You guys need to get along. Now you guys over here – I respect you. But if you think that fire department is gonna close, I've asked a lot of them, if ya don't like what's going on there – quit. It's a volunteer company. They're not gonna close without you. It was there before you came and they'll be there after you're gone. I wish you'd stay. I wish you'd get along. I know you have a lot of experience and a lot of talent but it's bull crap that you can't work it out. We're all happy with the fire company we got.

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Roy Brighton: I live on Mountain Road. One question I have – we don't even know what ISO rating this company will have. What's gonna happen to our home owner's insurance? Are we gonna lose that as a result of them not being fully prepared to fight fires? We have no problem with Otisville. 100% able to handle anything that's coming down the pike. And all of a sudden you want to...(inaudible) putting it in a barn. Is this correct? Do you know what the ISO rating is? Supervisor stated as far as I can tell you right now ours is at 9. One from the bottom. One from the lowest. Mr. Brighton stated I have no problem with my insurance company they haven't made any.....Supervisor stated you asked; I'm telling you.

Juliette Charkin: I live on Shoddy Hollow Road. "ISO" just means how far your individual house is from the fire department. Some of us are four, some of us are 1, some of us are a 9. We are not all 9.

Lucilla Mann: I have been a Mount Hope resident all of my life. Where is our zoning law? You can just park a fire truck in any barn you wanna park it in...is there no such thing as a zoning law? I mean – I can buy a fire truck myself? Supervisor stated I can tell you that they went to the code enforcement officer, they called the state and they talked to the Assessor. There is no prohibits. Ms. Mann stated so if we call the state....Supervisor stated the state will tell you that there's no prohibits. Ms. Mann asked so you can park a fire truck wherever you want – is that what you're telling me? Supervisor stated I'm not telling you, you asked me. Ms. Mann stated so I just want to make sure so that when I call the state I'm gonna get the same answer. Supervisor stated nothing prohibits from being parked in a barn.

Sean Gerow: I live at 16 Heather Lane, in Hidden Valley. Just real quick. I've been a member of the Middletown volunteer fire service for 22 years. Still currently an active member. I moved out to Mount Hope 2 years ago. I'm not necessarily opposed as the new fire company but I do have some concerns pretty much primarily as a tax payer. Specifically, what's gonna be coming towards the tax payers in the future? For example, where's the fire house? These are two, three, four million dollar buildings even at the very basic ones. My understanding right now is a barn. That's ok for spring, summer, and fall; winter time heating etc. What concessions have we made for the owner of this property to make sure that the snow is free and clear depending on how long this goes? So that's specifically one. Also the apparatus. I understand again, and again I am not opposed necessarily but what's the condition of the apparatus that's being purchased? Typically what I've seen anyway is we'll go out and we'll purchase a used engine, a used tanker, a used rescue, a used ladder two, three years down the road now we need a brand new one because this one's not operating very well. And it's just getting us through the initial time. So, that's again the cost now as well as later on down the road is what it's gonna be to us specifically for the tax payer. Again, I know most of the members. I have no problem with training. I get all that. The equipment – I think Mr. Finkle had a very good point. Over the years 80% - 70% has gone to the previous fire department. What legal right do we have to any of that equipment back to offset what we may be purchasing? Again, I've been in fire service 22 years. I understand these purchases. They're not \$100-\$200 purchases. They're in the thousands upon thousands of dollars. (inaudible) can go anywhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000.00 I just priced all of this stuff out. My concern really is, I understand we have a 3 year plan, what's our long range plan? We can't operate on 3 years – we really have to look 5 to 10 years out. And what's that cost going to be back to us for the tax payer. That's really my concern. Despite the internal politics, that have gone on, I think we all know the best solution is a joint fire district.

Julie Musial: Thank you, 55 Finchville Turnpike. I handed out to everyone, something that's on the comptroller's website that gives you the amounts that local fire districts are paying okay – expenditures. Prior year's tax levies. Many of you I handed it out. These numbers are no where close to the numbers that the current Mount Hope fire company's budget (inaudible). Okay, their numbers are 312, 319, 325. If you go for the Slate Hill fire department, for 2013 - \$612,216, Howells \$511,279, Greenville \$557,465. This is hundreds of thousands of dollars with companies that own firehouses already and all their equipment. Okay. Now, speaking to this gentleman which I have lots of respect for, I have nothing but respect for all the firemen. But I don't think that we should have to pay for a new fire house, fire equipment and whatnot. On their budget the Mount Hope fire company handed you, why do we have to pay and lease \$36,000.00 each year and going up a little bit more for over \$100,000.00 over 3 years when the town already owns property okay that we can lend to a fire company. That's just for that, okay. I'm not saying that I'm totally for it. The numbers just don't add up. If you go from the comptroller, the numbers on the Mount Hope Fire Company's budget don't even reflect employees' benefits. Employees benefits for 2012 – for Slate Hill fire dept. was \$100,000.00, for Howells is was \$124,000.00, for Greenville \$98,000.00, Florida fire district \$129,000.00. Those numbers are not reflected in their budgets as per how they presented them to you. Okay. So what I am saying is that I don't think that they provided you with a complete picture. Now if you need what I have, I can give it to you. All the information is on the comptroller's site – very easily assessable by anyone here. Okay.

Marie Kaprat: I live on Kohler Road. Where is this barn located? Councilman Fairweather stated Finchville Turnpike.

Amy Johnson: On Mountain Road. That's right near the ball park. So when there are kids baseball games, you're gonna have a fire truck zooming out? Those kids are gonna know? That makes no sense to me.

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Al Kaufman: I see no reason for another fire company. Because within a 10-15 mile radius – we already have 10 fire companies. And we need another one? For what? Otisville is right here. We got Huguenot, Howells, Pocatello. Why do we need another one? They're all good guys but hey our taxes can't keep going up any more – they already are.

Jim Kata: I live on Grange Road. From what I gather, you guys represent us. You were elected to represent the Town of Mount Hope. From what I see, from 95% of the people here are pretty much against what's going on. So, if you're representing us, you should pay attention to 90% of the people in here. If you watch the news, Gov. Cuomo listens to districts and school districts and he says – if you people don't find the money to support your schools or whatever – consider consolidating. Supervisor stated we tried that. Mr. Kata stated try harder.

Gerri Dodd: I live on Mountain Road. I was the chief of emergency services out of West Point USMA for 18 yrs.; actually – I started that program. I know the men in this fire department. The Otisville, the fire department we have now. They've responded to my house. They're incredible people. They do a fantastic job. They train. They support every one of you. If you're gonna add another fire department, you have to have an advantage to do that. If the advantage doesn't equal the cost, then it should just be turned down.

Gerri Dodd cont.: It doesn't help any body in this room. So, unless there's a great advantage to start another fire department, you're gonna be adding, eventually millions of dollars. And you guys are gonna pay, just because some people can't get along.

Jim Bannon: I live on White Bridge Road. If this is actually the budget they're running on, again, I reiterate my appreciation of all the firemen, this is a 1% increase over 3 years. The cost of doing business is a lot more now than the next 3 years even if you wanna try and incorporate a plan into that. I don't think these figures are adequate. And I don't think they're even figuring in the pension costs and some of the personnel costs that they have included in that. As far as the barn, we're putting money that we're investing into the barn that doesn't have a security system, sprinkler system. I don't even know if it has a bathroom or not. I mean, I couldn't even go into business in any town in this county without having the bare necessities. And I don't think that barn is adequate along with snow removal in the winter. So I don't know if we're trying to move too fast forward in order to get this thing accomplished and I for one am happy with the coverage we have right now.

Julie Vreeland: Grange Road. You said you tried to consolidate and so what happened there? Why did you fail? What did you do to try to consolidate? And why did it fail? Supervisor stated the village said...I will give you the history: 18 months ago the fire department, a bunch of the people from the fire department came to the town board and asked us to form a fire district, at that time. We said, in fairness to the village go back, try to work it out with the village. Give it a year. Work with the village and try to get it out. They formed a steering committee. They came up with a report and time and time again they were reviewed but after 18 months they came back again. We had joint meetings with the village. We tried to schedule a joint public hearing with the village. The village pulled out at the last minute. And that was the end of it. They said we're not doing it – no way.

Mayor Wona: I'm the Mayor. I'll answer the question. We were approached last September on this with a time frame to get this done by January. There was 9 (inaudible) steering committee. There was only Ed Myslinski, and I think it was Frank Simeone. The whole steering committee over 7 years was defunct. There weren't enough people. I asked them to get the people back together. I asked them to provide minutes to me about the meetings showing that it was a progressive thing for a fire district. I received a package from them with a bunch of loose papers stating how they wanted to go about doing this. Yes we did have a joint meeting with the town supervisor. We had a workshop with him at the firehouse. And questions that I asked, couldn't be answered. I asked about the village voting on it at a public referendum, neither of the 2 lawyers that sat up there could answer that question. Said they never heard of it before. One's a professional....does it for a living – turning fire companies into fire districts. Never heard of it before. And it's a village law. So how can I proceed with people not being able to tell me the truth? Honestly. And just to give you guys a heads up, after the last public hearing I sat down with the town supervisor and his deputy supervisor and ask him what can we do to resolve this issue. Let it go back to the table for a year and present you guys with a package. That steering package that you guys could review and we can go forward from there. I was told no. I was told by firemen this is it. We're separating from you guys. It's over. All demands. That's all I get. And my board members have gotten. Now let's have a fair shake here. Now let's go back to the board, let's form a steering committee without the firemen being involved, with business people being involved and come back to you guys in a year and work this out. Supervisor stated first of all it didn't start....it started 8 years ago. The first time we set up a steering committee. Do you want to respond to that Mr. Simeone? Mr. Simeone stated that I'm sorry the Mayor and the members of the new fire company don't agree on the history but we will submit to anyone who wants to look at the full history of the last 15 years of the firemen in Otisville trying to get the village to come over to forming a joint fire district. Most recently, with like 3 weeks before the final public hearing, they jilted this fire department. They said no. That was the 3rd time that I've been involved in 15 years that the village said no. Consolidation would be a great idea. We've proposed it many times. It would be a unified tax rate for all the people protected by a single fire department. It makes good sense.

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Mayor Wona continued: Just 5 days ago there was another meeting and again the village turned it down. The representatives who were at that meeting from the village, they brought in a mediator, a gentleman by the name of Mike Wilbur, who wrote a report that many of you may have seen. The village turned it down and walked out. They said it's our way or the highway. Supervisor stated at that meeting when the referendum was brought up ok it was a joint meeting of the 2 boards and it was stated at that meeting that if it's such a law -- if there is a village law that -- go to a public hearing and we will have a referendum. Am I right or wrong? Mr. Simeone stated that's correct. If the village wanted to hold a referendum they were told go ahead and hold it. Supervisor stated they were told hold it at that meeting Kenny and you were there. Mr. Coppola stated but not before the public hearing. Supervisor stated and you were there and you guys said no way. Sorry. Mr. Coppola stated you told us we couldn't have a referendum. Supervisor stated no, I did not. (yelling by many residents -- Councilwoman Sutherland stated if you continue to use that tone of voice, you will be removed from this public hearing.)

M. Rollins: Now is the time to get all the attorneys (inaudible) get an oversight committee. Get it together. Get it done. We don't want to pay for another one. (inaudible) All you're gonna do when you respond to my house is let it burn down anyway. Because we don't have the access, we don't have the water. It's ridiculous. Get it together. If you got it -- you guys gotta play nice. Enough of this nonsense. Mr. Gilmore stated the MHFC is still well into (inaudible). From Otisville to have them contract with the MHFC, now we tried that last week and (inaudible).

Dominic Cambareri: Been a resident of the Town of Mount Hope all my life. I was a member of the OFC, active for 20 years. I've been inactive for probably close to 20 years. As you recall 7 years ago, when the 1st steering committee was appointed, you appointed me to be your representative on behalf of the town. That steering committee took approx. 1 ½ yrs. and we were charged as a fact finding commission not so much as to make a recommendation of whether it was a good idea or a bad idea. It took about a year and a half and we wrote a report. A report was handed to you and one to the village. And as I can recall, no members from the town board at that time ever attended one of the 15/17 meetings we had. They also never attended any of the public address meetings we had with the village. And at the time that the facts were given the village turned it down because of the one fact is -- it was gonna raise our taxes. So you can't tell me that in any point in time we could duplicate a service and make it as equal as what we have now and not add to the cost of the tax payers. You wouldn't give Dean carte blanche and say go out and do whatever you have to do and hand us a bill. Why would any municipality give up a budgetary process to any group of individuals?

Charlie Parella: I live in Hidden Valley. You said that a number of firemen wanted to do this but does that number even come close to the number of people in this room? Yes or no? Does the number of firemen that wish to form a new fire company even come close to the number of people in this room that are against it? Supervisor stated I don't know the number of people in the room. The number of the people in the room that live in the fire district.....

Bob Demott: Live on Guymard Turnpike. My only question is how is this making me safer? The anticipated tax increase that the residents are gonna have to pick up...why are we doing this? Can anybody explain how we'll be safer than staying with the current situation? Mr. Kelson suggested that the fire company answer that. Supervisor stated I will defer that to the fire company. Mr. Gilmore stated there's not expected to be any tax increases. (yelling) They have strict limits on how much in a fire budget.....Mr. Demott stated answer my question. How is it making me safer? (inaudible) Why would I want this? (inaudible) Supervisor stated sir we're gonna move this on. This is a report commissioned by the Village of Otisville -- there was copies there. Have you read it? Mr. Demott asked does it explain how I'm safer? Supervisor stated yes it does. (inaudible)

Mike Taylor: I live in Hidden Valley. To Mr. Gilmore, assume that this goes through, you currently have a 3 year budget plan, what are you gonna do at the end of 3 years? Are we still gonna be in a barn This doesn't work. In any kind of company like this, any kind of business that initiates has gotta have a long term business plan. What is the long term plan beyond this 3 year growth plan that requires building a facility? How is that going to impact the taxes? (inaudible) Simple mortgage costs -- you're gonna talk about a hundred times that -- probably. What is the long term plan for the company? (inaudible) Mr. Gilmore replied (inaudible) under the existing budget (inaudible) Mr. Taylor stated....(inaudible) there's your budget. What are you gonna do with everything else? Mr. Gilmore stated I didn't hear exactly what your budget was, but I can tell you that estimates given for building fire houses is way, way off. Westbrookville built their fire house for under \$500,000.00. (inaudible) Mr. Simeone stated the figures put in that letter are completely bogus. Pine Island -- brand new fire house for \$3,000,000.00. Three million -- 2.95 actually. Go to Bloomingburg, look at their fire house. (inaudible)

Lou Dodd: I've lived here for 50 years. Born and bred here. I've been in the fire company, OFC for 33 years. I got in when I was 18. I served as a line officer all the way up from Lieutenant all the way up to Chief. 16 years, 15 years -- I was an officer of the company. First I want to say that nothing is personal. People have said that the firemen are mad at the other firemen. Anybody that wanted the MHF department firemen and anyone in the village of Otisville firemen -- we would die getting to one another. That is wrong and I take offense to that. It is not personal. I'm gonna tell you little bit of history because I've been in there just a little while.

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Lou Dodd continued: In the last 10 years, probably actually it's almost 20 years, that the way we come about, a company decides to have a, I'm also gonna speak a little longer than 2 minutes, also when a company comes about to wanting to have a fire district, we've wanted to have a quote fire district. We've wanted to have a joint fire district, the Otisville Mount Hope fire district. We have tried that, tried it and tried it. First time, we try it – went through months and months and months and months were spent. People wasting their time. Months and months – brought all the information down – brought it to the village. All's we ever wanted as a fire, and I'm gonna speak even though I am the president of the newly incorporated MHF department...but I'm gonna speak (inaudible) because I'm a life member there. All we ever wanted was for the people that are here this evening to have a vote. And each time, it was shut down by the village board and first let me say when I refer to the village board, ok, the village board that's there now, known them all my life, I respect them. I don't agree with them – respect them. It's not all them. It's years have went by – shut down; no vote. No vote out to the tax payers. We had informational meetings at the fire house a lot. Maybe you don't remember – but I do. We had informational meetings. Second time, second time, years later we went – we wanted to go through for having a joint fire district. And we take a vote to the company and a strong majority each time wanted this to happen. So once again, I'm not Chief at that time. They start it up, they go through it. They go through the whole process again. Tax payers' money is spent to hire the attorneys. Tax payers' money spent on this. The fire company, when we're up there flipping flap jacks and standing in the road begging for money – we put money in to pay for the attorney the second time. We put money in. Everything went. Went forward again. Went forward again. Got down to the village board again, we wanted to have a joint fire district. Work it out (inaudible). One thing I gotta agree with, I agree with the village board with, the Town of Mount Hope, me as a Town of Mount Hope resident, you don't own nothing. We don't own nothing and we don't have no right to anything the village has. Because what we pay for, we pay for a contract service. It's just like buying car insurance. You buy car insurance – at the end of the year if you didn't use it, do you get any money back? Ok – that's the system that we have. (inaudible) It was blocked again. The firemen went out and collected in the Village of Otisville at that time to form a joint fire district, over 300 signatures what we asked if we bring 300 signatures, we get a petition – will you the Village board put this to a vote to the village tax payers? Go out – get all the signatures. Get the petition – bring them in. Big box. Nope. Not going forward. Not letting the village tax payers have a vote. The firemen have never, ever, ever said the OFD that the last 20 years if we don't get a fire district, that we're not gonna serve ya's. I don't think any more guys and ladies have been smacked in the more than the OFC and the fools that we are – we still keep going. So once again, they were gonna go join a joint fire district the OMHF district. That's what we wanted. That's what we wanted. But even a dog can get smacked with a paper so many times. He isn't gonna come outta the coop. We been down this road and down this road. 26 of us signed a letter of intent to join the new fire company. There's probably 4 or 5 more that just don't want to go through the brow beating and the bullying by signing that paper. We come down to the end of it this last time. Mike Wilbur also after presenting his report, I don't know how that all transpired, asked as a mediator to get the 2 from the town and 2 from the village, 2 from the fire department. Stu Carver, Tom Gilmore went on our behalf down there. Obviously, we're here tonight. We can see how that went. It's not the firemen who don't get along. That's not it. It's not that. That we're just not happy in the sand box or some other ridiculous statement. Another ridiculous statement, no offense, but we do a lot more than just go and watch something burn down. And I take real offense to that. (applause) And you cannot say that we have not been trying. We have been trying my god – I got in - in 1981 just a kid 18 years old, and didn't know nothing - they're talking about forming a fire district. It ended then. We tried all these times for this to come about. We have not paid for anything as town residents. And we even brokered a deal where they were gonna do where the town and the village and you know so much would be paid to them – to the village. Or maybe they would contribute less to that. We have no right to say that that's our fire house and give us the equipment and the trucks. We have none at all. Now that fire house I read in this letter, that this fire house has been there for 100 years. And it has. And I am proud to be a life member of that. But in 100 years, how does a place like that – that houses some of the best people that I've ever met end up looking the way it does? Where the sinks don't drain, where this don't work, where some other thing doesn't work. Fix it? You don't think we notified the village? (Inaudible) Applause.

Matthew Howell: White Bridge Road. This is for Mr. Gilmore and his associates – with your proposed increase of the 2% taxes or less, how can you bring your non-existing equipment up to the equivalence of what we have currently, without raising the taxes? Where's the money come from? Would be the question. If you don't raise the taxes, where's...Mr. Gilmore stated my understanding is the equipment that we will buy in the 1st 3 years will be the equivalent of what the equipment is now. The equipment that we have now has many problems if you look at Mr. Wilbur's report. It's not up to standards. The equipment that's there now is not up to standards. Mr. Howell asked so you're saying everything the building from soup to nuts, in 3 years you'll have...Mr. Gilmore stated the trucks are not up to standard. And the trucks that the MHFC have will be up to standard. They will be...Mr. Carver stated we have call-outs from all departments from Long Island to Pennsylvania to Orange County companies fire departments ok, like I said. With the fire department with apparatus, to equipment to gear and when we say purchased by state law, with fire departments, right, we deal with other fire departments, we have to buy for a nominal fee.

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M. Howell cont.: But the generosity of these other fire departments because they know what we're trying to do, ok and this equipment is all certified. From the gear to you guys know like bail-out systems, to all the tools, to the apparatus are all gonna be certified. All gonna be up to speed. And for a nominal fee. That's where when we came up with a 3 year budget right, that you saw copies of right? Once again, yes, we have to buy used apparatus. But that used apparatus is certified. Are we gonna have a reserve line, a reserve fund for future apparatus – of course. Mr. Howell asked and where would that money come from? Mr. Carver stated that money would have to be set aside each year on a line item right, from the tax....(inaudible) can I speak please? Talk about tax increase. Your fire taxes, right. When we talk about a 2% increase like my fire taxes were \$250 for the year, right. 2% increase. I think everybody can take out the calculators and do the math. Yes, we're gonna have some growing pains. Of course, everybody can see that. Listen, everybody can see that right. Let me get back to one thing. Like I think Tom brought it up at the beginning, it's the people. It gets down to the people. It gets down to the 26 or so individuals that are gonna come to the new fire company. It also comes to the new members that are gonna join that new fire company. Out of that 26 people, comes out about 350 years fire experience. It comes down to that. Like I said, there's gonna be some growing pains with the new fire company. Any fire department starting off – there's some growing pains. Mr. Howell stated I also asked about a building. I don't know what barn but I don't think a barn is the equivalent of the Otisville fire house. I'm not a builder but....Mr. Carver stated once again, if you read the report that was done for the village, on their behalf, by the independent company that come in and look at the fire house, look at the equipment and stuff like that ok, and I'm not saying, like Lou said, that fire house – your firemen have no heating system, has no decontaminating system, really it has a slop sink. It's leaking in places. Once again, the apparatus is backed up against each other. Dangerous situation. Mr. Howell asked so you're saying in 3 years with a 2% increase, you'll have enough money to build a building of the same standard? (inaudible) Mr. Carver stated a better standard – yes. Mr. Howell asked in 3 years on a 2% increase? (inaudible) Mr. Howell stated that's not a lot of money. I'm not a math teacher. I don't have a calculator, but I don't think you can put up a building for \$25-30,000.00. You might have a frame.

Tina See: I live on Shoddy Hollow Road. First of all sir, I take offense to you saying "letting house burn down". My son, the day he turned 16 he rushed up to be a member of this fire department. I went to Mr. Coppola and thank you for helping me as well, my son is a proud member of this department. I'm wondering, Mr. Wona, could we just put this off for a week, would you be willing to sit and talk with these people again? And maybe we can do a fire district. Maybe we can consolidate and stop all this bickering because it's kind of crazy. My son loves being a fireman. And he is always on call. These men here have taught him so much and they save him and they help each other. They are wonderful people. It is not about arguing amongst one another. All they want is to consolidate and make a district. Stop the pissing match. Get together and get it over with. (applause) (inaudible) It is old. Stop and build a new one. Where is the money, ok, if the money, if we form our own, the money that Mount Hope paid to the village to have no say, in the fire department, right, am I right? There's no say? Where is the money, with some of that money from what Mount Hope pays the village, go towards this new MHF district? Because we're gonna be paying taxes. Mr. Gilmore stated yes, if we're gonna form a fire district the monies that are paid would probably be exactly similar to what is now, which is similar to what the MHFC would get. (inaudible) Mr. Gilmore stated right now, if OFC- if Otisville's trustees would accept the contract from them and pay (inaudible) We are also at the beginning process to go to a fire district. Mrs. See asked so Mr. Wona, would you come and shake hands and say ok let's all sit down again and do this? This way, everybody here in the town is a witness that we have agreed to sit down again and talk about making a fire district. And, let's see who backs out of it this time. This way we're all witnesses of it all happening. Mr. Wona stated ma'am I've already made my suggestion that they go for a year and take the politics out of it and let business people decide that – I've mentioned people like Joe Myers Sr., Wayne Howell – who owns a business and is in the fire department. Not our fire department. Maybe one representative from the OFD be on that board. I've already asked that question.. so this ain't a pissing match. Mrs. See stated so give yourself a week and meet up and talk about it. Supervisor stated those names that were just suggested...we suggested at the initial meeting and they were rejected. (inaudible)

Chad Volpe: I would just like to say that I also volunteer – my family volunteers for a lot of different things. I know obviously we pick and select what we volunteer for and what we don't. And again, my heart goes out to everyone that risk their life everyday to save others. However, it is a volunteer position. I really don't feel at the end of the day that we're moving this town forward. I feel like we're moving backwards. We're going from a sink that doesn't drain to a barn. And we're going back 20 years, and I think everybody here has already spoke, and I really think the board should take the recommendation of the people in this room. (applause) Supervisor stated I just want to remind you before we go on that there's 3,500 people that live in the district – there's not 3,500 people here. (inaudible)

Barry Moore: From Otisville. I haven't been to a lot of these meetings. I don't understand exactly what's going on. I was wondering if there's any hard core spread sheets or anything on web sites or hard copy, whatever, that we could sit down and really analyze what we're all talking about here. One way or the other. Do we have anything like that? We're talking – I hear a lot of numbers, a barn, rumors if you will. And I don't really understand you know, hard core facts what we have here. Do we have anything like that?

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Supervisor stated yes, there's a report that was commissioned by the village. We put like 50 copies of it out, most of them are gone. But anybody that wants can FOIL it from the village. Mr. Wona asked if he could interrupt here. You address that report. You take it as an exploitation. That report was done, to let the people know in the village what it was going to take to run a village fire department, preparing for the worst case scenario, that the town was not gonna contract with us. So we hired a company to come in. They cited some things that are wrong. One of the trucks has an over-weighted axle on the front. Supervisor stated Brian? Brian? They can read the report. (inaudible) Mr. Wona stated one of the truck has an over-weighted axle. When it was purchased in 1997, they were told to give the truck back. The truck has been in service ever since with this over-weighted front axle. Right now I am looking into re-doing the axle – the springs and the front brake system on that truck because we all know... Supervisor stated Brian... we're not talking... you were supposed to submit a proposal – if you have a proposal, you want it. Mr. Wona asked Bill, is there something wrong with the truth here? (inaudible) Mr. Wona stated (inaudible) my report, because as a neighboring community and now you're using it to try to exploit... Supervisor stated I'm not exploiting anything. There's a report that they can read. (inaudible)

Unknown: You mentioned 3,500 residents. How many for a quorum? Supervisor asked quorum of what? Unknown stated a vote. Vote now. Supervisor stated it's a public hearing. You don't vote at a public hearing. (inaudible) That's not the purpose of a public hearing.

Joe Schneider: I live on Guymard Turnpike. When I was a little bit younger I had 16 years in as a volunteer fireman down on Long Island. Everybody is talking about money and everything else like that – on June 1st, if there's a fire, how will the firemen be notified? There's one question. Mr. Carver stated in our budget, right, there's a line item for communications. We have (inaudible) and pagers in that line item in the budget. He asked and this is all gonna be set by June 1st? Mr. Carver stated absolutely – yes sir. No doubt. Mr. Schneider stated I think we ought to look about haste makes waste. And is Otisville gonna respond to all the calls, mutual aids you call them for? Mr. Carver stated hold on one second. With the mutual aid agreement in Orange County, right, any fire company, right, that calls for another fire company for mutual aid. The MHFD before they qualified (inaudible) to go mutual aid to any fire department. Like I said from the letter state fire, ok, that answers that they're certified and the maintenance records and they looked at all our training records. There's people coming over to the new fire company and they certified that we are good to go. Mr. Schneider stated we don't have a list of equipment and I just think – I think all our houses that risk the Town of Mount Hope by pushing this thing through. Supervisor stated Joe, I can answer... the list of the equipment that they have promised ok and the list of the fire fighters and their training records were all sent to the NYS Dept. – the division of Homeland security emergency services – Office of fire prevention & Control. I have a letter and I'll read it. Supervisor read into the record said letter. (letter is on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Tom Damiani: I'm a resident in HV. I think hearing all the discussion you have to get an independent negotiator between the board here and the village to resolve this and get together because the whole thing is... for forming a new company. The other question is, if that doesn't happen, how do you make a decision? Who makes a decision? The residents? Or the board? Supervisor stated ultimately it's gonna be the board that's gonna have to make that decision. Tom, to answer the question; they had an independent mediator that tried to negotiate it. And, by the agreement of both boards there would be 2 members of the fire department, from the fire company, 2 members from the town board and 2 members of the village board to sit down and they were told no way it's gonna happen. Mr. Damiani stated I think after this meeting hearing the feelings of the people maybe you could get together.

Robert Coppola: I live in Otisville. Fire department member 15 years. My question to you is when it was the village's choice to go district and they voted no and they didn't want and you guys say they didn't want a public vote, ok, now we have the MH department that's separating. Now it's on your table, the choice. Are you gonna let all these people – all these town tax payers have a vote? Like you said that this man didn't do. You didn't give them that choice, did you? Where's the vote? (inaudible) Supervisor stated we could be as wrong as the village. Mr. Coppola stated you are, you are as wrong if not more cause you're separating stuff that's already good. Supervisor asked if there's anybody else that lives outside of the village? That hasn't spoken.

Robin Brennan: I live on Annes Way in Mount Hope. You said there's roughly 3,500 residents that aren't here. Why not let them decide in November? Supervisor stated because we won't have fire protection on June 1st, we won't have fire protection.

Resident/Finchville Turnpike: Sounds like a done deal because you've been defending these people.

Lisa Walsh: My question is what equipment do you have lined up for purchase and how does compare to mutual aid we currently have? Do you have any doubt that through these growing pains that Otisville isn't going to respect the mutual aid that you mentioned? Mr. Carver stated the one thing on the mutual aid agreement – they can't. That's an agreement with all the fire departments with the Orange County coordinators, ok, which all fire departments (inaudible) they can't not go with mutual aid. Like I stated before the same fire protection that you see right now with apparatus, equipment and gear and fire fighters – the MHFD will provide. You wanna get with the years... how old the fire trucks are and stuff like that compared to what we have right now with apparatus.

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Lisa Walsh cont.: With equipment, ok like I said, we have a lot fellow fire departments out there all the way down to Long Island, out to Pennsylvania and in Orange County that are assisting us with getting gear. We're not talking about hand me downs. We're talking about up to date equipment that's certified, ok. We can't put people in rags using outdated equipment, ok, we would never do that. That'd be unsafe. That would never be done, ok. So, yes, we will be well equipped as a fire department if we get a contract June 1st for protection. People in our district – firematically and medically. And with that equipment I'm also saying medical equipment also. I'm pretty sure around here we do a lot of medical calls. We'll be well equipped for that.

Kevin Musial: You said you have a list of all the equipment that you want to buy. Supervisor stated they have a list. Mr. Musial asked do you have years and what the mileage or overall condition? Or are you just basing it on who ever sent you a couple pictures?

Mr. Carver stated to Mr. Musial: The one apparatus that we already in talks with one fire department that in the letter from the state that has all the maintenance records on that. (inaudible) Mr. Musial asked what's the years of the other equipment that you have? (inaudible) Mr. Carver stated once again we don't have a fire contract ok, so we are looking at other fire companies and other manufacturers to purchase apparatus. (inaudible)

Tom Yonskie: I live in the Town of Mount Hope. Sir, I'm looking at the budget you submitted. So you're saying in 3 years, a little under a million dollars, you're expected to have a complete fire company all set up but all you have right now is a 20 yr. old fire truck and a barn? You have nothing else? Am I understanding this correctly? Mr. Carver stated right now we have apparatus lined up. We don't have a fire contract so we don't have any money. I don't know if you heard me before, right, we don't have a fire contract. We have no funds. So MHFC doesn't own nothing yet. Once we get the contract (inaudible)...once we get the fire contract right, the apparatus, excuse me sir? How can I answer you? The apparatus, the equipment, the gear will all be purchased. Mr. Yonskie asked with this \$312,000.00? Mr. Carver stated yes sir. Mr. Yonskie stated I don't see how you're gonna be able to do that. I did a little research. I have a question for the board. So you're just gonna decide on how this is gonna be or are the residents of Mount Hope gonna get a voice (inaudible), so that you know exactly how the residents feel? Are you gonna decide or put it out so that the residents can tell you in a vote if they think this is a good idea or a bad idea? Supervisor stated we wanted to do that at the public hearing Tom and the village did not come through with it. (inaudible) We are town residents and I just found out about this a couple a days ago and you keep saying about reports – I haven't seen any reports. I've lived in this town my whole life – I came back from the military as a Mount Hope police officer until I got a better law enforcement position. So I've lived here my whole life. We should have a voice in what you decide. (inaudible) a decision that's gonna affect all of us. SO you should know exactly how everybody in the town – all the town residents – feel about it. I totally respect the fire department. I think these guys are great. Mom had a heart attack last year. Firemen first ones on the scene. I love all these guys. I know Lou all my life. The other guys I don't know. We have a good department. I don't think this is a good idea. I don't think they can set up a complete and functional fire department in 3 years on less than a million dollars. That's my opinion.

Dawn Wyman: 2503 Mount Hope Road. (Ms. Sutherland responded I'm actually the timer.) Ms. Wyman stated I've heard a lot of talk about taxes. I've heard a lot of talk about the fire district. And you know what? I don't know what the advantage to having a fire district is. But I know that if my mother's house is on fire, then the Otisville fire company is gonna be there with the staff, with the equipment to put it out. That's all I want.... (inaudible)

Andy DiPaul: Mine Hill Road. T/O Mount Hope resident. What is the timeline for the decision that you guys are going to decide whether or not we have...(inaudible)? I would like to second all the motions here. What's the big rush? If we don't do this now what happens? (inaudible) Right so, what's the big rush? I mean if the town obviously, I mean the town residents are here and we haven't had a chance to digest it. What's the big rush right now that if we can't take some more time – is there some sort of deadline that we have to meet? Or why can't I second that gentleman's motion before? Why can't we take a vote in November? Contract for the next year and by the year, the residents will decide whether we want this or not. And the boards won't have to worry about it. It'll be on us. (inaudible) If it doesn't happen, what happens? Supervisor stated the town board will have to contract with somebody for fire protection. We have a contract through May 31st. Mr. DiPaul asked and how long has the town been contracting with (inaudible) for fire protection? Supervisor stated as far as I know, I've been here for 22 years and they've been doing it for 22 years. (inaudible) Mr. Yonskie stated you didn't answer my question, are you gonna put this out for the town residents to vote on or are you as a board gonna decide this? Answer my question. It's simple. You're refusing to answer my question. Supervisor stated I'm not refusing anything. It's a public hearing. We're taking your comments. And I'm asking you a question. It's pretty direct. Are the town residents gonna be able to vote on this or are you as a board gonna make this decision? (inaudible) Can you answer me? Is there a problem with that? He's telling you not to answer me so you're just gonna sit there and stare. Supervisor stated Tom, I will tell you that the ultimate (inaudible) the ultimate responsibility is on the town board to make a decision when we're gonna do it. (inaudible)

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John Memelaar: T/O Mount Hope. When are you gonna make the decision on what happens? Supervisor stated we're gonna have to make a decision way before....(inaudible) The board or the town? Who makes the decisions? Supervisor stated the board would make the decision what we're gonna do for this year, yes. (inaudible) Mr. Memelaar asked so we don't need to know when this happens? Is that what you're saying? (inaudible) Supervisor stated next question.

Ernie Moeller: T/O Mount Hope. Just curious. Does the board make the decisions or do you, the constituents make the decision? (inaudible) Supervisor stated the ultimate responsibility is the board makes the decision. Two different times this was supposed to go to a referendum and it was killed. Not by the town. (inaudible) Supervisor stated moving on. Who's next?

Harry Gomez: T/O Mount Hope. Charlotte Lane. Just have a question about the contract in general. If the board makes a decision, and we contract with the MHFC, how long does that contract last? Supervisor stated it could be one, it could be 2, could be 3. (inaudible) We had a 3 year contract with the Village of Otisville. Mr. Gomez asked so potentially we could have a 3 year contract with the new fire department at which point at the end of 3 years you'll be looking to re-contract at that time, if possible, for the sake of the good of the town, right? According to the budget, how much money it'll cost and everything else...is that correct? Supervisor stated yes sir. Mr. Gomez asked so it's either 1 year, 2 year or 3 years?

Resident: I seen a car fire right near the Pocatello fire department, shot my car right over, ran up there. There was a panic button on the door, I hit that, the siren went off. People appeared out of nowhere. And boom, they were right there for that car fire. I understand if I go to Otisville, here and I see the same thing I can run up right to the fire house, hit that panic button. Now where you guys are, do I go up and ring the cow bell? (inaudible)

Gerri Dodd: I just have one very simple thing to say. You've heard from all these people tonight. And you know how everybody feels. You represent us. You work for us. I would like to know ok, as each of you, I'd like each of you to tell us what your opinion is after you've heard this, on what you're going to do. Thank you. (inaudible)

Ken Coppola: (inaudible) I just want to reiterate and go back to a lie that was perpetrated by Frank Simeone. About the meeting we had at the village hall when we tried to compromise and do something. The people that walked out was the 2 representatives from the fire company. Stu Carver and Tom Gilmore. They walked out of that meeting. In the beginning we had the mediator, like you said, Mike Wilbur. I think he did a fabulous job. He had us write down that we would agree not to badger each other and everything. We had to sign an agreement. And then he had us put down ideas what we wanted to discuss. My idea was a joint venture with this fire company. The Otisville fire company has equipment – they have the members. And I said join as one. All I heard from them and from Stu, 45 minutes later is you pay us 20% of the budget – no that wasn't what was said. I said joining as one fire company. Ok. And then, Mike Wilbur said well you give them the Pierce and these other 2 fire trucks..no, no, no. And when I reiterated that the village is not giving them one dime or one fire truck it was to be a joint venture – we would join as one fire company. That's when Stu slammed his books down, looked at Tom and they both got up and walked out. So, what Frank said is a blatant lie. The village didn't walk out. It was at the village hall. Those 2 walked out first. They stopped the meeting. Next, you had a public hearing to allow – to allow them to even form a fire company and you had a lot of opposition at that meeting. And you voted to let it go. A lady next to me raised her hand said you have all this opposition in the room why did you vote to let them continue? And your comment was because they're village residents. And it they don't matter. Supervisor stated I did not say....(inaudible) Supervisor stated there's a big difference between if they keep going they're gonna destroy the village than we wanna take over the village. Not the same Kenny. Mr. Coppola stated ok, now, at that meeting you voted ok. That was a public meeting. You have a public meeting tonight. You have all these people against it. Are you gonna vote tonight? Supervisor stated probably not. Mr. Coppola stated I didn't think so. (inaudible) Cause you're chicken. (inaudible)

Keith Hedberg: I know you said he was the last person, but can I speak real quick please Bill? I live in the village. I am a social member of the V/O fire department and I am a current member of the T/O Mount Hope fire department. I'm sitting here and I'm listening to everybody and I hear a lot of angry people – a lot of people that are upset and concerned about their taxes and where their money is going. That's the problem, right? (inaudible) Absolutely, without a doubt. In my personal opinion and I'm allowed to have it – some of the best (inaudible) MHF department. Now, safety is paramount. We don't have (inaudible) no retirement plan....nothing. We have nothing. Other fire departments get something. (inaudible) Other volunteer fire departments do get some things, those fire departments are lucky enough to be in an area where they have a lot of commerce and they get a lot of tax dollars. We're looking for a 2% increase over 3 years. That's \$10 on \$250,000.00. That's for your safety. I would take \$10 for my children to be safe all 3 of them. (inaudible) The other big problem is besides the (inaudible) thing we have covered; we absolutely have covered. It's a money issue. Right now the V/O owns the Otisville fire department. It is NOT a fire district. Not a fire district. (inaudible) Here's the difference to the so what...because I know everybody is upset. What these people are trying to do here tonight – just out of curiosity – how many people just found out about this? Show your hands. This has been going on for 20 years. (inaudible) You don't want to hear me out; you wanna cut me off because you know I'm saying something that's true. (inaudible) One individual.... (inaudible) Supervisor stated I entertain a motion to close the hearing.....

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RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING:

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to close the public hearing at 8:43pm. All in favor – carried.

Supervisor Novak stated at this time, that the public hearing is closed. You're welcome to stay for the board meeting. We're gonna open the regular meeting. We're calling the regular meeting to order.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded Councilwoman Sutherland that the minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting as submitted are approved. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

Supervisor Novak asked Lt. Freeman to advise the audience that they need to quiet down as they are about to start the regular meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Memo from Dean re: personnel issue
2. Two highway budget modifications
3. Supervisor's report March 2013
4. Rabies clinic flier 5-19-13
5. Email from Agnes Barber re: fire company issue
6. Police Dept. monthly report March 2013
7. Orange County Fire Mutual Aid plan
8. Crime Victims Week resolution
9. Village of Otisville fire budget and updated contract
10. Orange County Bike Club sign request

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICE:

No police report.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

No report.

VILLAGE OF OTISVILLE:

No report.

HIDDEN VALLEY:

No report.

PLANNING BOARD:

Mr. Gilmore advised that they met last week and that the planning board needs more information on the status of ownership for one of the property of applicant.

HESS CORP. AGREEMENT:

Supervisor Novak spoke re: the HESS Corp. Agreement. Everybody got in their boxes to provide electric service. The renewal of the contract for electrical service that's approx. 2 cents cheaper than the Orange & Rockland rate.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE HESS CORP. AGREEMENT:

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to accept the agreement from HESS Corp. for electrical service that's approx. 2 cents cheaper than Orange and Rockland. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather, carried.

SUMMER RECREATION:

Ken Coppola, Village Trustee asked if the Supervisor knew the new date for the program, that we're starting a week early. Supervisor Novak stated no, he did not. He stated he talked to Mike about it. They are moving the program up a week because at the end they were losing too many counselors to college. They lost 3 last year. It will be moved up one week starting on July 1st. The last day will be August 9th. He put it in the O-Voice and they will put an ad in the paper for all the positions; director, nurse. They were advised that (inaudible) can't do that anymore. Has to be a nurse or EMT as far as medical. Art director and counselors – we do have applications in already. He will get a hold of Supervisor Novak and Mike and sit down and interview those people. Councilwoman Sutherland stated that she will be working with Mike on it.

WORKSHOP MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, APRIL 22, 2013
www.townofmounthope.org

FINKLE AG. DISTRICT:

Supervisor Novak stated that he had a request from the Finkle Organic Farm to be included in the Orange County Agricultural District. He spoke with the Assessor. They already receive the Ag. exemption. They meet all the requirements. His recommendation is that they approve it.

RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE THE FINKLE ORGANIC FARM IN THE O.C. AG. DISTRICT:

MOTION offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to have Orange County add the Finkle Organic Farm to the County Agricultural district. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

ORANGE COUNTY MUTUAL AID:

Supervisor Novak stated since there is no contract yet – we can't act on that.

RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM APRIL 21-27, 2013 AS THE TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE CRIME VICTIMS WEEK: (read into minutes by Town Clerk, Kathleen Myers)

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to accept the resolution proclaiming April 21-27, 2013 as The Town of Mount Hope Crime Victims Week. (complete resolution at end of these minutes) All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather – carried.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUPERVISOR'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2013:

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to approve the Supervisor's report for March 2013 as submitted. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather – carried.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET MODIFICATIONS:

MOTION offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Fairweather to approve the following budget modifications: (reimbursements from Town of Wallkill and Town of Wawayanda):

Increase Revenue A2770 by \$1,377.87 and

Increase Traffic Control A3310.4 by \$1,377.87 AND

Increase Revenue A2770 by \$1,377.87 and

Increase Traffic Control A3310.4 by \$1,377.87

All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

ORANGE COUNTY BIKE CLUB:

Supervisor Novak stated that the OC Bike Club is forming a victory mile – it will circle Orange County. They already received approval from Crawford, Wallkill and they want to go through Mount Hope to Greenville and from Greenville over to Warwick. They asked if we would be interested in participating in it. They only requirement they have that we don't meet. They need about 12 signs that say "SHARE THE ROAD WITH BIKERS". Supervisor asked the board if we would want to participate. Highway Supt. asked if they provide the signs? Supervisor stated they want us to provide the signs. Councilman Fairweather would like for someone to come to a board meeting on this.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TOWN CLERK REQUEST TO ATTEND NYALGRO CONFERENCE IN CORNING, NEW YORK:

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to approve the request from the Town Clerk to attend a NYALGRO conference in Corning NY from June 9-11. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

RESOLUTION TO GO TO SUMMER TOWN BOARD MEETINGS:

MOTION offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Ketcham to approve having one town board meeting per month for the months of June, July & August – meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month. 2nd meeting of the month will be on as needed basis. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

RESOLUTION FOR SUMMER HOURS FOR TOWN HALL:

MOTION offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Ketcham to change the Town Hall hours for the summer months to Monday through Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm and being closed on Fridays effective May 22 through September 27th. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

WORKSHOP MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, APRIL 22, 2013
www.townofmounthope.org

RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE CLAIMS:

MOTION offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Fairweather to approve the following bills:

GENERAL A:	#206-241	\$55,906.76
GENERAL B:	#38-44	\$ 1,842.05
HIGHWAY:	#64-70	\$46,338.48
SEWER:	#38-42	\$56,711.48.

All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

RESOLUTION TO TABLE THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITHIN THE TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to table this vote until the May 13, 2013 town board meeting. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

**F. Ketcham spoke re: the old school, a sale price and an email sent. Supervisor Novak stated the consensus of the board is we want \$300,000.00. (inaudible) Councilwoman Sutherland offered to give tours of this school for anyone wishing to see it.

**C. Bell inquired re: the status of old school. Supervisor Novak stated we are still looking for a buyer.

**M. Maurizio spoke re: last town board meeting & 3 or 4 village board members going executive session with our board. She stated that's illegal. Supervisor Novak stated that she needs to take it up with the village board. We advertised our meeting.

RESOLUTION FOR MEETING TO ADJOURN:

MOTION offered by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Ketcham to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2013 at 7:30pm, at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Myers
Kathleen A. Myers
Town Clerk

*Amendment made @ 5-13-2013 by Councilman Bell as follows:
Motion offered by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Fairweather to amend 4/22/13 minutes that Councilman Bell wanted to vote on the MHC Inc. contract & not table it. All in favor, carried.

MOUNT HOPE CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2013

NEW CHALLENGES – NEW SOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, 18.7 million Americans are directly harmed by crime each year, and each crime affects many more family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers;

WHEREAS, the physical, emotional, and financial impact of crime falls on people of all ages and abilities, and of all economic, racial, and social backgrounds;

WHEREAS, more than 30 years of progress for crime victims stands on the shoulders of dedicated advocates and brave victims who overcame shame, isolation, and indifference to gain a voice, rights, and respect;

WHEREAS, today thousands of victim assistance programs provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; victims of drunk-driving crashes; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes;

WHEREAS, although assistance programs across the country are reaching more victims and criminal justice officials are honoring victims' rights more consistently, public understanding of victims' rights remains minimal, and our nation's victim services system remains fragmented, underfunded, and uncoordinated;

WHEREAS, we applaud the progress that our nation has made in recognizing crime's impact on victims and celebrate advocates and survivors who through their determination brought rights and resources for victims and have changed the course of history;

WHEREAS, more work remains to be done to address the mental health impact of crime, and to meet the needs of victims of non-violent crime, victims of terrorism, and other underserved victims;

WHEREAS, our history teaches us that, by working together, we can help victims of crime reshape their destinies and ensure that they receive the support they need, the respect they deserve, and the rights they have earned;

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21–27, 2013, provides an opportunity to celebrate the energy, creativity, and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims;

WHEREAS, The Town of Mount Hope is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout the Town to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope do hereby proclaim the week of April 21 – 27, 2013 as:

TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

throughout Mount Hope and honors crime victims and those who serve them during this week and throughout the year and we stand united in our commitment to victim justice as individuals, communities and a Nation.